

Opening Faculty Meeting
Friday, August 23, 2024
9:00am Blackwell Ballroom

The meeting was called to order at 9:01am by Faculty Senate Chair, Lee Bidwell. It was determined that a quorum was present. Lee welcomed everyone back from summer break and welcomed the 30 new faculty. She also acknowledged the senate executive team.

The minutes from the [Closing Faculty Meeting](#) on March 28, 2024 were approved as submitted.

JoEllen Pederson provided an update on the Faculty Status and Grievances Committee. She stated the purpose of the committee which can be found on page 302 in the FPPM and thanked Ann Bailey Yolin for her service and helping to facilitate the changes to the FPPM to clarify the hearing process. JoEllen announced the committee members for 2024-25.

Lisa Kinzer explained her role as Faculty Representative to the Board of Visitors, as the liaison between faculty and the Board. She explained that the Provost reports to the Board of the faculty's achievements and professional development. The faculty representative communicates how the faculty are doing. She announced that the Board sees the faculty's commitment to the students and university as a whole. The deadline to submit for the September board meeting is August 30.

Bill Abrams offered information as to where the AAUP salary study can be found on the [Faculty Senate website](#).

Heather Lettner-Rust was unable to join the opening meeting and provided an update to the Civitae Core Curriculum Committee via email to all faculty.

Sarai Blincoe, Director of Program Effectiveness, provided an update on the Post-Graduate Success Initiative. Longwood is officially in year 1 of the QEP program.

President Reveley took the stage to provide updates from his office and around campus:

- He announced 30 new colleagues who joined Longwood University this year.
- He asked the faculty to pay close attention to Civitae and to embrace it.
- The Moton Museum is being considered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is one of only 3 dozen in America. He thanked Cainan Townsend, Cam Patterson, and Larissa Smith for their work in this effort.
- President Reveley welcomed Khawaja Mamun as the Dean of the College of Business and Economics.
- He announced the Wygal replacement building construction will begin around the holiday season.
- The SEED Innovation Hub will begin to take shape in the spring.
- The new beautiful cabins at the Baliles Center at Hull Springs Farm are finished and are ready for overnight stays. Faculty can reach out to Sherry Swinson to inquire about visiting the Baliles Center.

President Reveley then gave an update on the financial standing of the university. He began by saying that the President's Welcome the previous Tuesday was where he worked to give a sense and overview on the finances and the short answer is that Longwood is quite strong. The state provides a financial study that will be available for review in the coming weeks. Longwood fares well in this study.

He encouraged the faculty to think about the scale of the budget and compared to other schools, we are in a good spot.

He then acknowledged that he didn't communicate well over the summer regarding the local funds and noted that he has worked with the Virginia state budget for 25 years and had never encountered a situation like this summer.

He assured the attendees that we do not have a structural budget hole.

He believes in shared governance and has met with a number of committee chairs since the summer to talk through the changes to the policy change in June to clarify that there will not be any future "sweeps" to the local accounts. The policy will be updated at the September Board of Visitors meeting.

The floor was turned over to Provost Larissa Smith where she highlighted the work of the faculty and how they are making progress on the academic affairs strategic plan.

- University priority to build a culture of philanthropy – training will be provided focusing on philanthropy and working collaboratively to find a more cohesive process on budgeting
- Meetings are scheduled with individual department chairs to talk through individual budgets and an administrative assistants meeting is scheduled with deans and department chairs in attendance
- A budget forum in September will be held after the add/drop period
- Academic Affairs is working with Advancement to develop fundraising priorities for all units, including colleges and departments. Courtney Hodges, VP of Institutional Advancement, and Provost Smith have been meeting to review the local funds and understand the gift agreements better and will be reaching out to individuals to continue that work.
- University priority to reflect the diversity of America, Academic Affairs has a goal to recruit and support faculty and staff who embody and promote diverse perspectives. Thirty new faculty have been onboarded this year, twenty of which are tenured track. These new faculty bring a range of expertise and experiences with fresh perspectives to our community.
- The collective goal of the promotion of scholarly activity and faculty development, eleven faculty have been awarded sabbaticals for the upcoming year and one faculty connection grant. She then highlighted the significant work that was completed from last year's sabbaticals.
- University priority to increase enthusiasm across all of enrollment, Academic Affairs set a goal to increase opportunities and programs that attract curious students. As of August

