

Faculty Senate Meeting

Minutes

March 26, 2024

Senators Present: Robert K. Perkins, Shaun Andersen, Charles H. Ford, John Kamiru, Sam Hughes, Sharon Alston, Bidhu Mohanty, Stephen Magu, Audrey Douglas-Cooke, Felisa Smith, Kamel Alboaouh, Batrina Martin, Sandra Williamson-Ashe.

Others Present: Bernadette Holmes, Cathy Jackson, Justin Moses, Ms. Boone, Pernel Bartlett, and Carol Pretlow.

Excused: Tim Goler, Cynthia Burwell, and Jocelyn Heath.

- I. The President, Robert K. Perkins, welcomed those present and asked them to read the distributed minutes from the February meeting. Shaun Andersen made the resolution to approve the minutes and Sam Hughes seconded it. The minutes from February 20 were then approved unanimously. Perkins then reminded everyone once again of the Faculty Senate's stated foci for 2023-24, noting progress on each of the four points – (1) Create and institute a Faculty Senate Strategic Plan, (2) Rebuild a long-lasting Faculty Senate infrastructure. (3) Reinvalidate relationships and collaborations with entities across the University, and (4) Transparency and Accountability.
- II. Perkins then introduced Vice-President Justin Moses and Ms. Boone, the Interim Vice President of Human Resources, who then explained her goals and priorities in reforming policies and procedures. She addressed the HR forms and the accompanying delays in getting reimbursed or paid. She also discussed how and if term faculty who earned their terminal degree could be switched to a tenure-track position, given excellent performance.
- III. Perkins then turned to Old Business. He first noted the final launching of University-wide Committees by all Vice-Presidents. He discerned that this vital piece of shared governance was late in the making this year, but that it had finally occurred. He also talked about how the Board of Visitors reacted to the issue of the Attestation forms for tenure and promotion. The Rector listened and will confer with the University attorney, Pam Boston, and the University President to consider revising the language on the form. The missed pay cycle in February for adjuncts and overloads, though, captured the Board's attention. They were all concerned that that problem does not occur again. In other matters, the Senate's Sabbatical Report is still on the President's desk, even though it had been completed and approved during last academic year. Perkins also hoped that the Senate's budget proposal would be ready for approval in April.
- IV. New Business began with Felisa Smith talking about the term faculty's proposed meeting with the Provost; potential topics would include multi-year contracts, being able to vote for Department Chairs, and internal candidate preference in filling positions. Shaun Andersen

- brought State Representative Colita Fairfax's disturbing news about the General Assembly and the Governor to everyone's attention. The Governor vetoed HB 1467, which would have added faculty and staff positions to the Board of Visitors statewide. Even more worrisome was the accompanying news about the Governor asking for syllabi and class materials at George Mason, VCU, and the University of Virginia to monitor any teaching of critical race theory and/or other pet peeves of movement conservatives.
- V. The End of Year Faculty Colloquium was tentatively set for the end of April. At this gathering, there would be no set agenda to afford faculty members an opportunity to connect with each other.
 - VI. The Handbook Revision Committee had held an electronic vote in February, and the returns were still coming in. Everyone had approved the proposed changes so far.
 - VII. The Faculty Senate is still looking for suitable office space; Perkins lamented the loss of our NGE conference room on the 2nd Floor to the University Ombudsman.
 - VIII. Michael Parker had an emergency and was not present, but Perkins presented his report about nominations for the Faculty Senate's Executive Committee for 2024-25. The slate presented was almost identical to this year's with Perkins as President, Shaun Andersen as Vice-President, Charles Ford as Secretary, and John Kamiru as Treasurer. Perkins did say that he might have to turn down any nomination for President again because of the heavy work load. Members then expressed their support for Perkins' continued leadership.
 - IX. The meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm.