

Administrative & Professional Faculty Senate
Wednesday, January 19, 2022
Via Zoom

Roll

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

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Administrative & Professional Faculty Senate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University was held on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 via Zoom.

President Holli Gardner Drewry called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM

Minutes

The Secretary-Treasurer moved the approval of the corrected minutes of the December 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Teri Pecora and approved.

New Business

COVID Updates from Emergency Management

Andrew Marinik provided the Senate with updates on the University's strategies for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Highlights from the presentation were:

- President Sands notice of January 18, 2020 to come in line with Executive Directive #2
- Vaccines & Boosters are currently still required for students, but now recommended for faculty & staff
- Executive Directive 2 was directed at classified staff, but the University has decided to implement the provisions for all employees in order to achieve equity across campus
- Numbers of COVID illness going up due to Omicron
- Student employees are considered students first, and thus vaccines are required
- Receiving some pushback from GAs
- Test mandates for non-vaccinated employees are gone. Students with exemptions still test
- Asymptomatic testing locations remain the same around campus
- Masks are still required in open indoor spaces
- Expectation that employees shall still report cases. The Department of Labor regulations require this.
- Isolation/Quarantine for employees has not shifted
 - If still symptomatic, should continue to isolate after 5 days
- Students report through the Dean of Students Office.
- VT provides case management to help with isolation, services, etc.

- VT Community events (internal) no additional requirements. Food/beverages still allowed
 - Ticketed events (public)(athletics): Vaccination requirement, proof of negative test within 72 hours
 - Probably change to not have Hokie Passport exemption
 - Virginia Cooperative Extension: Emergency Management meets with Lonnie Johnson, Associate Director for Field Operations, weekly. Extension programs are not considered “events.” Other rules and best practices/common practices may apply. Faculty and staff should implement any mitigation strategies available. Mr. Johnson is the VCE point of contact, and Extension employees should reach out to him for questions.
 - As an executive branch agency, VT will comply with executive directives. If employees are going into school settings, they look for ways to protect themselves.
 - KN95s are becoming gold standard, and are recommended. Respirators are different from masks. VT believes that KN95s may be a middle ground to help all.
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- Up to now, VT was focusing on prevention. Now the focus is about mitigation. Costs of prevention vs. management. This is a paradigm shift and requires reframing to everyone.
 - VT did very well during the Delta wave. Still doing better with Omicron, but caseloads are still setting records.
 - Dashboard shifting emphasis from positives to severity, but will still show positives.
 - Case data is different from test data, and what is online is very Blacksburg-centric
 - Anticipated peak between February 2 - 4, 2022
 - Virginia Tech transmission rate remained mostly low through Fall 2021, and has remained much lower than the surrounding region.
 - Now trying to track severities. Around 75% mild or asymptomatic. Should have more data in the near future.

Parking & Transportation

The Senate was scheduled to receive a presentation regarding Parking & Transportation

- Presentation postponed until February
- Updates mentioned at this meeting included:
 - The Squires lot removed all undergrad and commuter spaces. These are all now F/S except one row of grad spaces. There is a new row of EV spaces. Student spaces were moved to the Media Annex.
 - Changes in Perry St. with construction. Not filling any student parking until construction finished

Conflict of Interest Policy 13010

The President reported that this policy will come back to the senate for vote once it comes through a commission, but just to point out that it's here, and open for feedback.

CAPFA Updates

The Vice-President (Chair of CAPFA) reported the following updates:

- The Commission did not have a January meeting, but will meet again in February.
- The Commission will begin to look at Chapter 7 of the *Faculty Handbook* for the AP faculty grievance process.
- The resolutions to add AP Faculty representatives to councils/commissions will be voted on at the February 7 University Council meeting.

Communications Committee

- Sent out bylaws dealing with Communications. Getting feedback from members for changes.
- Discussed various options for monthly/quarterly newsletter. Should have something to report in the next couple of meetings.
- The President requested an updated AP faculty list to bring the listserv current.

Policies & Issues

- Reviewing work ahead with guidelines for resolutions, voting, and feedback.
- Strengthening connection to Human Resources and communication.
- Noted that Human Resources has been good to work with, and have been sending representatives to Senate meetings.

Elections & Nominations

- Did not meet in January
- Has finished nomination form
- Interest form ready to go
- Both forms will be posted on website
- Also going to look at bylaw changes

Working Group on AP Definitions

- Looking at constituent groups
- Raised awareness of gaps in knowledge
- Next meeting in February to get information on groups

CEOD

- Resolution to change PPM to Principles of Community to Stronger Together Week.
- Management of Spin Scooters will be changing
- Principles of Community Awards announcement coming this week

Links to Upcoming Awards

- Deadline is February 15, 2022
- All senators are encouraged to nominate peers

Sexual Violence, Culture, & Climate Committee

Kathryn Polidoro gave an overview and update of the Sexual Violence, Culture, & Climate Committee:

- Formed in response to reporting and happenings mostly students
- Will be ongoing committee
- How do we identify things on campus that look at sexual violence
- Will break into subcommittees.
- Need to include more voices
- How to have meaningful representation? Add members to sub-committees who may not be on the overall committee.
- Reaching out to high risk student populations
- Want representation from university senates
- If interested or want to nominate, email Kathryn
- Want committees in place by end of January
- Link to website and sub-committee definitions:
<https://www.president.vt.edu/strategicinterests/TaskForces/SexualViolenceCultureandClimateWorkGroup.html>.
- Please get back by Wednesday or Thursday of next week

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:07 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Chad N. Proudfoot
Secretary-Treasurer