



MINUTES

Faculty Senate

March 20, 2026

2:30 – 4:15 p.m.

Torgersen 1000 and via Zoom

Present – Justin Lemkul (presiding), Luke Achenie, Joe Adams, Diane Agud, Aaron Ansell, Azziza Bankole, David Bieri, Nathaniel Bishop, Myra Blanco, Warren Booth, Bradley Bowen, Curtis Bower, Ryan Calder, Sherwood Clements, Sarah Clinton, Nick Copeland, Carolyn Copenheaver, Maria del Carmen Caña-Jiménez, Naomi Dunn, Anna Duraj-Thatte, Bob Edmison, Matt Eick, Ihudiya Finda Williams, Candace Fitch, Nicholas Goedert, Barrett Gutter, Wes Gwaltney, Ramtin Haghazadeh Kouchaksaraei, Samantha Harden (alternate for HNFE), James Hawdon, William Headley, Rebecca Hester, Dan Hindman, Kenneth Hodges, Adrienne Holz, Eli Jamison, Ran Jin, Bryan Katz, Lara Khansa, Alex Kinnaman, Jake Lahne, Renee LeClair, Mark Limes, Kimberly Loeffert, Charles Lowery, G.Q. Lu, Jason Malone, Eric Martin, Joel McGlothlin, Harold McKenzie, Marc Michel, Rachel Miles, Sherif Motaleb Abdelaziz, Phil Nelson, Gregory Novack, Nicole Pitterson, Mark Psiaki, John Richey, Steven Rowson, Caroline Saouma, Yi Shi, Ian Shoemaker, Richard Shryock, Stephanie Smith, Jim Tokuhisa, Byron Tsang, Alp Tural, Jerald Walz, Jeff Warford, Terri-Ann Wattsman, Donna Wertalik (alternate for Boya Xu), Erin Worthington, David Xie, Gordon Yee

Absent with Notice: Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, Logan Dandridge, Chelsea Thompto, Rebecca Weaver-Hightower

Absent: Biko Agozino, Rick Ashley, Kristen Benson, Jan Helge Bøhn, Rebecca Cockrum, Mark Coggins, Cassandra Efke, Mark Freeman, David Gregory, Aaron Gross, Leanna House, Daniel Karolyi, Sarah Karpanty, Bettina Koch, Andrea L'Afflitto, Catherine Larochelle, Stephen Martin, Ron Meyers, Albert Pan, Isis Quinlan, Shelly Rhoads, Nino Ripepi, Nazila Roofigari-Esfahan, Boya Xu

Guests: Ann Gregus, Lisa Lee, Emily Mazure, April Myers, Demetria Somervell, John Talerico

Justin Lemkul called the meeting to order at 2:33. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Consent Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the consent agenda which consisted of the items below. Motion carried.

- Approval of minutes from March 06, 2026
- Approval of agenda for March 20, 2026

2. Updates and Announcements

Passing of Virginia Tech Board of Visitors (BOV) Vice Rector Sandy Davis

A moment of silence was observed in honor of Vice Rector Sandy Davis. Senators were referred to the VT Daily News for information regarding the impact that Ms. Davis made to Virginia Tech, the New River Valley community, and higher education in the Commonwealth.

BOV Public Comment Meeting on Tuition and Fees: April 2 at 1:30 PM

This is an online meeting only. Anyone wishing to provide comments on tuition and fees must pre-register by March 26, 2026, at 11:59 PM. Written comments will also be accepted until April 6, 2026. Links for registering to speak and submitting comments are available on the BOV website.

Legislative Update on SB 494/HB 1385:

A link to the full text of this bill was provided. Items of note focused on several items including BOV representatives, shared governance systems, and BOV membership terms.

3. Unfinished Business

CGPSP 2025-26C Resolution to Form a Campus Working Group to Review Policy 6210 – Management of Graduate Assistantships and Tuition Remission

Renée LeClair presented CGPSP 2025-26C for second reading. There have been no changes since the Faculty Senate first reading. A motion was made and seconded to approve CGPSP 2025-26C.

Limited discussion included the following topics: The working group will have diverse representation from across campus. A suggestion was made to include someone who can provide information from a legal standpoint in the committee membership. A policy is not expected to be ready until Fall 2026. Any department currently needing information or assistance should contact Aimee Surprenant, Dean of the Graduate School.

A vote was taken to approve the resolution, and the resolution passed (Yes: 61; No: 0; Abstain: 1).

CGPSP 2025-26D Resolution to Replace Presidential Policy Memorandum (PPM) 232

Renée LeClair presented CGPSP 2025-26D for second reading. The primary purpose of this resolution is to change from a 3-year to a 5-year course review cycle. A motion was made and seconded to approve CGPSP 2025-26D.

A vote was taken, and the resolution passed (Yes: 65; No: 0; Abstain: 1).

CGPSP 2025-26E Resolution to Revise the Policy on Graduate Academic Appeals

Renée LeClair presented CGPSP 2025-26E for second reading. A process for graduate academic appeals has always been included in the graduate catalog, but it did not delineate a timeline. This resolution provides a timeline consistent with the undergraduate policy on academic appeals. A motion was made and seconded to approve CGPSP 2025-26E.

