



FACULTY SENATE

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Benjamin Harper
President

Forrest Parker
**Vice President/
President Elect**

Emma Kostopolus
Secretary

Ian Andersen
Parliamentarian

Chunlei Liu
Past President

Faculty Senate

September 21, 2023, 3:30 p.m.

Microsoft Teams

Meeting link:

https://teams.microsoft.com//meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OGM1NjY2OGItNTZIMy00NDgyLWExMTItNDM2YjY1OTJhM2Rm%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2225a5d340-8abc-4053-b4bd-dc1213280353%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22ed01223e-81c6-499d-9dd2-b15b61a1dbf6%22%7d

Attendance link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/UD5G62Zywm>

Items in **bold print** are items that require action by the Faculty Senate. Other items are for information only.

- 1) Call to Order – Ben Harper
- 2) Reading of proxies obtained prior to the meeting and request of proxies for those not given from Senators in attendance – Emma Kostopolus
 - a) Kathy Nobles for Susan Michele Blankenship
 - b) Please send an email to Emma Kostopolus (ekostopolus@valdosta.edu) regarding proxies a minimum of one (1) week prior to the scheduled Faculty Senate meeting or as soon as possible if an unexpected absence needs to occur.
- 3) **Approval of the minutes of the August 17, 2023, meeting of the Faculty Senate.**
 - a) See link here for minutes for all Faculty Senate meetings:
<https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/faculty-senate/minutes.php>
 - b) Motion: Seconded: Kathy Nobles; All in favor

4) President's Report – Ben Harper

At our Executive committee meeting a couple weeks ago, we were reviewing bylaws and noticed a couple things and thought through some ways to make things be a little more smooth throughout the meeting.

Theoretically, you may not be able to unmute yourself just because of the settings of the meeting have been changed, and so if you would like if senators would like to speak, we ask that you use the raise hand function to indicate so, and when the when you're recognized you'll you'll be unmuted.

Those those who are nonsense ators according to the bylaws, may only speak during the general discussion portion of the agenda, which is item number 9 near the end of the meeting and non senators according to the bylaws require a majority vote of senators and they will be able to speak on a singular issue for no more than 5 minutes. I quoted the relevant section from the bylaws. It's not the full contextual thing, but you everyone should have access to the bylaws, either on the website or sent out on a previous email, so that is part of the new procedure. We're testing it out and seeing how it goes and we are open to feedback. I'd be glad to take your emails before the next meeting if you have ideas.

Next up is the resolution that is coming up honoring Jimmy Ray Napier.

He was a student who passed away last month in the workforce education program and the Executive Committee felt it would be appropriate to pass a resolution extending our condolences to his family, friends and his community in this time of loss. My intention is if this passes later in the meeting today that I will have the the resolution printed up and I will also send a handwritten note expressing our condolences on behalf of faculty Senate. I'll send that to his family here within the next week.

And also just because I am the chair of the meeting, I'm going to abuse my chairmanship and invite you all to the Jazz concert tonight at 7:30 PM over in Whitehead Auditorium next week on Saturday is the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra. At 7:30 PM, That's a ticketed event. So you will need reserved seating and then on October 4th is my own band Wind ensemble performing at 7:30 in white the auditorium.

I'll be happy to send that out over email to the entire faculty list Serve later this week.

5) Updates from the Office of the President and Academic Affairs – Dr. Richard Carvajal and Dr. Sheri Noviello

President Richard Carvajal - As always, being with you, as usual, I will kick us off with a few remarks and then we'll turn it over to Sherry and then the two of us will take any questions that that folks may have. First off, I want to thank the faculty Senate. For what Ben just reported on related to Mr Napier, obviously unfortunately, you know that periodically when in a population of 10,000 students, we do lose, you know, occasionally a student. And luckily it's not. It doesn't happen all that often, but usually a couple times a year we we do and so appreciate the position you all are taking and the the motion that you're doing, just so you know, we certainly try to work very closely with the families whenever we lose a student doctor Vince Miller takes the leadership role for that. But I usually have an opportunity to interact with them as well, and so certainly I think anytime we can do things like what you all are trying to do. I think that's really admirable and and a good step beyond that.

