

Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, April 10, 2025
Martinelli Boardroom

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

Dr. Bill Abrams	Dr. Jennifer Hutchinson	Dr. Wendy Thompson
Dr. Dale Beach	Ms. Whitney Kallenbach	Dr. Jeannine Perry
Dr. Lee Bidwell	Dr. Chris Kukuk	Ms. Sarah Reynolds
Dr. Chris Bjornsen	Claire LaRoche, J.D.	Dr. Ben Topham
Dr. Roger Byrne	Dr. Jeff Ledford	Dr. Larissa Smith
Ms. Maddie Cason	Dr. Heather Lettner-Rust	Dr. Shawn Smith
Dr. Ken Fortino	Dr. Kris Paal	Dr. Ronda Walker
Dr. Jennifer Gerlach	Dr. Jeannine Perry	
Dr. Jennifer Gerlach	Ms. Sarah Reynolds	
Dr. Kari Hampton	Dr. Larissa Smith	
Mr. Carl Harvey	Dr. Shawn Smith	
Dr. Eric Hodges	Mr. Bruce Speas	

Also present were – Tyler Bagent, Josh Blakely, Audrey Church, Tim Coffey, Susan Hines, Sarina Holder, Melissa Rhoten and David Shoenthal.

The minutes from the Faculty Senate meeting on March 6, 2025, were approved as submitted.

Lee Bidwell noted that the EPC report included information items only. There were no questions regarding the report.

The floor was opened for discussions regarding changes to the Faculty Award Policy. There being no questions, the proposed change was approved.

Tim Coffey, the Faculty Athletics Representative, presented the annual report to the Senate. He highlighted the significant achievements of the athletes at Longwood University. The Fall 2024 GPA was 3.41, marking the 16th consecutive semester with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Notably, 51 students achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA, and 41 students were on the President's List for the semester. Coffey discussed three cases related to the House settlement (House, Hubbard, and Carter), which involved back damages, revenue sharing, and the comparison of roster limits versus scholarship limits. He identified several areas of concern for student-athletes, including missed classes, advising and registration issues, the challenges faced by transfer student-athletes, and issues related to sports wagering. He pointed out that harassment of student-athletes is currently a significant problem. Coffey mentioned that there are classes and discussions happening with student-athletes to address these issues and indicated that it has been a wonderful semester overall.

Larissa Smith, Provost of Academic Affairs, provided a brief update on campus issues. She assured that students at Longwood University are currently unaffected regarding revocations of visas. Patti Trent is monitoring the situation twice daily for any changes, and they will assist students with travel issues or support if they need to stay on campus. Smith encouraged faculty

to notify Patti Trent if a student requires help. She noted that minor traffic issues appear to be the primary reason for students' visa denials. The Provost plans to discuss with Chief Comer how the University police department is addressing these issues.

Lee Bidwell presented the proposed changes to student assessment and tenure and promotion for Darrell Carpenter. Faculty members raised questions about the wording and aspects of student assessment. Chris Bjornsen will take these questions back to the committee for further discussion. Senators were asked to bring the proposed changes to faculty in their department for feedback. The proposals will be considered for a vote at the next Senate meeting.

Bill Abrams inquired about the onboarding process for new senators and the election of new Senate Executive members. Lee explained that new senators will attend the final Senate meeting on April 24, where elections for next year's Executive Committee will occur.

Lee Bidwell reminded faculty that annual reports from committees are now due and should be submitted. She will send an email to committee chairs regarding these reports.

Heather Lettner-Rust announced that there would be an undergraduate professional day on August 14, 2025.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Jody Gunn