

AP Faculty Senate

April 19, 2023 – 10 a.m. to Noon
Zoom Meeting

Roll

Roll for the meeting was taken and recorded via the Senate's Google Form.

Absent with notice: Leanna Blevins (alternate: Harrison Blythe)

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Administrative & Professional Faculty Senate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University was held on April 19, 2023.

President Holli Gardner Drewry called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM

Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve agenda by Terri Pecora and seconded by Keri Swaby. Motion carried.

Minutes

March minutes to be approved: Motion to approve by Jennifer Jones and Chad Proudfoot seconds. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Philanthropic project update

- Our [donation site](#)
- We have currently raised \$1500
- Appeal to all AP faculty again through the most recent newsletter
- We may also try to create a story in VT News

A/P Faculty Professional Development Leave Working Group-Susan Short

- The group met with Christine Luketic from HR and she shared some data with us about attrition for faculty (average is about 4 to 5 years)
- We will use these data to determine when it may be good to offer the professional development benefit as an incentive to stay at the 4-5 year mark
- 172 voluntarily left during the 2022 fiscal year for other positions and 229 left total

- The group would like to get data from the state level (specifically Montgomery county) employment and unemployment numbers to also get more information
- The committee also discussed best practices of other companies/professions that use continuing education credit as an opportunity to get “refreshed and energized”
- It was promising that members of the Board of Visitors were supportive of the idea of a professional development program for AP faculty
- The biggest concern is how the work will be covered while a faculty member utilizes the benefit
- There is a survey that will be distributed after approval of the workgroup
- The survey will go to AP faculty senators first for completion and feedback and then will be sent to all AP faculty
- There are additional meetings planned with Ron Fricker and other stakeholders so that no one at the university level is “surprised” or feels uninformed

Constituent Group Representation and Formation Working Group-Nicole Connrs

- First meeting/discussion was March
- Some information on how other senates run was collected and will be distributed to the working group in May

BOV Constituent Report

- Updated BOV on Constituent group and Beyond Boundaries Scholarship
- It is great to have their support and understanding

New Business

Professional Development Community of Practice Members: Influencing change and Solving Wicked Problems-Sarah Dreier

- The conference is 8-3:30 at the North End Center and registration is open ongoing
- You may register online and attend in person or through zoom
- There will be an exhibitor hall and prerecorded items that you will get access to with registration
- If you have very short videos on your own professional development initiatives please send to [Sarah Dreier](#)
- Recordings for any missed sessions will be available through the zoom event

- Digital Badging will be available
- Are all concurrent sessions being offered virtually? Some will be all virtual, some hybrid, and some only in person. Any in person events will be recorded and posted after they are completed.
- Is there something that can be used to share with other faculty about the event? There is no specific graphic, but anyone can use the link (above) to share
- Session registration will open on April 27
- There is a virtual exhibit hall that will open before the event
- Be sure to update your zoom event profile information

Transportation Services-Lynsay Belshe and James Perkins, Pam Tate, and Brian Booth

- There is a University Master Plan and a Parking and Transportation plan that are used to enhance mobility while preserving campus character and anticipating the growth of the university
- These master plans provide the vision for the university
- There is constantly changing construction which requires adjustments by parking and transportation ongoing
- The climate action commitment is also considered to reduce single occupancy vehicle commuting on campus by 20% by 2025
- Transportation services includes parking, fleet, air, and alternative transportation
- Parking services is technically an auxiliary unit which means it is fully self-supporting through self-generated revenue
- The unit attempts to be as equitable, affordable, and accessible as possible
- There are 14,256 parking spaces on campus currently
- Parking displacement has happened due to capital construction; parking services continues to adjust based on these continued and ongoing displacements
- 57% of parking spaces are for students (residential, commuter, graduate)
- 28% of parking spaces are for employees; remaining are mostly visitor, service, and ADA parking
- Parking services began charging visitors beginning in 2020
- Park Mobile app has also been implemented
- North End Center is for purchase 24 hours per day

- Extended parking hours at other locations also alleviate some after 5pm issues (10 pm enforcement)
- A new evening only permit was created in 2021 for \$25
- Parking Services is sharing their information with all shared governance bodies
- Heads up Hokies: members are encouraged to safely traverse campus
- Hokie Bike Club provides tools and resources to make repairs and complete bike maintenance
- Blacksburg Transit works with VT for prepaid fares for students
- Ride Solutions is an organization that assists people to find carpool and rideshare options
- BT and VT are working together to increase the number of electric buses, EV charging stations, and commuter alternatives
- The multi-modal transit facility is being created to be one central location for all transportation options and will include an indoor waiting area
- When does the Multi Modal facility open? That question needs to be answered by the town of Blacksburg. The anticipated opening did not happen on time and more information about the new date will be forthcoming
- What has been the impact of moves into Gilbert Street on the North End Center garage? There is no data yet to show that, but once construction completes we will be able to better understand the impacts that don't include construction currently parking in the garage
- Are there additional options to add time in the Mobile App if you need to extend time? Some spots are coded for only short time periods to create quicker turnover of spots and you cannot extend if the spot does not allow for extension; if the space is available for longer than the time you reserved you can extend on the app
- How is the lot at the Inn being utilized into the overall plan? Campus master plan currently has surface parking for guests, customers and faculty staff at the inn. The future is going to be vertical parking (a garage) and that may be the next location
- Are there plans for a bus route directly to and from Radford? Radford has a route, but BT does not have one currently; they are completing a [user survey](#) currently
- What is the capacity of the Perry Street garage? 1350 current and a few will be lost to charging stations and perhaps some bike lockers
- Are there any plans for the huge increase in faculty/staff in the new buildings near the New Classroom Building? This is what the plan attempts to address-use alternative transportation!