I want to start off by talking about enrollment. Of course it's it always is a topic that we discussed in in these sessions. Locally, Roman continues to be seeing still very positive signs. In fact, because of the online college, the ramp up to the second eight week term and and other be term class enrollments that we're seeing, it's literally getting better every day. It will lock us in at the second week of October. That's the census date for the university system, and we're feeling good about our potential to be in the green. For what would be the first time for a while, and if we're not, we're at least going to be really close to kind of in flat being in the flat area. And I remind you that we budgeted a 4.6% decline because of those classes from 21 and 22 as well as the big drop in retention in the class of 20. The entering classes of those years that we saw, we thought we were going to be down significantly, but because it's in winds in other areas that we were doing much better than we thought we might and that for every for that I simply say to everyone, a huge, huge Thank you. That that did not just happen. That's been a lot of work and the work will continue, but a big, big thank you to everyone for everything we've done to make the issue more attractive.

I also want to offer a thank you for everything that has happened related to the hurricane response. So when you have a worked in 133 year Storm, it's pretty bad and it clearly has been for our community. Obviously, the impact that the on the university with us shutting down for a week, losing over 200 trees, multiple power, air conditioning and water issues, we had damage to some buildings. It's been significant. I know for some members of our faculty. You too have also had significant damage at home. And of course, all of you were dealing with power outages on the light, and I want to thank you for everything you have been doing to try to help our students through this.

I know this is a very, very stressful time for them, particularly the loss of of a week of learning and then trying to catch up.

I know that doesn't just happen.

You all are having to put in the work in order to try to figure out how to capture that learning loss and make up for it.

And and I appreciate very much you doing that.

I appreciate you working with our students to try to help them manage through that as they deal with their own stresses of both both hurricane recovery and then just trying to catch up in with the learning loss.

Beyond that, we're clearly working very hard on VSU 2030.

Everyone who's been the complication or heard me speak recently has heard me talk about that.

There are several members of this group that are part of the University council, plus expanded group that is working very closely now on on helping to lead that project.

All of you were received a couple of weeks ago and he email from my office that included the full slide presentation that we used as part of our first UC plus meeting where we laid out the challenges that we're facing as well as our path forward.

Clearly, the challenges that we we are seeing in higher education both on the National Front and here at home are very real.

But when we consider what enrollments in 2030 most likely look like and we make some assumptions about that, we definitely think the growth is very, very possible.

It will just require a lot of change, particularly in changing the composition of who make up our total enrollment.

And that doesn't just happen.

You gotta we're putting in the work to try to make sure that we're ready for that and to maximize that potential.

So I simply invite you.

We've had several that have attended listening tour stops and thank you.

If you've been a part of that, some of you are serving on some scrums which have been groups created to do a deep dive for a month or so into our traditional undergrad population.

Our Graduate School population, or are you degree population?

If you're serving on one of those, I thank you.

And if you're not serving on any of those, but you have thoughts from what you've seen or heard, and you would like to share those thoughts, please, please, please send an email to president@valdosta.edu all everything we get in will be shared with the decision makers.

The the cabinet is going to be charged first with taking every line that comes from the research that we've been doing and all of the input that we received this call, as well as what we got last year and they're going to try to come up with a refined and more focused version of a strategic plan that will include some target numbers for where we're trying to head and how we'll get there.

And then ultimately, the university council plus will make that better before we, if all goes well, finalize it in December.

So again, if you have thoughts on this and you haven't yet had an opportunity to share them or you came to one of those other sessions and you thought of something later, please send us an email again via president@valdosta.edu.

The last thing I have is related to our facilities as part of our look at the VSU of tomorrow.

