

**A/P Faculty Senate**  
**Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025**  
**Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
**Location: Zoom**

**Present:** Marlena McGlothlin Lester (presiding), Ruth Wallace, Sarah Armstrong, Shelley Seckers, Shelton Norwood, Susan Gill, Terri Pecora, Lynn Byrd, Nick Woods, Rob Emmett, Janice Austin, JC Whidden, Jenni Gallagher, Jes Davis, Jenny Vincet, Judy Alford, Julie McClafferty, Juliet Dadras, Keri Swaby, Kristi Moose-McConkey, Brock Burroughs, Caitlin Fanning, Ehren Hill, Eric Bowen, Ginny Wagg, Nikki Connors, Holli Gardner Drewry, Jennifer Jones, Aaron Bond, Alix Guynn, Carol Haynes, Brent Kremer, Ellissa Waybright

**Absent with Notice:** Amanda Covey

**Absent:** Nicole Akers, Ahsley Carter, Erica Cooper, Jessica Crwaford, Moncia Crouse, Ariana DiFillippo, Clara Elpi, Enrique Noyola, Erin Poff, Chad Proudfoot, Amy Rasor, Marianne Sheets, Alexis Synder, Wendy Stout, Molly Wilson

**Guests:** Roberto Silvia, Samantha Mahdu, Sarah Stanley, Stephanie Hart, Tanner Upthegrove, Tiffany Willis, Trevor Hughes, Tyla Belton, Zachary Adams, Leila Ledbetter, Leo Young, Suzanne Gooding, Mark Flynn, Mary Stewart, Melanie Fox, Michele Hosey, Michele Messner, Michele Flinchum, Monte Hager, Priscilla Baker, Rajesh Bagchi, Renee Gray, Rituraj Borogohain, Jennifer Davis, Joalenn Tabor, Kayla McNabb, Kayla Ryan, Kelsey Huffman, Kieran Lindsey, Kimberly Allen, Candice Albert, Chris Allen, Courtney Glass, Courtney Lira, Dan Taggart, Dee-Dee Somervell, Divya Amin, Eleanor Nelsen, Gemma Booth, Heather Nolen, Jana Moser Moore, Amanada Weaver, Andrew Bolling, April Meyers, Barbara DeCaausey, Becky Langford, Brad Bryson, Brad Sumpter, Brandy Barrow, Brianna Saville-Reynolds, Eleanor Nelson, Rachel Meadows

Marlena Lester called the meeting to order at 10:03. A quorum was present.

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

A motion was made by Terri Pecora and seconded by Rob Emmett to adopt the agenda. The motion carried.

**2. Approval of or Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of August 27, 2025**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the August 27, 2025.

Marlena Lester 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 Lester reminded senators to please sign up to serve on a Senate Committee if you haven't done so.

Holi Drewry presented potential Senate Philanthropy Projects for the 2025–2026 academic year. This year's options included the Beyond Boundaries Scholarship, the Employee Dependent Scholarship Fund, and The Market. Ultimately, The Market was selected as the winning philanthropy project for the 2025–2026 academic year.

**4. New Business**

**Treasurer's Report**

Nikki Connors Treasurer's report, no funds have been spent from our budget.

## **Commission on A/P Faculty Affairs Updates**

Jennifer Jones discussed CAPFA updates, noting that there are currently no grievances. The commission is working on developing goals for the term, and she presented the current work plan to the University Council.

## **Committee Updates**

### **Communication Committee**

Susan provided the update on this committee. Communication has held its first meeting and is aiming to publish a quarterly newsletter. The plan is to distribute the newsletter three times a year, with the possibility of adding a summer edition. A template has been adopted from Outlook for consistency and ease of use.

There is currently uncertainty around who has access to send communications via the A/P Faculty Listserv. This needs to be discussed further to determine the appropriate point of contact for distributing information. The committee would like to include a sidebar in the newsletter featuring upcoming A/P Faculty Senate events as well as larger university events that are open to the public. They also discussed including a welcome statement from Marlena, providing an overview of the A/P Faculty Senate and outlining ways faculty can get involved.

Additionally, the committee is interested in developing a survey to gather feedback from A/P faculty. If you have any content you would like to include—or feel should be included—in the newsletter, please reach out to Susan by October 1st.

