

**Faculty Senate Meeting**

**Thursday, March 5, 2026, 3:30pm**

**Martinelli Boardroom**

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

Dr. Bill Abrams	Dr. Evan Long	Dr. Sarah Varela
Dr. Dale Beach	Dr. Khawaja Mamum	Dr. Ronda Walker
Dr. Lee Bidwell	Dr. Angela McDonald	Dr. Haley Woznyj
Dr. Chris Bjornsen	Dr. Dan Michael	
Dr. Roger Byrne	Dr. Kris Paal	
Dr. Ken Fortino	Mr. Cam Patterson	
Dr. Jennifer Gerlach	Dr. JoEllen Pederson	
Dr. Scott Grether	Dr. Jeannine Perry	
Dr. Jennifer Hutchinson	Dr. Ron Pike	
Ms. Rosemary Jesionowski	Dr. Phillip Poplin	
Ms. Rebecca Johnson	Hafsa Shoeb	
Ms. Whitney Kallenbach	Dr. Larissa Smith	
Dr. Roland Karnatz	Dr. Shawn Smith	
Dr. Melissa Kravetz	Dr. Ben Topham	
Dr. Chris Kukk	Dr. Javier Fernández Urenda	

Mrs. Sherry Reynolds,  
Recorder

Also present were – Ms. Jennifer Beach, Mr. Josh Blakely, Dr. Darrell Carpenter, Dr. Audrey Church, Ms. Susan Hines, Dr. Anna Kuthy, Dr. Melissa Rhoten, Dr. David Shoenthal, Dr. Sarah Tanner-Anderson, Ms. Elizabeth Zirkle

The [February 12, 2026 minutes](#) were approved as submitted.

**EPC Report – Dr. Melissa Rhoten**

- a. **Biology, BS; Teacher Preparation in Biology Concentration** (credit change)
- b. **History, BA; Teacher Preparation in History and Social Science** (credit change)

Dr. Rhoten discussed both Teacher Preparation items a. and b. together. Both are credit decreases partly due to the elimination of EDUC 473 and EDUC 455.

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

➤ **c. Biology, BS; Biomedical and Health Science Concentration (new concentration)**

Dr. Rhoten explained that currently Biology has the pre-medical concentration for students coming in on the pre-med track but in some cases that doesn't always work out. This item allows for two concentrations, one for distinctly pre-med and the other will allow for students that still want to be health-adjacent but on the path for other post-graduate opportunities.

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

**OAIR presentation "Let's NSSE Together!" – Dr. Anna Kuthy, Director of Assessment**

- Dr. Kuthy advised that since the NSSE launched on February 19<sup>th</sup>, only 22.5% of students have completed the survey. The goal is at least to surpass the 43% of participation from six years ago.
- The NSSE helps gauge how the students experience college and their education, from their sense of belonging to career and work preparation, from their first year to their last.
- OAIR is working with Student Affairs in promoting the survey and are offering student incentives such as photo sessions and participation scholarships.
- Dr. Kuthy urged faculty to please help communicate the importance of the NSSE to students to increase response rates. Faculty makes the biggest difference.

**Proposal to Change Review Process for Senior Lecturers and Senior Clinical Educators – Darrell Carpenter, Chair, Promotion and Tenure Policies and Procedures Committee**

- Dr. Shawn Smith asked if current Senior Lecturers and Senior Clinical Educators will be "grandfathered" and the general consensus is that they will (although this is not specifically addressed in the proposal but worded such as they would) but that there was more the question of when the change will go into effect.
- Ms. Whitney Kallenbach approached the question of why three consecutive, two-year review cycles would be necessary. Dr. Carpenter again explained that this was the recommendation of the department chairs. The chairs explained that responsibilities often change at the Senior rank, and they wanted multiple review cycles to assess faculty performance in the new role. Also, the two-year cycle aligned with the contract period.
- Dr. Melissa Kravetz, on behalf of her HPSP department, spoke against the change proposal questioning why there should be additional reviews at all when a senior clinical educator or senior lecturer who receives one less-than-satisfactory annual evaluation shall be reviewed by both the department chair and the department Promotion and Tenure Committee in the subsequent fall as outlined in the FPPM Section II.M.8.iii. This was viewed as added burden to this group of instructors who have no tenure and less compensation for the same amount of work as tenured. Dr. Bidwell did confirm with Dr. Kravetz that HPSP was in favor of changing the current policy, but not the proposed review cycle.