While we think we can grow and enrollment, that doesn't mean that we necessarily need to grow in the square footage of the institution as our composition of students change, we can probably have a smaller footprint and if we can do that, then that allows us to save funding on maintaining those buildings that we can redirect to the academic enterprise and elsewhere.

And so the assembled last January, a facility study group and and that has been in place now for for that period. And I want everyone to understand what the goal of that group is.

It is ultimately to save us money and to find efficiencies by liquidating either unused space and or rethinking underutilized space, and we have done a full campus wide assessment, both North Campus main campus as well as our exterior spaces using some, there's some tools that are provided by the university system and we have a surprising amount of unused and underutilized space and and again that costs US real money.

So I've charged that group of thinking through that and trying to make some recommendations.

For example, for the current fiscal year, their focus is on trying to get us out of and we will get out of what we all call the continuing get building, the old Georgia Power building, at least the tall portion of that down Patterson and then we'll be examining other properties that are located someplace other than Maine and North campus. Some of those French properties we have for and again, that's the focus this year, but this is a multi year effort. So in future years we'll be looking at other underutilized academic and administrative space across the institution.

So much, chairman with that, I'll stop and I'll turn it over to Sherry and then again the two of us will be ready for any questions folks may have.

Thank you.

Provost Sheri Noviello - Good afternoon, everyone.

And I just want to echo what President Carvajal said about thanking each and every one of you for your flexibility in helping our students and each other through this horrendous hurricane impact that we experienced.

And I understand that there are still some individuals who are struggling a bit.

I believe today I am aware of someone having Internet, hopefully reconnected that their residents and so just keep that in mind for each other, but also for our students that there may continue to be some challenges they are.

But I do appreciate what you all have done.

I also in the deal and discussing with the Deans makeup time before instruction, it was determined that they would work with the faculty to identify what methods are used to make up the lost instruction time, but that the feedback that they had received was that they, the faculty, felt like that could be done virtually through additional modules or things like that.

But if someone is wanting to use a Saturday for time, please let us please let your Dean know so that they can let us know so that we can identify specific Saturdays for you all to utilize and appreciate your attention to that as well as a doctor, Carvajal said.

We still have some issues and some buildings, but plan OPS has really bent over backwards and is working feverishly to correct all of that.

And so just a continue to be patient with us and and hopefully all of that will be resolved soon.

There's September meeting a new refreshed general education core and it will will be voted on at next month's meeting.

And if it is approved, then we will need to have a soft implementation in spring of 2024 and a hard implementation in 2025.

It's not a we will not consider it major, but it will include the soft implementation will include a couple of additional things that will need to be added to syllabi and then of course, measures how we're gonna measure student learning outcomes and things like that.

Will have to be implemented for file, but more details to come on that, but just know that that's on the agenda for October's Board of Regents meeting.

We also submitted a hour Gen Ed proposal changes for Area B and Area D earlier in the summer and we received feedback from the Gen Ed Council and we have resubmitted that right after the hurricane.

It was actually due, I think the two days after the hurricane we got an extension on that and we have submitted that.

But we have not received any feedback as of today.

And I also want to recognize that the advising schedule for handoff to faculty is a bit anxiety, anxiety ridden.

And we had a discussion good discussion with the Danes during Dean's Council yesterday on how they can work with you all to alleviate some of that anxiety and in providing support or defining some workload guidelines, minimum expectations, those types of things that you all have questions about. And so I would expect that you all would be hearing a little bit more about those activities.

And then my last item is our next pop in with the Provost is on Thursday next week, the 28th at 10:30. We will be in the HSBA building and we will have freshly popped popcorn to fill the area and want you to feel free to attend.

This is for faculty and staff for you to come meet with our team.

So Sheri Gravett Becky decrease and myself will be there to answer questions or hear your concerns, and I will be sending out an email.

