

Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, October 24, 2024
Allen 101

Dr. Lee Bidwell called the meeting to order at 3:31pm. The following members were present:

Dr. Bill Abrams	Ms. Whitney Kallenbach	Mr. Adam Paulek
Dr. Lee Bidwell	Dr. Roland Karnatz	Dr. Jeannine Perry
Dr. Chris Bjornsen	Dr. Lisa Kinzer	Ms. Sarah Reynolds
Dr. Roger Byrne	Dr. Melissa Kravetz	Dr. Brent Roberts
Dr. Darrell Carpenter	Dr. Chris Kukk	Dr. Larissa Smith
Dr. Ken Fortino	Claire LaRoche, J.D.	Dr. Shawn Smith
Dr. Jennifer Gerlach	Dr. Jeff Ledford	Dr. Wendy Thompson
Dr. Scott Grether	Dr. Heather Lettner-Rust	Dr. Ben Topham
Dr. Kari Hampton	Dr. Evan Long	Dr. Ronda Walker
Mr. Carl Harvey	Dr. Khawaja Mamun	Dr. Haley Woznyj
Dr. Eric Hodges	Dr. Kris Paal	
Dr. Jennifer Hutchinson	Mr. Cam Patterson	

Also present were – Amanda Alter, Kat Alves, Ann Barlow, Josh Blakely, Audrey Church, Chene Heady, Susan Hines, Greg Kirby, Ashley Long, Melissa Rhoten and David Shoenthal.

The minutes from the [September 5, 2024](#) Faculty Senate meeting were approved as submitted.

Dr. Melissa Rhoten presented the action items from the [EPC Report](#). Since the first three action items (changing the Special Education degree from a 5-year to a 4-year program, removal of the Liberal SPED concentration, and the updated description of the Interdisciplinary Teacher Preparation Committee) were interrelated, Dr. Rhoten asked that they be voted on together. There were no objections to this suggestion, and all three items were approved without discussion. She then presented the proposed changes to the graduation requirements for multiple degrees that are necessary to be in compliance with SASCOC rules. No questions were asked and the Senate voted to approve the changes.

Dr. Brent Roberts introduced Ann Barlow, Director of Academic & Access Solutions from Follett Bookstore. She and her team have been on campus for multiple meetings with different groups explaining and introducing the new Follett Bookstore equitable access program. This program tentatively will be called “Lancer Access” here at Longwood. This program charges all students the same flat fee for textbook/course materials each semester. These fees are built into and reflected in their bills each semester. Students are automatically enrolled in the program but may opt out each semester up through drop/add. Faculty choose the format of the materials they want to use for the class. Faculty may request digital or printed material as they currently do. However, hard copies of books will be owned by the student, not rented through this program. The purpose of the program is to ensure that all students have access to course materials on Day 1, which contributes to student success and retention. Students also should see cost savings across time. The program will be implemented in Fall 2025. Follett representatives will be back on campus in February to address questions and offer faculty training. She encouraged faculty to promote this program greatly so students and other faculty are aware of the change. She answered many questions regarding costs, opt-out issues, help desk information, and many others.

Dr. Heather Lettner-Rust presented on Civitae and showed Senators the advising information available online. She was excited to announce that of the 309 students enrolled for Symposium Day, only 17 were absent. That is an excellent turn out for the program. She gave an overview on how the Symposium Day is structured, the benefits for our students, and the how the collaboration between town stakeholders and students are important.

Dr. Haley Woznyj, chair of the Ad Hoc Student Assessment of Instruction Committee, presented proposed changes in the use of Student Evaluation of Instruction surveys in the faculty evaluation process. After extensive research from peer reviewed publications, the Ad Hoc Committee has found that student evaluations do not measure teacher effectiveness. Student evaluations can be biased and should not be used when evaluating teachers for promotion, tenure, annual evaluation, or teaching awards. She stated that surveys of students' classroom experiences are still an important tool and should not be discarded, but should be renamed and not used in the formal evaluation process. She encouraged faculty to take the information back to their departments for discussions and a follow up would be in November at the Senate meeting. Final recommendations will be sent to appropriate standing Senate committees for their review and edits before coming back to Senate for final approval.

Dr. Larissa Smith thanked the faculty for submitting mid-term grades on time and efficiently. Dr. Smith gave a brief overview on the return of the local funds and how they would occur according to the President. She explained there are two kinds of local funds, annual funds and programmatic endowment funds, and how each is designed to operate. There are 184 Academic Affairs accounts and only 43 are programmatic. Departments that had less than \$10,000 removed from local annual fund accounts will have all of the money reimbursed this semester, likely in November. Departments that had \$10,000 or more taken in June 2024 will have the money restored in two installments—one this semester and another in the spring. She will update with email when transfers to the accounts take place. Programmatic endowment fund revenue will be available to departments this year. She gave an update on the positions for Director of Assessment, which should be posted in the next few weeks, and in the Academic Affairs office, where they are exploring redesigning an existing Administrative Assistant position to include duties to help with budget management in Academic Affairs.

Dr. Kris Paal announced that there are resources through the CAFÉ on how to work with students during the election and after the election.

There being no further business the meet was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Gunn