

MINUTES

AP Faculty Senate
Wednesday, February 18, 2026
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Zoom

Present – Marlena Lester (presiding), Rob Emmett, Nick Woods, Ruth Wallace, Sarah Armstrong, Shelley Seckers, Terri Pecora, Keri Swaby, Lynn Byrd, Molly Wilson, Ehren Hill, Elissa Waybright, Eric Bowen, Erica Cooper, Ginny Wagg, JC Whidden, Jenny Vincent, Judy Alford, Julie McClafferty, Janice Austin, Jennifer Jones, Amanda Covey, Brock Burroughs, Chad Proudfoot, Juliet Dadras, Kristi Moose-McConkey, Jes Davis, Nikki Connors

Absent with Notice: Susan Gill, Shelton Norwood

Absent: Caitlin Fanning, Alexis Snyder, Amy Rasor, Alix Guynn, B Carol Haynes, Wendy Stout, Julie Carlson, Brent Kremer, Erin Poff, Nicole Akers, Monica Crouse, Clara Elpi, Ariana DiFillippo, Marianne Sheets

Guests: Roberto Silva, Ryan Sands, Tim Miles, Zachary Adams, Justin Noble, Kayla Ryan, Kelsey Huffman, Kim Allen, Larry Cox II, Leila Ledbetter, Lesile Stevens, M.L. Logan, Meghan Jester, Melanie Fox, Meredith Long, Michelle Hall, Nasim Schwab, Cheri Warren, Christ Allen, Courtney Powell, Dee Somervell, Holli Gardner Drewry, Iris Jenkins, Jenni Gallagher, Tim Hodge, Aaron Bond, Alaina Guerry, Alyson Bryson, April Myers, Ashley Offutt, Brianna Saville-Reynolds, Bruce Heath, Cassidy Blackmore, Dave Andrews, Amanda Skaggs

Marlena Lester called the meeting to order at [time meeting began]. A quorum [was/wasn't] present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

2. Approval or Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of January 21, 2026.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the January 21, 2026, minutes. The vote of approval passed.

3. Unfinished Business

4. New Business

Treasurer's Report

Nikki Connors: No report.

CAPFA

Jennifer Jones: Updates were provided from CAPFA on Resolution 2025-2026A: *Revision to the AP Faculty Senate Constitution to Update the AP Faculty Representation to Constituent Areas*. Information was shared regarding the anticipated timeline for how the resolution will move through the governance process. The Senate expressed strong support for the resolution and acknowledged the significant work that has gone into reaching this stage. A discussion was also held regarding Professional Development Leave.

Rob Emmett made a motion to direct CAPFA to continue exploring Professional Development Leave and to report back to the Senate. The motion was seconded by Keri Swaby.

Janice Austin then made a motion to amend Rob Emmett's motion by directing CAPFA to withdraw the resolution from governance at this time. This amendment was seconded by Jennifer Jones. The majority voted in favor of the amended motion, and the motion passed.

Communications

Holli Drewry: Updates on the work the committee for this month were provided. Also, a reminder of Giving Day and The Market.

Elections and Nominations

Jes Davis and Brent Kremer: Nothing to report.

Policy and Issues

Rob Emmett and Kristi Moose-McConkey: Please use the suggestion box to help us know what issues are important to A/P Faculty.

Professional Development

Eric Bowen: Planning on the walking tour for the spring continues.

5. Reports

- Campus Development Committee, Jenny Vincent: Jenny provided updates from the committee meeting held on February 3. She shared a reminder that the Spring Safety Walk is coming up; more information will be communicated once it becomes available. Sandra Graham delivered a presentation on two projects: Kentland Farms and the Middleburg Agricultural Research Center. The committee is currently awaiting information on funding for capital projects and more information will be shared when it becomes available.
- Transportation and Parking Committee, Sandra,: Updates were provided by Amanda Covey. The committee discussed ongoing issues and upcoming changes related to parking, as well as challenges with bus operations due to the battery recall. There was also discussion about snow removal concerns. Snow removal is not managed directly by Transportation and Parking; it is subcontracted to an external provider. Additional updates included: parking tags will be able to auto-renew each year, tags will become paperless, and employees will be able to spread payments across 24 pay periods.
- Academic Affairs, Holli Drewry: The committee is discussing the possibility of adding an additional day to fall break. Concerns have been raised regarding the impact on required instructional days. Under this proposal, Reading Day would move for the fall semester, and Saturday exams would be implemented.
- Staff Affairs Committee, Judy Alford: The committee continues to discuss bereavement leave for staff.

6. Presentation

Tim Hodge, Associate Vice President for Budget and Financial Planning. Virginia Tech starts from a strong financial position. VT has a structurally balanced budget, and the state of Virginia is also doing well. International graduate enrollment is down and will most likely be down next year as well. This is not a scenario unique to Virginia Tech. Out of state undergraduates are completing their degrees faster. VT has strong undergraduate interest, but demand is uneven across disciplines. The higher education market is increasingly competitive. Next week the university will have a better understanding of the budget after the general assembly releases their proposals. The federal budget remains unclear, and awards are down for this year, but things might improve.

Philanthropy is doing well but these types of gifts do not normally fund operational costs. The 5% reduction exercise is intended for thoughtful planning. The state can change funding, costs and authority. A discussion followed the presentation.

Marlena Lester provided an update on the Board of Visitor's special meeting. There were two resolutions discussed at that meeting: Resolution for Beamer-Lawson Indoor Practice Facility Improvements and the resolution regarding On-Campus Residential Facilities Planning authorization to renovate: Slusher Hall, Hoge Hall and Pritchard Hall. These resolutions are related to the invest to win plan for athletics passed last fall.

7. Other Items

- No other discussion items

8. Announcements

- University Strategic Plan Feedback: The Office for Strategic Affairs hosted a session with Faculty, A/P Faculty, Staff, and Student Senate Representatives to hear thoughts and feedback regarding the next university strategic plan. I have included below a brief survey consistent with the questions asked during the session. We have been asked to share the below survey link with A/P Faculty Senate to ensure we capture feedback and perspectives: Please complete the survey by March 1, 2026

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 AM.