

**Opening Faculty Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 24, 2022**  
**3:30pm Blackwell Ballroom and Zoom**

The meeting was called to order at 3:34pm by Faculty Senate Chair, JoEllen Pederson. Dr. Pederson opened the meeting with an ice breaker called “Freaking Hurray’s” it’s an ice breaker where volunteers share something they accomplished, something they are proud of, or something they just want to share. Several faculty members shared celebratory information. After the ice breaker it was determined that a quorum was present.

The [minutes](#) from the August 20, 2022 Opening Faculty meeting were approved as submitted.

Action Item: [FPPM VI A III Bylaws Change - Add Librarians](#) (Passed)

Dr. David Shoenthal gave an update on SACSCOC reaffirmation writing team’s progress. Dr. Pam Tracy announced the QEP topic and what the next steps will be. They shared a [slide presentation](#) that reviewed this information. The QEP topic was announce, it is Post-Graduate Success. Dr. Tracy thanked the QEP Topic Selection Committee for all their hard work throughout the process.

Dr. Heather Lettner-Rust gave an update on Civitae. Prior to giving the update, Dr. Lettner-Rust took a minute to celebrate the men’s and women’s basketball teams, stating that it was such a joy to watch both teams excel this season. She turned things over to Ms. Natalie Browning. Ms. Browning shared that the Library received a very generous gift from 2 Longwood alumni. With this gift, the Library will launch the Course Material Affordability Program. The library will purchase digital textbooks and other course related materials with unlimited access. To start, the program will be offered to Civitae courses first. Dr. Lettner-Rust continued with the update – Civitae has passed every proposal this semester. There are 9 new instructors. The Teaching and Learning Institute will be May 16 - 20, 2022, registration begins in April. A video clip was shared that had 2 students talking about Symposium. Symposium will be Tuesday, April 19, 2022.

President Reveley’s opened his remarks by saying that it is wonderful to see so many things taking shape.

- The QEP topic has been decided and it was wonderful to see how the topic took shape with the incorporation of so many wonderful ideas.
- Civitae is in full stride and our first group of citizen leaders will graduate in May.
- SCHEV met at Longwood early in the week. Civitae was very much on their minds, they see it at something we are doing right.
- The admissions cycle is looking very good. Over the next several months we will see potential students and their families mulling around campus.
- The prolonged state budget situation is not unprecedented, this has happened 2 or 3 times in the last 2 decades. President Reveley feels that it does not cause much alarm for us. July will begin our new fiscal year, there is still time for things to be figured out. It is likely that there will be raises this year.
- Wygal replacement is moving along.
- We need to continue to be mindful of spending. Thanks to Leigh Lunsford, and the Committee on Finance and Planning, they are figuring out ways to streamline the spending process.
- Today is Love Your Longwood Day.

In closing, President Reveley feels like the University is in a good place and he thanked everyone for all their hard work, not only for this year, but for the previous years as well. This year has felt more normal but he also realizes that with the “new normal” there is more work now, due to the lingering effects of Covid related practices. He opened the floor for questions.

Dr. Larissa Smith opened her remarks by thanking everyone for attending today’s meeting despite it being such a busy time of year with advising and registration.

- She thanked the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for all their work this year and acknowledged each by name.
- Dr. Smith reflected on Covid and the past 2 years of dealing with it. The challenges over the last 2 years have been tough, but we got through it. She expressed her sincere gratitude to everyone for their efforts during such difficult times. Certainly the pandemic isn't over, the world is different and we continue to face new challenges. She asked everyone to take time to reflect on the last 2 years and take what we have learned from the pandemic and what things we can appreciate through the experience.
- Dr. Smith encouraged everyone to continue to think creatively about how we can use our resources. We need to continue to provide a quality experience to for our students, while we also manage our state resources responsibly. There has been a broader conversation across the university about cost savings. It involves updating our 20<sup>th</sup> century technology trends, and how we can revise and update our purchasing procedures for cost saving efforts. Dr. Smith is working with Dr. Bill Abrams to provide a spring budget forum toward the end of April.
- Academic Affairs is seeking information about professional software to assist faculty with research efforts, as well as to continue to examine how resources can be used more efficiently. The Deans have received this information and will pass this information along to departments.
- Dr. Smith thanked the DEC and CAFÉ for their hard work over the past couple of years for providing faculty opportunities they needed to continue teaching under extenuating circumstances, stating that “we couldn't have done it without them.”
- The University Diversity Strategic Plan was approved by the board in December. Dr. Smith will be working the Dr. Pederson and Mr. Jonathan Page to move forward with many of the strategies in the plan.
- The Teaching and Learning Institute will be Monday, May 16 -19, 2022. The topic will be - Educating our students around civil discourse.
- She discussed the QEP topic and what the focus has been, and will be, as the topic is developed.
- Through grant funding, CAPS has hired a Trauma Specialist Counselor and also has the Well Track App. The Well Track App is a self-help app that provides well-being information, mental health tracking, coping strategies and one click connection to Longwood's mental health crisis support line for students, faculty and staff.
- Dr. Smith talked about Covid and how it created a sense of common purpose at Longwood. We have debated about various aspects related to Covid strategy, but we have done so with a renewed focus on the importance of the development of citizen leaders, and the importance of our mission. We have recognized the importance of having help, and asking for help when need. We have adapted well to changing circumstances. And we value the experience of being together, in person, and working hard for our students and the common purpose that we share.
- The search for the next Dean of the College of Education, Health and Human Services is coming to a close. She thanked the committee for their work and also Ms. Ashley Long.
- There will be an Interim Dean in the College of Business and Economics. The search of a permanent dean will begin in about 18months.
- The first class of Civitae students will graduate this May.

Under announcements:

- A reception for retiring faculty and promoted and tenured faculty from 2020-2022 will be Thursday, April 21, 2022 immediately following the last Faculty Senate meeting of the year.
- Dr. Tim Pearson thanked the faculty and Civitae for doing such a great job with students. The Student Affairs office sees the result of the faculty work in the way students are prepared and engaged.
- Longwood Day of Giving numbers were shared.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:33pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Teresa Dodson, Recorder