

Closing Faculty Meeting
Thursday, March 28, 2024
3:30 p.m. Blackwell Ballroom
Celebration of Retiring Faculty and Recently Promoted and/or Tenured Faculty Mayo Gallery at
4:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 3:33pm by Faculty Senate Chair, Andrew Yeagley.

The [minutes](#) from the August 18, 2023 Opening Faculty meeting were approved as submitted.

Dr. Sarai Blincoe gave an update on the Post-Graduate Success Initiative QEP. She stated now that the on-site SACSCOC visit is complete, the work of the QEP is in year 0 and there is strong support both financially and from the students, faculty, and staff committed to the work over the next five years. She shared a slide presentation and announced that the [QEP webpage](#) is live on the Longwood website.

Following the presentation, Mr. Adam Paulek provided a report on Symposium Day that has been redesigned for 2024. They have 300 students who will work with a community stakeholder to address a real-world issue. The stakeholder for this semester is Prince Edward County to help facilitate their comprehensive plan. The students will need to conduct research to come up with a viable solution to be presented. The students will spend the morning in small groups being coached by faculty and staff from Student Affairs. They will form representative councils and by the end of the day, two senators will represent the whole and give a presentation of the strongest strategies to address the stakeholders' issues. The students will also have the opportunity to present their ideas at the community forum hosted at the Moton Museum. The two senators will present on April 9 at 2 p.m.

Dr. Heather Lettner-Rust then joined Mr. Paulek on the stage to remind faculty about next year's Undergraduate Professional Development Day on August 15. She also said a special thanks to those who are retiring and how many students were prepared for their civic action by those faculty.

President Reveley began his remarks by thanking Sarai for her work on the QEP and commented on what a success the SACSCOC on-site visit had been. He noted that the committee was complimentary of the spirit of Longwood and how the university cares for one another. He provided the following updates

- The Board of Visitors met in late March to formalize the promotion, tenure and emeritus status for 28 faculty members.
- Longwood Day of Giving produced 1 million dollars in philanthropic giving.
- The men's basketball team played in the NCAA March Madness Tournament in Memphis.
- The Retention Task Force is working on a report that will be shared in the upcoming weeks.
- The state budget is delayed again which has made financial planning for all Virginia public institutions challenging. While the early deposit numbers look strong, the challenges with the FAFSA have created problems across higher ed.

In closing, President Reveley stated that it was a joy to be together and a joy to get the good word from SACSCOC.

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

- She thanked Dr. Andrew Yeagley for his work as the Faculty Senate Committee Chair and the members of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for all of their work this year and acknowledged each by name.

- She thanked everyone for all of their work leading up to and during the SACSCOC on-site visit. She noted that the work that was done after the last visit helped to build a case for a successful case for reaccreditation. She thanked Dr. David Shoenthal for all of his work in this role since 2018.
- She thanked Dr. Sarai Blincoe, Dr. Pam Tracy, and the leadership team on the QEP planning and all of the faculty's input during this process and moving forward. She announced that Dr. Sarai Blincoe will be moving into an AP role as the Director of Program Effectiveness where she will lead the QEP and continue to give support to programs in the Cook-Cole College of Arts and Sciences.
- She also took a moment to thank all of the faculty who have helped over the years – writing the report, responding to evidence questions from Dr. Shoenthal, and participating in interviews. She also thanked Ms. Linda Townsend for all of her work on assessment.
- The work of accreditation is on-going and we are looking ahead to two programs: LCVA (Longwood Center for the Visual Arts) accreditation and the CAEP (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation).

Dr. Smith went on to provide general Academic Affairs updates as they relate the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan.

- There is continuous work being done on curriculum improvement which includes a significant revision to the elementary and elementary and middle education and teaching programs, beginning discussions of a special education four-year bachelor's program and the creation of an academic program development docket.
- Recruitment and retention of students with special attention to historically underrepresented students. The deans and the department chairs along with Academic Affairs participate in an annual Data Dive meeting that looks closely at retention and graduation rates by program.
- Faculty senate has been working in committees this year on the recruitment and retention of faculty and developing new tools for this initiative. Academic Affairs focused on hiring this academic year and have improved the process for the approval of job searches and the posting of job ads. There have been 18 successful tenure-track hires and there are visiting professor and lecturer searches still in motion. In addition to investing in hiring faculty Academic Affairs has also made faculty development a budgeting priority. The committee on faculty development awarded eleven sabbaticals and one faculty connection grant.
- Dr. Smith reiterated the uncertainty of the state budget and asked that faculty continue to be prudent and responsible as they build their FY25 budgets. She will be working with Deans and Department Chairs on these budgets in the coming weeks. She also reminded faculty to use the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs for support when applying for grants.

Dr. Smith closed by announcing upcoming events.

- Budget and Enrollment Forum – April 25 at 4 p.m.
- [Global Lancers Week – April 1-6](#)
- [Gordon Moss Lecture – Mia Bay – Radcliff Hall on April 5](#)
- [Dos Passos Award](#) – Patricia Engel – Soza Ballroom on April 10 with a book signing and dessert reception to follow
- Faculty Wellness Week – April 8-12
- [Symposium on the Common Good Day](#) – April 9
- [Student Showcase for Research and Creative Inquiry](#) – April 17
- [Teaching and Learning Institute 2024](#) – May 13
- Graduate Commencement speaker will be Dick Howard – May 17
- Undergraduate Commencement speaker will be Joan Johns Cobbs – May 18

Following Dr. Smith's remarks, Dr. Yeagley announced the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Institutionalization (DEII) survey is open until the end of the semester for faculty to participate.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley Long