

Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, September 4, 2025, 3:30pm

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

Dr. Bill Abrams	Dr. Dan Michael	Dr. Ronda Walker
Dr. Dale Beach	Dr. Kris Paal	Dr. Haley Woznyj
Dr. Lee Bidwell	Mr. Adam Paulek	Ms. Elizabeth Zirkle
Dr. Chris Bjornsen	Dr. JoEllen Pederson	
Dr. Roger Byrne	Dr. Jeannine Perry	
Dr. Ken Fortino	Dr. Ron Pike	
Dr. Scott Grether	Dr. Phillip Poplin	
Dr. Carl Harvey	Ms. Sarah Reynolds	
Dr. Jennifer Hutchinson	Dr. Brent Roberts	
Ms. Whitney Kallenbach	Hafsa Shoeb	
Dr. Roland Karnatz	Dr. Larissa Smith	
Dr. Melissa Kravetz	Dr. Shawn Smith	
Dr. Chris Kukk	Dr. Ben Topham	
Dr. Evan Long	Dr. Javier Fernández Urenda	
Dr. Khawaja Mamum	Dr. Yulia Uryadova	

Mrs. Sherry Reynolds, Recorder

Also present were – Amanda Alter, Dr. Audrey Church, Dr. Chene Heady, Susan Hines, Greg Kirby, Dr. David Shoenthal, Dr. Sarah Tanner-Anderson

Dr. Bidwell welcomed the group, covered some housekeeping items for the meeting, and extended appreciation to Academic Affairs for providing the snacks. Dr. Bidwell gave a brief overview of the responsibilities of Senate members as according to Section 6, Article 3, Section 4 of the FPPM.

The minutes from [April 24, 2025](#), were approved as submitted.

Dr. Bidwell announced that it had been brought to her attention that some of the revisions to the FPPM approved at the April 24, 2025, meeting regarding the use of student assessment instruments in the faculty evaluation process were not published accurately in the new edition of the Manual. This is being rectified on the digital copy located on the Faculty Senate website and it was suggested those who have the hard copies print those changes and add them to your manual.

Dr. Bill Abrams questioned the absence of committee members listed for Provost-appointed committees (not Senate-approved) on the website. Provost Larissa Smith stated that she had that information and would pass it on to Sherry Reynolds to post to the website.

The second action item was to approve [Senate Committees](#) as well as the [Representative to the Faculty Senate of VA](#).

Dr. Bidwell briefly explained the committee selection process. With no objections on voting for both the committee members and Representative to the Faculty Senate of VA together, both were approved.

Dr. Chene Heady, Chair of the Committee on Course Materials Affordability, addressed the group regarding the Follett Book Bundle transition. He assured them the committee is aware of the issues that have taken place. Dr. Heady did ask for continued notification of issues and preferably with specific names, etc. so the issues can be traced back through the process. This will be helpful to Follett and they will be able to follow up with professors. The committee will meet with Follett in the upcoming days. Simple, direct guidelines for how to place orders for hard copies are needed and Follett has promised all will be good for the spring semester.

Greg Kirby, Follett's Regional Manager, took the floor and recognized that the transition was not as smooth as hoped for. Follett is very appreciative of all the feedback that has been received; this allows opportunity for Follett to grow. Follett will strive for better communication and they plan to make short tutorial videos to assist both students and faculty. They also will provide better training for Bookstore teams. Mr. Kirby claimed that the Book Bundle saved students approximately \$457,00 for the fall (this was calculating the comparison of the \$350 bundle cost to the cost of new books purchased individually). Mr. Kirby then addressed questions of various Senate members offering further explanation and clarification to some of the ongoing issues.

Amanda Alter, Manager of the Bookstore, also assured the group of their team's willingness to help the students and continue to improve assistance with the new program.

Dr. Bidwell thanked Mr. Kirby for attending the meeting and stressed the goals of saving students money and all students having book access on day 1 of classes as Follett originally promised.

The third action item was the presenting of the [proposal](#) of Renaming the Provost's Scholarship Award. Provost Larissa Smith explained how the Provost's Scholarship Award came to be named in 2011/12 and that the scholarship is actually selected by faculty committee. Provost Smith expressed that renaming the scholarship to honor Dr. Susan H. May was the perfect thing to do. Dr. May was one of the architects of the faculty government of Longwood as well as an incredible mentor to so many. She embarked on a 50-year scholarly project in producing the New Variorum Edition of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The hope is to pass the proposal and

announce it at Convocation next week to pay tribute to her. With no discussion required, the group unanimously approved the proposal with great applause.

There was no new business presented.

Under announcements, Dr. Bidwell reminded the group to take notice of due dates for course/program changes to be submitted to [EPC](#).

Dr. Haley Woznyj gave a brief update on the ad hoc committee's work on Student Assessment Instruction. A lot of progress was made last fall in updating processes. The plan is to begin review of the actual Student Assessment Form. The committee is due to hold its first meeting of the new year next week. Concrete changes are forthcoming.

Announcements from Cam Peterson, via Provost Smith in his absence:

- Be reminded of the Freedom of Expression policy that has been shared with students as well as faculty and staff. There is a process and certain rules to follow to hold an activity on campus. There is a team in place that monitors and enforces the rules: Cameron Patterson, Chief Angela Comer, Jen Fraley and Jean Wilwohl. They will handle any type of "response" that may be needed and engage with the organizers.
- Family Weekend on September 12th & 13th where all are encouraged to join in the festivities.
- Community events such as Heart of Virginia and VA250 Mobile Museum Experience at the Moton Museum, both scheduled for September 12th & 13th
- Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) has a number of ways to help with mental health crisis. More information will be emailed.
- Guest speaker, Dr. Jarrod Spencer, visits on September 22 with *Anxiety: Managing Your Fears of the Unknown*.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 4:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Reynolds