

A/P Faculty Senate
Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2025
Time: 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM
Location: Zoom

Present: Marlena McGlothlin Lester (presiding), Jennifer Jones, Nikki Connors, Elissa Waybright, Amy Rasor, Amanda Covey, Nick Woods, Alix Guynn, Juliet Dadras, Susan Gill, Shelley Seckers, Shelton Norwood, Eric Bowen, JC Whidden, Terri Pecora, Judy Alford, Ginny Wagg, Kirsti Moose-McConkey, Molly Wilson, Sarah Armstrong, Brent Kremer, Rob Emmett, Janice Austin, Jenny Vincent, Ehren Hill, Erica Cooper, Keri Swaby, Julie McClafferty, Chad Proudfoot, Lynn Byrd, Monica Crouse, Alexis Synder, Ashley Carter, Brock Burroughs, Caitlin Fanning, Holli Drewry, Jes Davis,

Absent with Notice: None.

Absent: None.

Guests: Dee Dee Somervell

Marlena Lester called the meeting to order at 10:01. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Keri Swaby and seconded by Terri Peccora to adopt the agenda. The motion carried.

2. Approval of or Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of July 16,2025

A motion was made by Terri Peccora and seconded to approve the July 16, 2025. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Nikki noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the Web (<http://www.governance.vt.edu>).

3. Unfinished Business

Marlena reminded members of the senate to please sign up to serve on one of the A/P Faculty Senate's internal committees, if they have not already done so.

She also asked internal committee chairs to regularly review the committee sign-up sheet and ensure any new additions are added to their committee meetings, rosters, and communications.

4. New Business

Treasurer's Report

Nikki Connors discussed information about the A/P Faculty Senate Budget for this fiscal year. The senate has a budget of \$1500, and none of it has been spent.

Commission on A/P Faculty Affairs Updates

Jennifer Jones discussed information related to CAPFA. CAPFA first meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 12. The focus of CAPFA is to handle grievances and to discuss or review any issues affecting A/P faculty. During the September meeting, CAPFA will be outlining their work plan for the upcoming year.

Committee Updates

Communications

Susan provided the update for the Communication Committee. Julie Carlson, the current co-chair of the Communications Committee, is leaving Virginia Tech. Susan has accepted a two-year term as a A/P Faculty Senator. The Communications Committee has not met yet.

Elections and Nominations

Brent Kramer and Jes Davis provided the update. Elections and Nominations have held their first meeting and conducted some knowledge transfer to become familiar with QuestionPro. There was a student affairs consistency group meeting to help increase engagement and knowledge about the faculty senate.

Policies and Issues

Rob Emmett and Kirsti Moose McConkey provided the update for the Policies and Issues Committee. There are no new resolutions currently. The committee will hold its first meeting in September and has been working through the old materials and are creating preparatory materials. They met with Nikki Connors in August for the transition.

Professional Development

Eric Bowen provided the update for the Professional Development Committee. The first planned tour, featuring the Corps of Cadets, is scheduled for October. The specific data will hopefully be shared with the Senate on Friday afternoon. The committee is also exploring additional professional development opportunities, including the possibility of hosting a Zoom lecture series.

5. Acceptance and Posting of Committee Reports and/or Minutes

Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs

Judy Alford provided the update from the Staff Committee. The committee is currently working on the following initiatives: bereavement pay for staff, inclusive representation ensuring that staff and students are included on university committees and commissions, professional

development looking at enhancing opportunities and support for staff development and exploring telework policies educating staff on telework eligibility and addressing inconsistencies in current practices as it relates to staff. The committee is working toward developing equitable and consistent telework policies for staff.

6. Presentation(s)

There were no presentations scheduled for this meeting.

7. Other Items

Judy Alford suggested inviting representatives from Human Resources to discuss telework processes, procedures, and recommendations.

Susan Gill noted that Virginia Tech has a new Vice President for Advancement and expressed interest in having him attend a future. Meeting to speak with the A/P Faculty Senate.