Pretty quickly on what we actually talked about during our last pop in with the Provost, just to give you an idea of what's being discussed.

Questions

John Dunn -- Some people in our community did a great deal of work fixing our campus up from physical plant from the police. do we have any kind of Christmas celebrations there involved with and there is a.

Is there a way that the faculty could maybe contribute some money to thank them?

Because I saw those guys working on those trees and the hot, sweaty weather, I was not teaching my class. I

was back in my house. I'd be happy to contribute some money towards helping these people have a nice

Christmas party or some kind of celebration because they work very, very hard to make our campus look better.

Richard Carvajal --

John, I really appreciate you saying that it you're right.

It it was a, it was a difficult week, week and 1/2 and and 1st off I will tell you we also got some help from staff at a couple other USG institutions.

Avac was here for a couple of days and Albany state was here for a few days as well, but our team was amazing.

Whether it was in grounds and plant or the air mark team, I want to include them all.

The staff of trying to make sure that our our our folks were you know, we're bad, uh remember there were students still living here.

And so our residence life staff was at it.

Our police force was working a lot just to try to keep the building secure and and and keep traffic moving and all those kinds of things. I really appreciate you saying that we are going to do something

We're still working on the exact something, but we knew as we were coming out of that we actually one of the things that our team did while we were going through it was to try to capture everyone who was who was going above and beyond and and we created, you know, make sure we capture the list of that so that we could come back in and do something.

Linda Most --

Thanks for bringing it up, President Carvajal, one of the things that the hurricane and the cleanup showed us, is that the campus HVAC is really vulnerable.

And it's getting old and things that were being patched and carried forward basically completely fell apart.

If I'm understanding what I've heard about at some of the buildings, and I know this, this ties back to money.

But is there any kind of initiative to look at HVAC across the campus and and make it a priority in terms of plant maintenance?

Richard Carvajal -- Richard Carvajal

There is and and some pricing and others are on the call, but I'll and they can chime in and add to what I'm saying here.

This is not a new conversation, Linda.

The storm didn't didn't teach us that we had a problem with HC HVAC could probably.

Reminded us in a in a bigger way what an issue it was for those of you who had were in buildings that had air conditioning issues and and you know that some of your view we didn't come back because you're building was not air conditioned.

We had four academic buildings go down with portions of the library go down.

This was an issue across the institution and in both main campus and North campus.

It was once the shutdown happened and we had lost power and we powered things back up.

Then we started having issues.

Maybe some of you have had that at your home.

I did.that that that happens sometimes when you've had an extended shutdown, but it happens more when you have aged equipment as we do.

We use someone time money at the end of last year to try to begin addressing that.

We had some residence hall issues.

We saw that over the summer where again we had to jump into some of our deferred accounts etcetera that are set up for emergencies.

But just as we were starting school, you may know that we lost a some some error handling ability that affected our residence halls.

Fine Arts and other places, and so it ended up.

Not really affecting our academic side because we got it handled before classes started, but it absolutely impacted our residence halls because they went down, as I recall, the day before movement was scheduled.

So this is absolutely an issue that that we know is is a big challenge.

We have tried to educate the board about that.

We're not alone in this.

We've actually seen some movement at the board level where you're seeing some institutions be able to ask for targeted state resources to address aging infrastructure like that.

And so we've made, we've put out a list to the system that tells them what our needs are, have requested some of that assistance, will continue to do that.

And then we'll continue to use targeted one time money at the end of each year so that we can begin addressing it on our own even before the state comes in.

With some assistance, it's a big issue.

There's no question and we just can't and you know, you kind of wonder how the heck did it happen right before air conditioning?

Well, that's just not where we're at as society today.

People just not gonna do that.

I don't want to either.