### **Elections and Nominations**

Brent and Jess provided the update on this committee. There are no updates currently. The committee is currently working on finding a time to meet.

### **Policies and Issues**

Kristi and Rob are currently working on setting goals, which will be available in the A/P Faculty SharePoint. They are also exploring ways to improve consistency and ensure that representative areas are better reflected. Their first meeting went well.

### **Professional Development Updates**

Eric Bowen provided this update. The Corps of Cadets tour and talk is scheduled for **October 16, from 2:00 to 3:30 PM**. The event will include a one-hour tour followed by a 30-minute networking session. **Participation is limited to 20 people total.**

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

### **Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy Updates**

Susan Gill provided updates on the Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy Committee. They recently held their kickoff meeting and discussed the assessment process for this area. The committee expressed interest in serving the A/P Faculty Senate and sees this as a midpoint opportunity to report on their progress. Marlena has arranged for members of this group to speak at our October Senate meeting.

### **Budget and Planning Updates**

Marlena shared this update, which she received via email from Leanna Blevins: The Budget and Planning Committee had a presentation by Simon Allen, VP for Finance and Chief Financial Officer on “Preparing for Financial Uncertainty.” University leadership is closely and constantly monitoring the environment at national, state and university levels. They are testing scenarios and have multiple options to respond to the multiple potential risks. I did not hear any specific information that would affect AP Faculty (or other subgroups) in a negative way at this time. I continue to maintain that our financial leadership (headed up by Amy Sebring) is doing a very good job in uncertain circumstances.

### **Transportation and Parking Updates**

Marlena shared this update, which she received via email from Amanda Covey: A transportation and parking survey will be distributed in the fall, and faculty are encouraged to participate. Listening sessions will also be set up sometime in the spring for additional feedback or concerns if anyone has them. Marlena was invited to attend the Mobility Framework Update, which is part of the broader Campus Master Plan initiative.

Please make time to participate in the survey.

Additionally, Carrie Cox will be attending the October 15 meeting to speak about transportation and parking.

### **Commission on Faculty Affairs Updates**

Rob provided this update on the Commission on Faculty Affairs has begun meeting and anticipates doing extensive work on revisions to the Faculty Handbook, particularly in Chapter 3. Their focus is on policies related to teaching and research faculty. The upcoming revisions will center around reappointment, non-reappointment, and just cause, as these sections currently lack clarity. They are also proposing changes to the appeals process within the Promotion and Tenure (P&T) process. The commission documents its goals, and Rob will ensure they are shared with the A/P Faculty Senate.

### **Commission on Graduate Student Policy Updates**

Aaron Bond provided this update The Commission on Graduate Student Policy is meeting this afternoon and will have more updates to share at the next meeting.

### **Task Force to Study Instructor Workloads and Salaries**

Marlena shared this update, which she received via email from Natasha Smith - We had our first meeting on September 8. Ron Fricker, Vice Provost of Faculty Affairs provided us with our charge and requested that we have a report completed by the end of the academic year.

## **6. Presentation**

Marlena Lester, President of the A/P Faculty Senate, gave a presentation on the A/P Faculty Senate.

Some discussion followed the presentation.

## **7. Other Items**

Carrie Cox will be attending the October 15

HR will be joining us for the November 19 meeting.

Sharon Pitt, the CIO, is scheduled to attend a meeting in the spring semester.

The Executive Committee will continue to discuss philanthropic projects and Giving Day in the future.

Rajesh Bagchi thinks that bringing in the people who could best support us as A/P faculty would be valuable. He suggested that we hear updates on university policies, learn more about initiatives like Global Distinction and Beyond Boundaries, and understand how these impact us as A/P faculty. It might be helpful to invite college associate deans to join us for some of these discussions. We may also want to revisit our charter to clarify who should be engaging with our group and what our goals are for the coming year. If possible, could

you share the constitution and any related documents? That would help us align our efforts and plan effectively.

Juliet Dadras I would love to have Hokie Wellness come and give a presentation to our group. This could be a valuable addition, especially given the uncertainty and stress that A/P faculty are currently facing.

#### **8. Announcements**

Next Meeting: October 15, 2025

#### **9. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:53 AM.