

## Opening Faculty Meeting

Friday, August 22, 2025

9:00 am Blackwell Ballroom

- The meeting was called to order at 9:01 am by Faculty Senate Chair, Lee Bidwell. It was determined that a quorum was present. Dr. Bidwell welcomed everyone back to the 187<sup>th</sup> academic year.
  - A brief overview of the Faculty Senate's responsibilities and selection process was given. Senators were recognized and committees acknowledged.
  - The Senate Executive Committee was also recognized as follows: Lee Bidwell, Chair; Haley Woznyj, Vice Chair; Jennifer Hutchinson; Carl Harvey and Ronda Walker.
  - Dr. Bidwell reviewed the Faculty Senate Website in Solomon pointing out the various resources available such as meeting agendas and minutes, electronic copy of the FPPM, etc. Dr. Bidwell informed the group that the printed FPPMs were located in Sherry's office in Rotunda 100A.
- The [Closing Faculty Meeting Minutes](#) from March 27, 2025, were approved as submitted.
- Jake Milne, as Chair of the Faculty Status and Grievances Committee, explained that the committee acts as a liaison between faculty members or faculty members and administration. The committee deals mostly with Promotion & Tenure situations. Dr. Milne introduced the committee members and alternates and encouraged faculty to reach out to any member should they have a question. He stated there were no cases this past academic year. The committee stands ready to serve.
- JoEllen Pederson addressed the group from her new role as the Faculty Representative to the Board of Visitors. She expressed that she was honored to serve in the position and thanked her predecessor, Lisa Kinzer, for her time served. Dr. Pederson explained that as the Faculty Rep. to the BOV she was a non-voting member of the Senate, member of the President's Advisory Council and would attend the BOV meetings and report back to Senate. She will appreciate feedback from faculty to report to the BOV on their behalf.
- Bill Abrams, President of the local chapter of the AAUP, spoke about the [Salary Study](#) he did for 2024-25 and encouraged anyone with questions to feel free to contact him.
- Heather Lettner-Rust, Director of the Civitae Core Curriculum Committee, presented:
  - Recognition of the newest Civitae committee member and HBSI leader, Alecia Blackwood.
  - Curriculum Review and appreciation for positive feedback.
  - Brief Assessment of Portfolio, specifically ENGL 165 and next steps in Assessment.
  - Prince Edward County won an achievement award for their 3-semester collaboration with Symposium students in developing ideas to help with their Comprehensive plan.
  - Gave call for new CTZN 410 Theme to replace initial theme, "U Pluribus Unum", From Many, One.
- Sarai Blincoe presented from the Post Graduate Success Initiative (QEP):
  - Goal to guide students in choosing and completing experiences that directly contribute to their post-graduate success.
  - Consider Life Design
  - QEP Course Grants application deadline 9/15/25

- Counseling Graduate Immersion Day scheduled for September 16, 2025.
- Fall 2025 Showcase November 19, 2025, with Career Development Workshops
- Student Recruitment for Summer 2026 Micro internship (CTZN 292) to begin soon. This includes Exploratory Studies, Biology, Music and English.
- Brent Roberts reported on the Provost's A.I. Task Force in addition to other announcements:
  - VA250 committee has been formed – 1<sup>st</sup> event will be during Heart of VA festival on 9/12&13-the VA250 mobile exhibit from the Virginia Museum of History & Culture will be present.
  - Roberts is also Academic Affairs Ambassador to Budd Group to help with facility needs.
  - Faculty Bookplate Ceremony will be held at Greenwood on 9/9/25 to honor faculty who received tenure or promotion in the spring.
  - The A.I. committee gathered information from both faculty and student surveys to draft an A.I. policy.
    - Task Force members attended workshops/webinars and read other A.I. policies.
    - There is no one size fits all approach to AI. The committee has drafted a policy for best practices that will be presented to Faculty Senate for discussion and approval. The draft policy-
      - Emphasizes ethical and responsible use of A.I. and Longwood's academic integrity policy.
      - Suggests each Syllabus should have an A.I. statement as individual programs will have their own approaches – faculty members should have conversations with their classes on the use of A.I. in that class.

There will be ongoing training and professional development for students and faculty.

- Remarks from President Taylor Reveley:
  - Welcomed everyone back.
  - Recognized Angela McDonald in her return.
  - Recognized Dean Roger Byrne from Cook-Cole College of Fine Arts who will be retiring at the end of the academic year.
  - Despite everything going on, Longwood is still making good strides with enrollment, which is not the case everywhere.
  - Longwood's endowment has grown since pre-Covid to \$106 million.
  - Longwood has the highest percentage of courses taught by fulltime faculty than any other University in Virginia.
  - Positive projects forthcoming with new music building construction about to begin, CBE refurbish, Library upgrades. Newly-renovated D-Hall looks great.
  - Endowed Chairs fund has raised \$1.5 million of \$3 million goal and should be complete by next fall.
  - Longwood to scale is in a good position in comparison to other Universities in Virginia. Still has unified faculty government structure in which everyone cares for each other.
  - Spoke of loss of Barbara Smith and Susan May, both of whom started working at Longwood in the 1960's.
  - Questions from faculty members were addressed.
- Remarks from Provost Larissa Smith:
  - This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of growth in enrollment.
  - Record number of Freshman in nursing.
  - SCHEV-initiated grants have been very helpful with recruitment and retention.

- This year the software tool, Civitas, will be added to help assist in work. This is to be used as part of academic advising to close the loop with faculty on academic performance or attendance issues of students reported to the care team.
  - Curriculum develops new ways to attract students to meet employment demands. 4-year degree, SCHEV-approved teacher licensure program to meet student demand in early childhood education has been implemented. Longwood is working to meet the needs of students who want to be teachers.
  - Numerous upcoming re-accreditation visits scheduled across campus.
  - Recognized Anna Kuthy, new Director of Assessment for Assessment & Institutional Research (AIR), now fully staffed.
  - 21 new fulltime faculty, 13 on tenure track.
  - A.I. Task Force next step to create smaller team focusing on teacher A.I. literacy. Hope to propose policy to Faculty Senate in the Fall with a focus on learning.
  - Digital badges – work group lead by Jeanine Perry drafted process for students. Focused efforts on skills to fill gap between what students learn here and what they may need in the work place.
  - Announced Dean Roger Byrne will retire at the end of this academic year and explained the process to hire a new dean.
- Introductions of new faculty
    - Cook-Cole College of Arts and Sciences, 11 new faculty introduced by Roger Byrne
    - College of Business and Economics, 2 new faculty introduced by Khawaja Mamun
    - College of Education, Health, and Human Services, 8 new faculty introduced by Angela McDonald.
  - There were no announcements.
  - There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:53am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Reynolds