

Faculty Senate Meeting  
Thursday, March 6, 2025  
Martinelli Boardroom

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

Dr. Bill Abrams	Mr. Carl Harvey	Mr. Cam Patterson
Dr. Dale Beach	Dr. Jennifer Hutchinson	Dr. Jeannine Perry
Dr. Lee Bidwell	Ms. Whitney Kallenbach	Ms. Sarah Reynolds
Dr. Chris Bjornsen	Dr. Roland Karnatz	Dr. Brent Roberts
Dr. Roger Byrne	Dr. Lisa Kinzer	Dr. Larissa Smith
Dr. Darrell Carpenter	Dr. Melissa Kravetz	Dr. Shawn Smith
Ms. Maddie Cason	Dr. Jeff Ledford	Dr. Bruce Speas
Dr. Ken Fortino	Dr. Heather Lettner-Rust	Dr. Wendy Thompson
Dr. Jennifer Gerlach	Dr. Evan Long	Dr. Ben Topham
Dr. Scott Grether	Dr. Khawaja Mamun	Dr. Sarah Varela
Dr. Kari Hampton	Dr. Angela McDonald	Dr. Ronda Walker
Dr. Eric Hodges	Dr. Hannan Naeeni	

Also present were – Amanda Alter, Josh Blakely, Audrey Church, Jennifer Green, Chene Heady, Susan Hines, Alec Hosterman, Ashley Long, Melissa Rhoten, David Shoenthal, Sarah Tanner-Anderson, Pam Tracy

The minutes from the Faculty Senate meeting on April 18, 2024, were approved as submitted.

Lee Bidwell noted that the Provost was chairing a board meeting out of town. President Reveley offered to speak to Senate with updates on the emerging changes at the federal level.

President Reveley addressed the Faculty Senate members and guests on several topics, including the impending closure of the Department of Education (DOE). He clarified that there is no definitive time frame for this closure and emphasized that it would not immediately impact the University. Currently, direct federal funding accounts for less than 10% of Longwood University's budget, with the majority of that funding coming from Pell Grants. While the closure is unlikely to have a direct effect on the University itself, students may be indirectly impacted if their family members lose their jobs. President Reveley is keeping a close watch on the activities of the Governor and the General Assembly that could influence state funding. He noted that K-12 education will be more significantly affected by the closure of the DOE compared to higher education. He reassured everyone that the University will continue its vital work, stating that the state is currently in good financial condition. He concluded his remarks by mentioning that while federal student loans could be impacted, they are generally profitable and should remain stable. If federal student loans were to be eliminated, he believes that the private sector would step in to fill the gap. President Reveley promised to return at the end of the meeting for anyone who wished to discuss the DOE or other topics.

Ann Barlow, Director of ACCESS Solutions at Follett Bookstore, presented information about the new "Longwood Book Bundle Program." This initiative aims to ensure that undergraduate

students have all the required materials for their classes on the first day. The bundle will include print materials, digital content, e-books, and more. Students will be automatically enrolled in this program but can choose to opt out. When registering for classes, the materials will be added to their invoices, and students will have the option to opt out at that stage. Ms. Barlow explained the process for faculty to provide required materials for their courses, noting that the tentative Fall adoption deadline is April 15. The goal is to release electronic resources to students' Longwood e-mail addresses two weeks before classes begin, with physical books available at the bookstore. Students will have the option to opt in or out each semester. FAQs will be posted on the Solomon webpage for reference, and a support access program will be available on the Longwood University public page for students and parents. Pricing details will be provided soon for the flat rate. She emphasized that students are more successful and data shows increased retention when they are prepared. The opt-in is automatically included on invoices for several reasons, including student success and publisher requirements. Used books will only be available if faculty members use older materials that are currently in stock. Ms. Barlow answered additional questions from faculty regarding e-books, pricing, supplies, flat rate fees, and other matters. She reiterated that the program will be reviewed annually and expressed her willingness to meet with departments to help navigate the new program.

Jennifer Green, Vice President of Strategic Operations, provided an update on student admission statistics, activities, and retention goals. She shared positive data indicating an increase in admitted students, applications, and transfer students—3% more admitted this year, with transfer students on the rise. Two events held in January and February attracted strong attendance, filling Jarman Auditorium both times while other universities were also hosting events, marking a substantial step in increasing interest in Longwood University. Visitation rates have increased by 18% compared to all of last year. Green stated that Longwood is focused on creating meaningful experiences to ensure students feel recognized. As of March 1, there were 400 deposits, significantly ahead of last year's timeline.

Senate approved the Final Exam Policy proposal changes, with one minor formatting change for ease of reading.

Eric Hodges presented proposed changes to the Faculty Awards Policy, which would involve removing student evaluation data and replacing it with a portfolio up to ten pages in length that includes recommendations, syllabi, and other materials. Senators were asked to share the proposal with faculty in their department and get feedback prior to the next Senate meeting, where the proposal will be voted on.

Cam Patterson, Vice President of Student Affairs, announced that students have organized a "Stand Up for Science" rally on March 7, 2025 from 12-12:15 on Wheeler lawn. The student organizer has been informed of the campus free speech policy.

Lee Bidwell shared information from an email from the Provost in which she explained that the Dear Colleague letter does not encompass curriculum, which is protected by longstanding principles of free speech in the First Amendment and of academic freedom. She assured faculty that she and President Reveley will defend these principles.

President Reveley returned at the end of the meeting to meet with faculty.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Jody Gunn