- Is there any headway on a tiered approach to parking? This could be tiered based on income or based on the type of parking (faculty, student, commuter)? Some discussion has been based on income and location but we have not moved forward with it yet
- Parking passes at some universities are sold based on salary tiers. I hear from constituents in our Division there is desire for progressive salary tiers.
- Some feedback has been said that early morning staff can't utilize the Remote parking lot because the shuttles don't run that early
- Do you know if there are plans to connect the future Amtrak station in Christiansburg to Blacksburg through increased bus or future rail? Yes! We do that now from campus to Roanoke and will work with our other groups once it opens in Christiansburg
- What is the organizational framework for conversations between SmartWay, BT, Town of Blacksburg, and VT Parking & Transportation? International and out of state students have difficult times finding options to get from local airports; how/where do those conversations happen? Unfortunately the conversations happen "all over the place" but most are regular meetings and constant ongoing conversations between all the stakeholder groups. Perhaps the goal should be more outreach from the different units to the university groups (Cranwell, etc).
- I believe the Parking/Transportation Survey recently concluded...did you see strong participation levels on that? What next steps are you taking now that you have the data? In what formal or informal way(s) will those results be shared within the university community? It is not closed yet! Please take [the survey](#) if you have not yet
- We discussed at the last transportation committee to have passes sold at a tiered level based on how far away from university a commuter lives? E.g. if someone lives under 1 mile away then the pass would be significantly more expensive. Obviously, exceptions would be made for ADA. What is your view on this? This is based on BT ridership and so it gets tricky and routes are in more densely populated areas
- Not everyone in Blacksburg has access to a BT stop. I used to, and would take the bus sometimes, but now it's a half mile to the next closest stop, and I live 2 miles from campus. BT does not run through residential areas...so until it does, this is not a great idea.
- What is the current mix of single occupancy vehicles driving to campus, versus those using carpool vs. alternative transportation? Are there any key metrics of where we would like to get those numbers to? The specific numbers can't be found immediately, but anecdotal information says that 13,000 trips/riders per day happen on BT and most cars are single

occupancy rides to campus. Reach out to transportation services (James Perkins) for more information/specific data points. Only about half of the faculty members at VT have purchased parking passes this year.

CAPFA Updates-Janice Austin

- Last meeting for the year was last week and CAPFA will reconvene in September
- Two grievances have been submitted: one resolved at the step one panel and one continued to step 3
- The step 3 grievability hearing was held and is in the process of being finalized
- CAPFA resolution B for wording changes to the constitution was approved at University Council and will go to the president for approval

Senate Committee Updates

- Communications Committee-Brandy Morse
 - Committee has been meeting and has updated the newsletter and will be sent out by early next week

- Elections & Nominations-Terri Pecora
 - [Election results](#) have been published
 - Currently the committee is working to fill committee and university positions based on the information collected in the survey
 - A previous senator/alternate asked to continue to serve as an alternate but not be put on the ballot
 - Terri Pecorra made a motion to allow the previous senator/alternate to continue to serve representing the same constituent group and would be listed after current senators/alternates and Marlina Lester seconded the motion.
 - Discussion/Question: Why do they not want to be on the ballot? They do not want to be voted into a full position with a term requirement, but want to continue to serve
 - Is there anything in the bylaws that speak to this? No. They are silent on this scenario.
 - Motion carried.
 - AP Faculty senate officer elections were completed via google form

- Congratulations to our new officers: Janice Austin-President, Stephanie Trout-Vice President, Jennifer Jones-treasurer/secretary, and Chad Proudfoot-Parliamentarian
- Policies and Issues-Nicole Connors
 - No new information upcoming
 - One more resolution is pending but can be closed at this point since it has enough responses

Other Updates from Committees and Commissions

- None to date

Other Topics or Business

- None to date

Announcements

- Consider submitting stories to add to the A/P Faculty newsletter-email Brandy Morse
- [A/P Faculty Senate Governance Calendar](#)
- Governance Survey coming soon
- No Job Architecture update since there are no new updates to share
- Make sure to join Employee Appreciation Day on May 17

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am

Next Meeting May 17, 2023: Google Workspace and Job Architecture information forthcoming

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Jones
Secretary/Treasurer