



MINUTES

Faculty Senate

April 24, 2026

2:30 – 4:15 p.m.

Torgersen 1000 and via Zoom

Present – Justin Lemkul (presiding), Joe Adams, Diane Agud, Aaron Ansell, Rick Ashley, Azziza Bankole, Kristen Benson, David Bieri, Jan Helge Bøhn, Bradley Bowen, Curtis Bower, Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, Sherwood Clements, Carolyn Copenheaver, Maria del Carmen Caña-Jiménez, Anna Duraj-Thatte, Bob Edmison, Matt Eick, Mark Freeman, Nicholas Goedert, Aaron Gross, Barrett Gutter, Wes Gwaltney, Ramtin Hagnazar Kouchaksaraei, Samantha Harden (alternate for HFNE), James Hawdon, William Headley, Rebecca Hester, Dan Hindman, Kenneth Hodges, Adrienne Holz, Leanna House, Eli Jamison, Sarah Karpanty, Lara Khansa, Alex Kinnaman, Renee LeClair, Kimberly Loeffert, G.Q. Lu, Joel McGlothlin, Marc Michel, Rachel Miles, Sherif Motaleb Abdelaziz, Phil Nelson, Gregory Novack, Nicole Pitterson, Mark Psiaki, John Richey, Steven Rowson, Yi Shi, Ian Shoemaker, Richard Shryock, Stephanie Smith, Chelsea Thompto, Jim Tokuhisa, Diego Troya (alternate for Caroline Saouma), Jerald Walz, Jeff Warfford, Gordon Yee

Absent with Notice: Logan Dandridge, Jake Lahne, Rebecca Weaver-Hightower

Absent: Luke Achenie, Biko Agozino, Nathaniel Bishop, Myra Blanco, Warren Booth, Ryan Calder, Sarah Clinton, Rebecca Cockrum, Mark Coggins, Nick Copeland, Naomi Dunn, Cassandra Efke, Ihudiya Finda Williams, Candace Fitch, David Gregory, Ran Jin, Daniel Karolyi, Bryan Katz, Bettina Koch, Andrea L'Afflitto, Catherine Laroche, Mark Limes, Charles Lowery, Jason Malone, Stephen Martin, Eric Martin, Harold McKenzie, Ron Meyers, Albert Pan, Isis Quinlan, Shelly Rhoads, Nino Ripepi, Nazila Roofigari-Esfahan, Caroline Saouma, Byron Tsang, Alp Tural, Terri-Ann Wattsman, Erin Worthington, David Xie, Boya Xu

Guests: Ron Fricker, Kristopher Hite, April Myers, Demetria Somervell, Lijuan Yuan

Justin Lemkul called the special plenary meeting of the Faculty Senate to order at 2:32. A quorum was present.

1. Unfinished Business

Presidential Search Statement

Justin Lemkul presented the Presidential Search Statement for second reading. A motion was made and seconded to approve the statement and send it to the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.

Lengthy discussion focused on specific language contained in the listing of professional credentials and experiences followed.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the statement by removing the word “preeminent” from Item 1 of the listing of professional credentials and experiences. A vote was conducted, and the amendment was approved (Yes: 31, No: 23; Abstain: 3).

A motion was made and seconded to amend the statement by removing the phrase “preferably as provost or president” from Item 2 of the listing of professional credentials and experiences. A vote

was conducted, and the amendment did not pass. The original language will be maintained (Yes: 11, No: 44, Abstain: 0).

A motion was made to amend the statement by removing the phrase “a terminal degree and a” from Item 1 of the listing of professional credentials and experiences. No second was received for this motion; the motion failed.

Discussion then focused on the second sentence of the third paragraph of the statement.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the statement by deleting the entire second sentence of the third paragraph. A vote was conducted and the amendment did not pass. The second sentence remained as originally written (Yes: 14, No: 39, Abstain: 3).

A motion was made and seconded to amend the statement by removing the phrase “accepted by the university or” from the second sentence of the third paragraph. A vote was conducted, and the amendment was approved (Yes: 39, No: 11, Abstain: 1).

Further discussion on specific wording for this sentence followed with several suggested language updates being offered. Following lengthy conversation, a motion was made and seconded to amend the statement by replacing the second sentence of the paragraph with the following: “At the same time, shared governance is central to the university, and the input and approval of the faculty are essential for any president to succeed at implementing their vision for the institution.” A vote was conducted, and the amendment was approved (Yes: 48, No: 1, Abstain: 0).

Following this change, no additional motions for amendments were made. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the statement as amended and to send it to the Board of Visitors. The motion carried (Yes: 53, No: 0, Abstain: 0).

This statement will be posted on the Faculty Senate website and an email containing a link to the statement will be distributed to faculty senators.

2. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:38.