

Faculty Senate Meeting

Thursday, September 3, 2026, 3:30 p.m.

Martinelli Boardroom

Faculty Senate Chair, Dr. Lee Bidwell, called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

Dr. Bidwell welcomed senators back for the academic year and extended a welcome to new senators. After a brief overview of meeting procedures, she allowed senators to introduce themselves and identify the department they represent. The following members were present:

Dr. Ann Bailey Yoelin	Dr. Evan Long	Dr. Sarah Varela
Dr. Dale Beach	Dr. Alyssa Lowery	Dr. Tom Wears
Ms. Jennifer Beach	Dr. Khawaja Mamum	Dr. Rebecca Wetmiller
Dr. Lee Bidwell	Dr. Angela McDonald	Dr. Haley Woznyj
Dr. Chris Bjornsen	Dr. Dan Michael	
Dr. Marissa Bolin	Dr. Kris Paal	
Dr. Wade Edwards	Taylor Patterson	
Dr. Ken Fortino	Mr. Adam Paulek	
Dr. Jennifer Gerlach	Dr. Ron Pike	
Dr. Scott Grether	Dr. Phillip Poplin	
Dr. Carl Harvey	Dr. Jack Reeder	
Dr. Jennifer Hutchinson	Dr. Larissa Smith	
Professor Rosemary Jesionowski	Dr. Ben Topham	
Dr. Rebecca Johnson	Dr. Javier Fernández Urenda	
Dr. Alison King	Dr. Yulia Uryadova	

Mrs. Sherry Reynolds,
Recorder

Also present were – Dr. Bill Abrams, Dr. Audrey Church, Dr. Tim Coffey, Alexandra Dinger, Ms. Susan Hines, Dr. Shannon Salley, Dr. David Shoenthal, Dr. Sarah Tanner-Anderson, Dr. Ronda Walker

The [April 23, 2026, minutes](#) were approved as submitted.

The [Senate Committees](#) were approved as submitted.

Faculty Athletics Representative Presentation – Dr. Tim Coffey

Tim Coffey, Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR), provided an overview of the FAR role and reported on academic performance among Longwood student-athletes. He noted that Longwood earned Big South Conference Presidential Honor Roll recognition for 2025-2026 and reviewed academic highlights from the Spring 2026 semester. He also discussed forthcoming NCAA changes.

Dr. Coffey highlighted resources available through the FAR websites, including NCAA educational resources, scholarship and internship information, and campus resources for faculty and student-athletes.

Areas of focus and concern included:

- Monitoring missed classes related to team travel and working proactively with coaches and faculty to minimize academic disruptions.
- Reviewing the Faculty Advising Guide.
- Tracking transfer portal activity involving student-athletes.
- Partnering with EPIC Global Solutions to educate student-athletes about sports wagering.

Dr. Coffey introduced Alex Dinger, Director of Athletic Academic Services, who assists with student-athlete scheduling and academic support.

Dr. Coffey reviewed Longwood's attendance policy and noted that student-athletes received communication emphasizing the importance of proactively informing faculty about anticipated absences related to athletic competition.

During discussion, a question was raised regarding athletics' role in enrollment strategies referenced in a March 5 email from President Reveley. Dr. Coffey asked Provost Larissa Smith, chair of the related committee, to address the question.

Provost Smith explained that the committee is examining how enrollment strategies may include athletic opportunities that attract prospective students who might not otherwise consider Longwood. She emphasized that enrollment strategy drives decisions regarding athletics rather than athletics driving enrollment. Provost Smith cited the addition of cross country and track as examples and noted that other possibilities, including women's volleyball and emerging sports with lower implementation costs, are being evaluated. She added that enrollment research and strategic planning efforts will continue.

Dr. Coffey further discussed the importance of identifying sports that can be added cost-effectively and reviewed examples of athletics models at peer institutions.

Registrar Update – Ms. Susan Hines

Susan Hines, Registrar, distributed FERPA guidance materials and reviewed key FERPA considerations, particularly as they relate to artificial intelligence technologies.

Ms. Hines noted that various AI platforms are available, with Microsoft Copilot offering institutional protections for Longwood users. She reminded faculty that FERPA-protected information, including student identification information, grades, and other protected student records, should not be entered into AI platforms. Faculty were encouraged to refer parents with questions regarding student records to the Registrar's Office.

Hines also reviewed FERPA resources available through MyLongwood, including information regarding student FERPA releases.

Ms. Hines announced the upcoming launch of Degree Works Planner for incoming 2026-2027 students. The system will allow students to import departmental four-year plans into Degree Works and create individualized academic plans that can be reviewed and modified in consultation with advisors.

Key features include:

- Semester-by-semester planning tools.
- Advisor review and feedback capabilities.
- Instructional videos for students and advisors.
- Roadmaps for majors and concentrations.
- Integration with ongoing student success initiatives, including Designing Your Life.

Ms. Hines emphasized that the planner serves as a guide and does not replace academic advising. Students will continue to work with advisors to develop plans that best fit their individual academic goals and circumstances, including double majors and other specialized pathways.

There was no new business.

Announcements:

- Dr. Lee Bidwell reminded faculty of Educational Policy Committee (EPC) proposal deadlines. Curriculum changes to existing courses and programs are due November 1, 2026, and proposals for new courses and programs are due December 15, 2026.
- Faculty were reminded of the upcoming Study Abroad Fair and Student Involvement and Volunteer Fair.
- Provost Larissa Smith encouraged faculty to read the recent article announcing eight new endowed professorships. She noted that the endowments will support teaching, research, and faculty work with students. The professorships will include positions in business, history,

chemistry, mathematics, and two flexible appointments that may rotate among departments and education programs.

- Ken Fortino reminded faculty of the September 7, 2026, deadline for Blackwell Talks topic submissions and encouraged participation.
- Taylor Patterson, Student Government Association representative, reminded faculty that Convocation will be held on September 10, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. She encouraged faculty attendance and support of the event, noting a decline in faculty participation in recent years.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Reynolds

Faculty Senate Administrative Assistant