8. Announcements

Marlena Lester noted that the Commission on A/P Faculty Affairs is seeking an A/P faculty member from the General Administration to serve on the commission. Interested senators should contact Janice Austin.

Marlena noted the need for an A/P faculty member to serve on the VT bookstore Advisory Committee. Chad Proudfoot suggested Sandra Fisher as a potential representative and will follow up with her after the meeting.

Jes Davis shared that she is currently serving as President of the League of Women Voters. She announced that the Blacksburg Town Council municipal forum will be held on Thursday, with additional forums planned for Christiansburg and mayoral candidates. These forums are also planned for Thursdays in the fall. Jess encouraged anyone interested in joining the League of Women Voters to contact her directly.

Discussion of The Market and A/P Faculty Senate Philanthropy Project 2026

Marlena Lester shared that Jes Davis posted information on the Teams channel about The Market, Virginia Tech's free food pantry for students. This resource provides valuable support for VT students experiencing food insecurity.

Jes Davis mentioned that Lizzy, a colleague in her unit, would be happy to present on the Market and the topic of food insecurity. Jess also noted that Ralph Hall from the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) collects related data and may be willing to speak to the A/P Faculty Senate as well.

Holli Drewry noted that last year's philanthropy project was The Market. The initiative raised \$4,000 in support of the program. She asked whether the A/P Faculty Senate would like to continue The Market as this year's philanthropy project.

Rob Emmett recalled that last year, Holli Drewry presented multiple philanthropy project options, and the A/P Faculty Senate voted on which to support. He suggested continuing with a more formal selection process this year, rather than defaulting to The Market. He encouraged members to share any ideas for projects they would like the A/P Faculty Senate to consider supporting.

Ginny Wagg expressed via the Zoom Chat support for continuing The Market as a philanthropy project. However, she also suggested considering options that could include all regions, noting that The Market does not currently serve students in the D.C Metro Area.

Another announcement was shared via the zoom chat. Anyone attending Hokie Band Camp on September 4 should note that Ciji will be speaking during one of the morning sessions about partnering with Annual Giving.

Board of Visitors Retreat Updates

Marlena Lester shared updates from the recent Board of Visitors retreat, which focused on Virginia Tech's core mission, beyond boundaries and the VT Advantage. A presentation was given on the university's current priorities: Athletics, Advancement, Infrastructure including housing and technology, with an emphasis on supporting university growth, global distinction, and VT Advantage.

Marlena also noted that CAPFA's proposed changes to the grievance procedures, which were not approved last spring, were resubmitted over the summer. The board approved the revised procedures. Additionally, the Board approved construction of a new residence hall near the Duck Pond and a renovation of Campbell Hall.

Molly Willson asked whether the potential increase to the undergraduate enrollment cap was discussed during the Board of Visitors retreat.

Marlena Lester responded that the undergraduate enrollment cap was not discussed in specific detail in the sessions she attended. There was a presentation from the provost regarding both undergraduate and graduate enrollment, but no concrete plans were proposed. She noted that there is some concern about graduate enrollment, and there was a proposal for the university to explore potential enrollment growth.

Marlena Lester shared that she presented the A/P Faculty Senate report to the Board of Visitors. She invited senators to reach out to her if there were any additional topics they would like her to bring forward to the Board. She also encouraged senators to reflect on the five

priority areas discussed during the retreat (VT Advantage, Global Distinction, Enabling Infrastructure, Athletics, Advancement) and consider which they view as most important either as employees or alumni of the institution. Feedback on these priorities is welcome and can be shared directly with Marlena.

Rob Emmett thanked Marlena Lester for representing the A/P Faculty Senate at the Board of Visitors retreat.

Makeup Senator Installation Ceremony

Marlena Lester presided over the installation ceremony for senators who were not previously installed during the July or August Meetings.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Chad Proudfoot and seconded by Terri Peccora to adjourn the meeting at 10:54 AM.