And so we understand that that's gotta be functioning or you just can't function as an institution

- 6) **Resolution honoring Jimmy Ray Napier, Jr.** (Attachment D) – Faculty Senate Executive Committee
- a) Motion to approve – Clell Wright; Second Gwen Ruttencutter
 - b) Discussion
 - Meagan Wood Hopkins -- Is this something that we are going to do for every student or faculty member that dies from here on out?
 - Ben Harper -- It is my intention as President to do this, at least for the academic year, for both students, faculty, staff, anyone related to the university community as a way to extend.
 - C) Resolution passes – All in favor

Meeting minutes from committees should be sent to fsec@valdosta.edu **AND** to archives@valdosta.edu with “Archives Faculty Senate Papers” in the subject line. Please label minutes documents as shown in the following examples:

- Technology_Minutes_04-29-2022
- Academic_Honors_and_Scholarship_Minutes_08-28-2021

Thank you for your assistance in getting and keeping our records up to date.

7) Permanent Committee Reports

- a) Academic Committee (fs-stat-ac@valdosta.edu) – Sheri Gravett; Find agendas and minutes here: <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/academic-committee.php>. Academic Committee September meeting postponed until the October meeting on Monday the 2nd.
- b) Committee on Committees (fs-stat-coco@valdosta.edu) – Luis Gonzales; Still attempting to fill a few empty senate seats in CoSM and CoEHS
- c) Faculty Affairs (fs-stat-fa@valdosta.edu) – Javian Brabham; Xiaoi Ren reporting on behalf – They have begun reviewing the post tenure review revisions and will meet next month to vote on the changes.
- d) Faculty Grievance Committee (fs-stat-fgc@valdosta.edu) – John Dunn; no report.

8) Standing Committee Reports

- a) Academic Honors & Scholarships (fs-stand-ahs@valdosta.edu) – Karen Terry – be on the lookout for the announcement of the GLARDA award to submit nominations.
- b) Academic Scheduling & Procedures (fs-stand-asp@valdosta.edu) – Ian Andersen – no report
- c) Athletic Committee (fs-stand-ac@valdosta.edu) – Kathy Nobles – working on student athlete award nominations and spotlights.
- d) Diversity and Equity Committee (fs-stand-dec@valdosta.edu) – JT Cox; assume no report.
- e) Educational Policies (fs-stand-ep@valdosta.edu) – Laverne Hill; no report

Environmental Issues (fs-stand-ei@valdosta.edu) – Shelley Yankovsky; So we were able to meet August 22nd,

but in addition to those meeting minutes, I just wanted to share a little bit of information.

From Brad Bergstrom, who is the subcommittee chair of campus beautification.

So in regards to the hurricane and all the tree, you know the trees that were and it took a hit.

He mentioned to me to share that he has had some online meetings with plan operations and grounds personnel about all the downed trees and the clean up, and he is anticipating calling a meeting to discuss an after action report in the near future.

From what I understand, he hasn't received an accounting of all the trees that that we lost on campus.

He did have one anecdote to relate to everyone, which is that we did lose one of our oldest trees on campus, which was a Sentinel as it stood near the corner of Georgia Ave and Patterson St it was a long leaf pine, which he says we believe to be about 275 years old.

It was probably one of the five oldest longleaf Pines and what we call the Heritage Grove runs along Georgia Ave between Patterson and Oak Street.

The others seem to have survived the storm, and there's actually one out there that's even older than than that one.

And and he also mentioned that Doctor Carter's dendrology students are working on a more precise determination of its age.

And he said, even sadder, sadder about that particular tree is that it actually did not uproot or fall in the wind.

It was cracked by a huge flying projectile.

A big chunk of a nearby red oak broke off and was driven into the crown of that pine, snapping it, and just finally that, you know, the close to that particular pine tree, there was one that had died of pine beetles in 2007, and it was had it had been determined to be 300 years old.

And that was sixteen years ago.

And so he just, you know, this was the reason that we call this the heritage Grove.

It predates the founding of the United States and even the colony of Georgia.

So just pretty remarkable, I wanted to share that information with you.

