

Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, January 22, 2026, 3:30pm
Martinelli Boardroom

In the absence of Chair Dr. Lee Bidwell, Vice-Chair Dr. Haley Woznyj presided, welcomed members back for the new year, and called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Dr. Bill Abrams	Mr. Cam Patterson	Dr. Ronda Walker
Dr. Dale Beach	Adam Paulek	Dr. Haley Woznyj
Dr. Chris Bjornsen	Dr. JoEllen Pederson	
Dr. Roger Byrne	Dr. Jeannine Perry	
Dr. Ken Fortino	Dr. Ron Pike	
Dr. Jennifer Gerlach	Dr. Phillip Poplin	
Dr. Scott Grether	Ms. Sarah Reynolds	
Dr. Carl Harvey	Dr. Dawn Schwartz	
Dr. Jennifer Hutchinson	Hafsa Shoeb	
Dr. Roland Karnatz	Dr. Larissa Smith	
Dr. Melissa Kravetz	Dr. Shawn Smith	
Dr. Evan Long	Dr. Ben Topham	
Dr. Angela McDonald	Dr. Javier Fernández Urenda	
Dr. Dan Michael	Dr. Yulia Uryadova	
Dr. Kris Paal	Dr. Sarah Varela	

Mrs. Sherry Reynolds,
Recorder

Also present were – Mr. Josh Blakely, Dr. Alecia Blackwood, Dr. Audrey Church, Stephanie Mooney, Dr. Melissa Rhoten, Dr. Madeline Schutt

The [November 20, 2025, minutes](#) were approved as submitted.

Dr. Melissa Rhoten presented the [EPC report](#). Due to the number of action items requiring Senate approval, Dr. Rhoten grouped several proposals for discussion and action.

Items a and b ([Chemistry, BS credit change](#); [Teacher Preparation in Chemistry Concentration credit change](#)) were presented together. Dr. Rhoten noted this marked the first time the concentration had been structured as a 120-credit program.

Outcome: Approved; all in favor, no opposed, no abstentions.

Item c ([Integrated Environmental Sciences, BS – new concentration](#)) was presented as a new concentration. Dr. Rhoten stated that the proposal would lead to a new 6–12 licensure option in earth science, an area in which the institution has not previously offered licensure.

Outcome: Approved; all in favor, no opposed, no abstentions.

Items d, e, and f ([Physics, BS credit change](#); [Biophysics Concentration credit change](#); [Teacher Preparation in Physics Concentration credit change](#)) were presented together as credit changes.

Outcome: Approved; all in favor, no opposed, no abstentions.

Item g ([Early Childhood Special Education Endorsement – new endorsement](#)) was presented as a new endorsement. Dr. Rhoten clarified that this proposal does not create a new program but provides coursework for practicing teachers seeking endorsement through the Virginia Department of Education.

Outcome: Approved; all in favor, no opposed, no abstentions.

Item h ([Reading, Literacy and Learning, MEd – program updates](#)) was presented as program updates informed by assessment data, including adjustments related to practicum requirements.

Outcome: Approved; all in favor, no opposed, no abstentions.

Item i ([Removal of Upper-Level Exception Related to Clinical Lab Sciences Concentration – policy change](#)) was presented as a policy change removing catalog language associated with the previous closure of the Biology Clinical Lab Sciences program.

Outcome: Approved; all in favor, no opposed, no abstentions.

Items j and k ([Longwood University Policy on the Use of Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) in Teaching & Learning](#); [AI Syllabus Statement](#)) were presented together. Discussion centered on language within the proposed policy encouraging faculty transparency with students regarding faculty use of AI in courses. Senate members expressed concern that transparency should be expected in all instances rather than encouraged. After robust discussion, Dr. Larissa Smith explained that the AI Advisory Board intentionally selected “encouraging” rather than “requiring” language due to the evolving nature of AI and uncertainty surrounding future uses. Dr. Smith expressed appreciation for the discussion and noted that the AI Advisory Board would continue ongoing conversation and research. She emphasized the importance of intentionally cultivating human connection alongside the use of new digital tools, noting that human connection is essential for this generation and a strength of the institution.

Outcome: Approved; majority in favor, one opposed, no abstentions.

ARO Presentation – Dr. Madeline Schutt and Stephanie Mooney

- Dr. Madeline Schutt, along with Stephanie Mooney, presented “Accessibility at ARO: What’s Happening, What’s Helping, What’s Next.” Questions were received from faculty following the presentation, including concerns regarding students testing in ARO and

the possibility of accessing outside assistance. ARO assured faculty that multiple measures are in place to ensure academic integrity: students are required to secure all personal items and devices in the lockers provided (unless a device has been specifically approved as an accommodation); ARO staff conduct periodic walk-throughs and actively monitor testing spaces; and cameras located in the testing areas provide live feeds that are also monitored. The camera footage is owned by LUPD and is retained only for a limited period due to storage constraints. Members of the ARO Advisory Board are also willing to serve as additional observers when concerns arise regarding student testing.

- A second topic discussed involved the requirement that students provide ARO with three business days' notice when requesting accommodations, allowing adequate preparation time for both professors and ARO. In cases where a request is submitted late, ARO defers to the instructor's discretion regarding whether the request can be honored, noting that a variety of circumstances may lead to delayed submissions. The overarching goal remains to support students in receiving their approved accommodations whenever possible.
- Dr. Schutt also provided an overview of the work of the ARO Advisory Board and announced that ARO will host a Lunch & Learn for faculty and staff on April 7, with additional information forthcoming.
- Mr. Cam Patterson added that the Counseling Center offers ADHD and specific learning disability testing for students at a significantly lower cost than private testing. Testing services are available to students from Longwood University and Hampden-Sydney College, as well as family members of Longwood employees.

There was no new business.

Announcements:

- Dr. Larissa Smith, on behalf of Dr. Brent Roberts, announced an **AI & Library Resources workshop** to be held on **January 28 at 4:00 p.m.** in Greenwood Library, Room 209. Dr. Smith also asked faculty to review Longwood's inclement weather policy, located in the Class Attendance section (Section 4, page 29 of the FPPM), in preparation for the upcoming weekend weather forecast.
- Mr. Adam Paulek announced that an art show is currently on display in **Bedford Gallery**.
- Dr. Dawn Schwartz announced that the CBE's **free tax preparation program** will take place at the Farmville Library every Saturday in February and the final two Saturdays in March.
- Mr. Cam Patterson shared that the **N. H. Scott Center** at Lankford Hall is now open on the first floor and includes meeting and study rooms, the main lounge formerly located in Upchurch, and additional student spaces. A formal dedication will be held later in the semester. Mr. Patterson expressed appreciation for the many individuals who contributed to the project.

Dr. Woznyj thanked Academic Affairs for providing snacks for the meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Reynolds