

Minutes

AP Faculty Senate April 16, 2025 – 10 a.m. to Noon Zoom

Janice Austin called the meeting to order at 10:03 am

Members Present: Janice Austin, Ruth Wallace, Jennifer Jones, Keri Swaby, Aaron Prussin, Enrique Noyola, Nicole Connors, Michele Messner, Scott Weimer, Marlana Lester, Cathy Duerbeck, Jenni Gallagher, Andrew Dolbin-MacNab, Holli Gardner Drewry, Jessica Crawford, Terri Pecora, Rabeya Rahman, Brent Kremer, M. L. Logan, Nick Woods, Juliet Dadras, Julie McClafferty, Leanna Blevins, Chris Tysor, David Chinn, Julie Carlson, Emma Leveau, Ed Olsen, Sarah Armstrong, Chris Akers, Judy Alford,

Guests: Dale Pike, April Myers, Demetria Somervell

Adoption of Agenda

Terri Pecora moved to adopt agenda, it was seconded by Jennifer Jones, and the motion was approved

Unfinished Business

2024-2025 philanthropic project update – Holli Drewry. Holli is working on getting giving day and fundraising site data together. Will do another push in May for additional donations; currently have around 100 donors.

New Business

- Responsible & Ethical AI – Dale Pike (TLOS). Presentation: Virginia Tech's Responsible and Ethical AI Principles. Developed through the AI working group (28 member) with the deliverable to develop of a set of principles regarding use of AI at the university. Website: ai.vt.edu. Microsoft Copilot is the officially approved AI tool at Virginia Tech
- Peer to Peer mentorship program – Emma Leavu (Employee Relations). Culture Champion - Mentoring program for AP new hires. Looking for new volunteer mentors. Pair experience VT faculty employees with newcomers. They meet for the first three months at VT. Peer to Peer Program web page <https://www.hr.vt.edu/onboarding/employee/peer-to-peer-program.html>
- CAPFA Updates – Marlana Lester. CAPFA provided suggestions for 2026 CAPFA to consider for their work plan such an annual review of the A/P faculty sections of the faculty handbook. Hopeful to have the BOV approval of the grievance policy in a future BOV meeting. Please send any suggestions to Marlana for future ideas for CAPFA to consider working on. Juliet Dadras to serve as the AP rep to the Employee Benefits Committee in 2026.

- Treasurer's Report – Enrique Noyola. Purchased refreshments for the talk and tour. We have \$1205.79 in the budget. Send any suggestions for funds to Janice (i.e. lapel pen for A/P faculty members).
- Senate Committee Reports
 - Communications – Julie Carlson. Newsletter wrap for this season to include the tour and talk, if you have any suggestions, please reach out.
 - Elections and Nominations – Scott Weimer. Confirming results of the elections with the committee and hopeful to share election results soon. Officer nomination for elections coming soon for next year.
 - Policies and Issues – Nikki Connors. Thank everyone for filling out the voting forms of the last month
 - Professional Development – Sarah Armstrong. Third AP faculty tour and talk with the athletics facilities with 45 people from senate and constituents. Call for ideas for fall 2025 (i.e. Corps of Cadets, Off Main Blacksburg Campus Tour, Extension Offices, Academic Building 1, Hahn Horticultural Gardens and greenhouses, Innovation Campus or Equine Medical Center, VetMed Hospital and other facilities, Behind the Scenes tour of Dining Services, virtual tour options – perhaps use a go pro).
- Updates from other University Committees and Commissions
- Additional topics or business

Announcements

- Juliet Dadras shared that the VT Police Department will be having their Annual Hot Dog Fundraiser for Special Olympics on May 20 and to make plans to attend the Employee Appreciation and Hokie Wellness Fair on May 21.
- Findings from the 2024 National Faculty and Staff Health Assessment at Virginia Tech. Sessions are scheduled for May 2nd from 12-1pm and May 27th from 11am-12pm. The same information will be covered in both sessions and there will be an in-person option at the North End Center as well as a Zoom option. Individuals interested can register at <https://viriniatech.pageuppeople.com/lerning/11457>.
- Janice Austin shared recognition for Hokie Everywhere that we lost 32 colleagues and students 18 years ago today and wanted to take a moment to acknowledge that it impacts our community in a multitude of ways and we remember.

Adjournment

May 21, 2025 Meeting Cancelled Due to Employee Appreciation and Hokie Wellness Fair