- f) Faculty Scholarship (fs-stand-fs@valdosta.edu) – Sebastian Bartos; New process forthcoming for reviewing applications, but faculty should be made aware that funds are soon to be depleted for this semester, so apply soon.
- g) Internationalization and Globalization (fs-stand-igc@valdosta.edu) – Liz Heath; first meeting next Monday.
- h) Library Affairs (fs-stand-la@valdosta.edu) – Jessica Lee; first meeting September 22nd.
- i) Student Affairs (fs-stand-sa@valdosta.edu) – Nathan Moates; no report. If anyone needs to reach him, email is knmoates@valdosta.edu
- j) Technology Committee (fs-stand-tc@valdosta.edu) – Changwoo Yang; no report.

9) General Discussion

10) Adjournment

Motion: AJ

Ramirez,

Second, Brian Ring

Reports and agenda items due to president (bgharper@valdosta.edu): September 28

At the request of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (fsec@valdosta.edu) any actions sent to the president (bgharper@valdosta.edu) for possible inclusion in the Senate agenda should be accompanied by a written document with the rationale and purpose of the decision. The Executive Committee requests that these documents be submitted via email attached as Word documents.

Proxies sent to secretary (ekostopolus@valdosta.edu): October 12

Next Faculty Senate meeting: October 19, 3:30 p.m.

Attachments

- A. Guidance for Online Meetings
- B. Faculty Senate Calendar 2023-2024
- C. Minutes of the August 17, 2023, meeting of the Faculty Senate
- D. Resolution honoring Jimmy Ray Napier, Jr.
- E. Minutes of the August 22nd meeting of the Environmental Issues Committee

Please Enter your	
Name	College Affiliation
Kelly Davidson	Other
Ian Andersen	Arts
Emma Kostopolus	Humanities and Social Sciences
Luis Gonzalez	Business Administration
Nathan Moates	Business Administration
Sebastian Bartos	Humanities and Social Sciences
Huzeyfe Cakmakci	Education and Human Services
Chunlei Liu	Science and Mathematics
Lois Bellflowers	Nursing and Health Sciences
Kathy Nobles	Education and Human Services
Zachary Karazsia	Humanities and Social Sciences
Ophelie Desmet	Education and Human Services

Theresa Grove	Science and Mathematics
Xiaoai Ren	Education and Human Services
Changwoo Yang	Education and Human Services
Samantha Paul	Odum Library
Brandon Atkins	Humanities and Social Sciences
Duke Guthrie	Arts
Sebastian Bartos	Humanities and Social Sciences
Lindsay Godin	Arts
Selena Nawrocki	Arts
Todd Royle	Business Administration
Joe Culverhouse	Arts
Liz Heath	Humanities and Social Sciences
Can Denizman	Science and Mathematics
Attila Cseh	Business Administration
Jieun You	Education and Human Services
Denise Laverne Hill	Education and Human Services
F. E. Knowles, Jr.	Humanities and Social Sciences
Daesang Kim	Education and Human Services
Jessica Lee	Odum Library
Nandan Kumar Jha	Humanities and Social Sciences
Donald Thieme	Science and Mathematics
Sheri Gravett	Other
Debbie Paine	Education and Human Services
Meagan Wood Hopkins	Humanities and Social Sciences
Lois Bellflowers	Nursing and Health Sciences
James C Pace	Nursing and Health Sciences
Becky da Cruz	Other
Gwen Scott Ruttencutter	Education and Human Services
Hank Rion	Arts
A.J. Ramirez	Humanities and Social Sciences
A. Paige Krispin	Nursing and Health Sciences
Brian C Ring	Science and Mathematics
Susan Boddie	Arts

Hanae Kanno	Education and Human Services
Carol Glen	Humanities and Social Sciences
Mallory Lane	Nursing and Health Sciences
Shantanu Chakraborty	Science and Mathematics
Taewon Hwang	Business Administration