21, 848 deposits of first-time, full-time students and 140 transfer students. 168 honors students are joining this class. 92% of these students are from Virginia. At the graduate level, enrollment continues to be strong with the MBA program with enrollment at just over 500 students. The total number of graduate students is around 1200.

- Academic Affairs is also working on how to respond to student and employer demands and fulfill shortages in the labor market. The deans and Provost have been brainstorming over the summer about curriculum changes and updates. Faculty were encouraged to reach out to their dean with ideas or suggestions of a new program or concentration.
- A goal was also set increase opportunities in programs to help students set and achieve high expectations which is the retention of students. Following the recommendation of the President's task force on retention, Longwood received a four-year grant from SCHEV that enabled us to hire two new student success coordinators that will be embedded in the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education, Health, and Human Services. These individuals are not advisors but are navigators to students as a one-stop resource as they transition into the college experience. They are also resources for faculty to have someone to send students to or alert about students concerns. Those two individuals will join the College of Business student success director.
- University priority of distinction in the Commonwealth and nation, Academic Affairs has the goal of promoting the talent and success of Longwood faculty, staff and students. She announced that this summer, faculty and staff have applied for a total of over 14 million dollars in grants to include several state and federal grants. She applauded the expertise of the office of grants and sponsored projects led by Dr. Alix Fink. She also thanked the faculty for their hard work in the grant efforts.
- In closing, she announced the initiative of how Longwood deals with generative AI. The provost's task force has been organized on AI and Teaching and Learning. The task force will be led by Dr. Brent Roberts and will include faculty and staff from across campus. More information regarding the composition of the task force and the charge will be sent via email in the upcoming weeks.

She closed by thanking the faculty for the very important work they do. She then introduced Dr. Khawaja Mamun as the new dean of the College of Business and Economics. He has a PhD in economics from Southern Methodist University and has spent his career at Sacred Heart University. He is committed to the same values that we have here at Longwood but brings fresh ideas and expertise to our community.

Following the Provost, each academic college dean introduced their new faculty.

- Khawaja Mamun introduced the College of Business and Economics new faculty
- Angela McDonald introduced the College of Education, Health, and Human Services new faculty
- Roger Byrne introduced the Cook-Cole College of Arts and Sciences new faculty

Lee Bidwell turned the meeting over to Brent Roberts for announcements:

Brent Roberts announced that events across campus and in the library would be sent via email and he proceeded to highlight three events:

- August 23 at 2pm in the Greenwood Library Atrium, members from the local Ukrainian community will be offering a reading in Ukrainian literature.
- September 3 at 4:30-6:00pm in the Greenwood Library Atrium, the Faculty Bookplate Ceremony will be held. This ceremony honors those who have received promotion over the past year
- October 16-18 is the Virginia Children's Book Festival. If faculty would like to volunteer, please reach out to Dr. Brent Roberts.

Other announcements:

- The faculty gala performance will be held on the first day of class with a concert Monday night at 7:30 pm in Wygal auditorium.
- Pam Tracy announced that Academic Affairs have been working with Student Affairs and the Lancer vote student team to provide opportunity for faculty, staff and students to come together and talk about critical issues surrounding the upcoming election. Ride to the poles will be available for students as well.
- Lee Bidwell announced Jody Gunn as the new Executive Assistant to Dr. David Shoenthal. Included in her duties is the administrative assistant to faculty senate. She also announced that the senator and department chair FPPM copies are located in Jody's office and are available for pick up.
- The Honor and Integrity Ceremony begins at 11:30 a.m. in Jarman Auditorium

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jody Gunn