- Dr. Bill Abrams expressed that the MACS department had some of the same objections. He motioned (seconded by Melissa Kravetz) to change the language of the proposal to remove “Senior clinical educators and senior lecturers are reviewed according to the same timeline above in each second year of their two-year rolling contract. After three consecutive, positive two-year review cycles”.
- Upon discussion of the motion on the table, Dr. Carpenter explained again that the committee went solely on the suggestion of the department chairs they had spoken to per the provost. Two of the department chairs wanted the three consecutive, positive two-year cycles to review once senior status had been obtained and the third chair didn’t want to change anything.
- **Outcome for motion to amend proposal:** Approved; all in favor, no opposed, no abstentions.
- **Outcome for amended proposal:** Approved; all in favor with one opposed, no abstentions.

### SAI Feedback – Dr. Haley Woznyj

- Dr. Woznyj reported that good responses on the draft SAI form had been received so far and the feedback link would be open for one more day. She then opened the floor for any additional high-level feedback or concerns.
- Dr. Scott Grether, SACJS, spoke against the form altogether explaining if it can still be used in determining P&T and merit raises that the underlying issue of bias is still not being addressed and the form is therefore flawed. He argued data from student feedback forms should not be used in faculty evaluation. Dr. Abrams answered that changes to how the instrument may be used in the faculty evaluation process were made last year, and the proposed new form is designed to improve the quality of student feedback. He suggested the issue of bias should be handled in the department. He has used evals in the past to look for significant differences that may indicate a need for attention. Dr. Chris Bjornsen suggested to Dr. Grether to bring forth a proposal for what he would like changed.
- Dr. Kravetz for HPSP was in favor of using class time for the assessments but thought ten minutes may not be enough time.
- Dr. Woznyj clarified that the proposed change items themselves would be the only thing going into the FPPM; the suggested process of administrating the instrument would not.
- Ms. Rosemary Jesionowski with TAGD added, when discussing the SAI, her department felt it was written as academics to academics instead of being directed towards students. While the name has changed, it still seems to be more about the instructor than the class e.g., student interaction and physical status of the class location, etc.
- Dr. Javier Fernández Urenda, EML, spoke specifically to Section 3 Q19. & Q20. regarding instructor conduct that they felt were more of issues for a department chair and should not be on the assessment form.
- When asked about Q3. in Section 1 regarding the percentage of class sessions missed having answer options higher than the 25% as stated in the FPPM, Dr. Woznyj explained that some students do miss more than that number of classes and faculty handle absences differently so the proposed responses would cover those possibilities.
- A draft should be presented at the April meeting.

There was no new business.

**Announcements:**

- Dr. Larissa Smith welcomed the newest senator, Rebecca Johnson, who is replacing Elizabeth Zirkle who has moved into the ABSN Program Coordinator A/P position.
  - President Reveley has formed a small committee to assess opportunities including the role that athletics can play in maintaining momentum on enrollment. The committee will be led by Provost Smith and include Tim Coffey, FAR, Vice President for Strategic Operations, Jennifer Green, and Board of Visitors Secretary, David Rose. The committee will be working with deans and department chairs on new initiatives for enrollment efforts.
  - There will be four candidates for the CCCAS Dean position visiting campus in March. All are encouraged to attend the candidate presentations. Contact Dr. Brent Roberts to be added to the Canvas course to view candidate information.
- Dr. Angela McDonald expressed the regular BSN program is still in place. The new Accelerated BSN program scheduled to begin in 2027 will be geared more toward adult learners working toward a second degree in nursing.
- Dr. Kravetz announced that Women's History Month speaker, Selene Diaz from Virginia Tech's Department of Sociology, will present on Tuesday, March 24.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Reynolds

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LONGWOOD!