A vote was taken to approve the resolution, and the CGPSP 2025-26E passed (Yes: 64; No: 0; Abstain: 1).

CGPSP 2025-26F Resolution to Retire Presidential Policy Memoranda Regarding Graduate Education and Establish the Graduate Catalog as the Definitive Repository of Official University Policy Governing Graduate Education and Program-Specific Requirements

Renée LeClair presented CGPSP 2025-26F for second reading. This resolution will retire PPMs that have been incorporated into the graduate catalog. A motion was made and seconded to approve CGPSP 2025-26F.

The resolution describes a limited number of additional language changes that will be made to the graduate catalog; these are not substantive changes.

A vote was taken to approve CGPSP 2025-26F, and the resolution passed (Yes: 64; No: 0; Abstain: 1).

Election of Representative to the Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs (CGPSA)

A representative with a term end date of June 30, 2028, is needed. Meeting information for the remainder of the academic year was provided. The floor was opened for nominations. No nominations were received.

Election of Representative to the Employee Benefits Committee

A representative with a term end date of June 30, 2026, is needed for the Employee Benefits Committee. Meeting information for the remainder of the academic year was provided. Jason Malone has been nominated for the position. The floor was opened for additional nominations, but no additional nominations were received. A vote was conducted, and Jason Malone was elected to fill this position.

4. New Business

ORCID Requirements Presentation

Rachel Miles, Associate Professor and Assistant Director for Research Impact and Information Management; Lisa Lee, Senior Associate Vice President for Research and Innovation; John Talerico, Assistant Vice President for Research Security and Chief Research Security Officer; and Emily Mazure, Research Impact Librarian, presented information regarding new ORCID requirements for faculty.

Background information on digital persistent identifiers (DPIs) for researchers, research security, federal requirements, and Virginia Tech ORCID contacts, was provided.

There are three new requirements for all faculty who publish or request federal funding: (1) Obtain an ORCID ID; (2) import scholarly works into ORCID via Scopus; (3) connect ORCID ID to Elements. These steps are required not only by Virginia Tech but also by federal funders such as NSF, NIH, DoD, DoE, and USDA. The university also recommends two optional steps which include connecting ORCID ID to funder systems and completing and maintaining ORCID profiles.

Benefits of ORCID IDs for funders and researchers were presented. Benefits for funders include increased research security and assistance in ensuring accurate co-authoring information. Benefits to researchers include streamlined access to updated information for new proposals; simplified data aggregation for reporting metrics; reduced administrative burden; and enhanced protection by both ensuring proper credit for scholarly contributions and reducing instances of misattribution or improper authorship claims.

Rollout and timeline schedules were shared. Spring and Summer 2026: Faculty who are actively publishing or receiving federal funding should obtain their ORCID ID. Aug 31, 2026: Qualifying faculty should have connected their ORCID ID to Elements. Fall 2026: ORCID/Elements connection will be part of departmental onboarding of new faculty.

A guide and set of tutorials have been created and are available online and links to helpful resources and guides were provided. Rachel Miles, John Talerico, and Emily Mazure provide technical support and can be reached at ORCID@vt.edu.

Faculty were asked to keep ORCID well-populated. For faculty publishing in more traditional venues, such as journals in the STEM and social science fields, data will generally be included in

the commercial bibliographic database, Scopus. However, information will need to be manually entered for other types of publishing, such as publishing in society-run journals, and for other fields, such as the arts and humanities, that are more likely to publish books and produce creative works, such as compositions and exhibitions. Senators were also encouraged to review their data for accuracy and completion on a regular basis.

Discussion was held regarding the higher administrative burden for faculty who are required to complete more manual entry. The ORCID team emphasized Virginia Tech's commitment to recognizing contributions from all disciplines, not only those available in STEM dominated databases, and the connection to global distinction goals. Support for manual entry is provided currently one-on-one. The team will consider other on-demand resources and asked for volunteers who are willing to test training materials focused on manual entry. Finally, librarians and library liaisons in each college are prepared to assist faculty whose work predates digital systems.

It was noted that Scopus does not index as many books compared to its journal coverage, but books are considered the most important contribution of faculty for many disciplines, especially those in the humanities. The ORCID team will research potential ways that books can be included in a more automated way and emphasized that the integration of ORCID is an ongoing process.

The new requirement to connect ORCID and Elements will assist with the FAR process for faculty because data from Scopus will be automatically fed into Elements. The ORCID team continues to look for opportunities to streamline processes between Elements and other systems. Faculty were asked to report problematic and burdensome experiences so that solutions can be considered. These scenarios will then be included in the Frequently Answered Questions (FAQ) listing and available for the university community. The FAQ tool is searchable and filterable.

5. Open Floor

Updates from Transportation and Parking and Employee Benefits Committees

Transportation and Parking: There will be changes in parking pass formats beginning in Fall 2026. This information will be officially communicated soon. Employee Benefits Committee: Newsletters with benefit information will be distributed soon. There will also be workshops held by TIAA and Fidelity.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:36.