

Opening Faculty Meeting
Friday, August 18, 2023
9:00am Blackwell Ballroom

The meeting was called to order at 9:03am by Faculty Senate Chair, Andrew Yeagley. It was determined that a quorum was present. Andrew welcomed everyone back. He introduced the members of Senate Exec and Faculty Senate. He also acknowledged members that sit on committees.

The minutes of the [March 23, 2023 Closing Faculty Meeting](#) were approved as submitted.

Heather Lettner-Rust gave an update on Civitae. After committee introductions using a Barbie theme, Heather used a [presentation](#) to review the purpose of Civitae and its new courses. She went over the Civitae syllabus checklist and spoke about the Undergraduate Faculty Professional Development Day. She also reviewed two professional development sessions from May. At the Teaching and Learning Institute on Teaching for Civic Engagement on May 9, Dr. Patti Clayton was the plenary speaker who explored the DEAL (Describe the experience, Examine the experience, Articulate Learning) approach to critical reflection. May 10 began the 3-day Teagle Foundation Seminar with readings that included background in voting rights, political history and governmental policy. Sessions were led by Larissa Smith, Eric Hodges, and Derek Taylor from Longwood and Dr. Bertral Ross (Justice Thurgood Marshall Distinguished Professor of Law and Director of the Karsha Center for Law and Democracy at UVA Law School) and Jamelle Bouie (New York Times Columnist) joined as guest speakers. Using the description of a sail, she compared the makeup of how the sail resembles the makeup of Civitae. She encouraged faculty to use the comparison of the sail to help students understand the purpose of Civitae and orient them as to where they are in the process. She closed by asking faculty to contact the committee if they have any questions.

Ann Bailey Yoelin, Chair of the Faculty Status and Grievances Committee, reported there was one case in 2022-23. The [Faculty Status and Grievances Report](#) was presented, the report reviewed what the processes of the committee are. Ann announced who the committee members are for 2023-24.

Liza Kinzer explained her role as Faculty Representative to the Board of Visitors, as the liaison between faculty and the Board. She attends Senate Meetings and is a member of the President's Advisory Committee. In addition to those duties, she attends and presents at BOV meetings, reporting back to faculty about those meetings. BOV meetings occur in September, December, March, and June. She will be reaching out to faculty via email to collect thoughts on what important information should be brought to the Board. She reminded everyone to email her with their ideas and information.

Bill Abrams offered information as to where the AAUP salary study can be found on the [Faculty Senate website](#).

David Shoenthal gave an update on SACSCOC reaffirmation and the QEP process. Dr. Shoenthal shared a [presentation](#) on the reaffirmation process for the past two years and the work that is ahead. To prepare for the SACSCOC on-site committee arrival, David will be reaching out to schedule practice interview sessions for those who may be called upon during the visit. In addition, he will be reaching out in the upcoming months for volunteers to assist with hospitality during the onsite visit. He also stressed the importance of making our program assessment clear for external readers.

The presentation was turned over to Sarai Blincoe who reviewed the history and the progress of the development of the QEP using a slide [presentation](#). She began with the QEP goal, the outcomes for the students, and how faculty can assist in this process. Faculty are encouraged to participate through Grad Immersion Days, Symposium Day and Research Showcase workshops. To support the students and the QEP endeavors, faculty have the opportunity to participate in QEP information sessions and professional development such as the Teaching and Learning Institute. Sarai is looking for volunteers for the QEP advisory group which includes representatives from across campus but are looking for one or two faculty members to take part as well. Contact Sarai at blincoesc@longwood.edu.

Larissa Smith opened her remarks by welcoming everyone back; from there she jumped into updates from Academic Affairs.

- Enrollment is coming back to pre-pandemic levels. We can expect our current enrollment numbers to stabilize to about where they are this year.
- The state budget is still being determined. We are working through university efficiencies, evaluating where we can be more prudent with state resources and continuing to take a proactive, financially responsive approach to budgeting. Overall priorities continue to be focused on faculty development which includes undergraduate research and faculty grants and sabbaticals.
- She is currently working in collaboration with the deans on faculty hiring, in part to address some recent resignations. She and the deans are committed to hiring full time and tenured faculty to meet the current enrollment needs.

She then moved on to goals in Academic Affairs which included the strategic plan that is in place through 2026. This umbrella plan is meant to sit between the university strategic plan and department or college goals, and encompasses some of this year's initiatives:

- Recruitment of students - thinking about the best curriculum to offer students and working with enrollment management to reach our goals more effectively;
- Retention of students - keeping the end in mind to help prepare for post-graduate success;
- Recruitment and retention of faculty - thinking about how we can give ourselves the best tools to recruit and retain faculty. A faculty senate ad hoc committee will be developed to look into ideas about new categories of faculty positions.
- Academic Affairs will be initiating a search for the new Dean of College of Business and Economics.
- SACSCOC on-site visit is this March. The process has been led by David Shoenthal, and she thanked him for all of his hard work.

- Technology - including having discussions about AI and remembering that those types of technology resources are changing how students and faculty work. In addition to AI, Banner was migrated to the Cloud over the summer which came with complications, particularly with how we build our schedules and how we use Canvas. The DEC is working on a solution.
- Improving administrative processes - admins are being encouraged to document standard practices and procedures. Provost Smith also highlighted that there are experts in Academic Affairs that are here to support the faculty. Those include the resources offered within CAFE, Center for Global Engagement, DEC, and Office of Grants, Research and Sponsored Programs.
- A mental health awareness grant was awarded to the College of Education, Health, and Human Services and offered congratulations to Angela McDonald, Alix Fink, and the entire team.

In closing, Provost Smith highlighted the impressive work from the faculty and thanked everyone for all they do and will continue to do this upcoming year.

President Reveley began his remarks by welcoming everyone back. He echoed Provost Smith's remarks about AI and how we need to use the technology to our advantage. He quoted statistics of the support that higher education is receiving on both the state and federal level and discussed the political climate related to both levels. Longwood is in a good spot as we are in year two of the two-year budget and the updated budget is expected to include more funding for Longwood. He closed by saying that Longwood is a school in the commonwealth that is getting noticed, and he is excited about this year and our future. He encouraged faculty to attend the Honor and Integrity Ceremony.

Following the President, each academic college dean introduced their new faculty.

- Roger Byrne introduced the Cook-Cole College of Arts and Sciences new faculty.
- Sara Neher introduced the College of Business and Economics new faculty.
- Angela McDonald introduced the College of Education, Health, and Human Services new faculty.

Andrew Yeagley turned the meeting over to Brent Roberts for announcements:

Brent Roberts opened up the announcement portion of the program by reviewing changes in library staffing. He continued with additional services offered in the library, such as SALSA and VIVA. There will also be a full review of the print collection where the faculty will be called on to support this initiative. For more information on library support, please visit the [library website](#).

August 31st at 5pm (or immediately following the Faculty Senate meeting) the Faculty Book Plate Ceremony will take place in the library, recognizing faculty promotion and tenure. This year's location will be in Greenwood Library Atrium.

Chris Swanson announced the upcoming Blackwell Talk Series, on Mondays from 12:00 to 12:50 PM. The dates of this year's talks will be: September 18; September 25; October 2; October 16; October 23; November 6. Questions can be directed to Kenneth Fortino

(fortinok@longwood.edu) or Christopher Swanson (swansoncl@longwood.edu).

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:02am

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley Long, Recorder