

Faculty Senate

Virginia Tech Blacksburg, Virginia 24061 https://www.facultysenate.vt.edu/

2020-21 Annual Report*

Senate Roster & Representation



Membership included 92 Faculty Senators, representing 71 academic units, across 9 colleges (plus the University Libraries).

Meeting Attendance



Convened 15 meetings of the full senate, with an average attendance of 76 individuals (62 senators and 14 guests).

In total, 176 different individuals participated in Faculty Senate meetings (including senators and guests).

Prominent Guests for Q&A Sessions



- Tim Sands, University President
- Cyril Clarke, Provost & Executive Vice President
- Horacio Valeiras, Rector for Board of Visitors
- Noell Bissell, New River Health District Director

Notable Presentations



- Academic Bullying Considerations (Bryan Hanson)
- Climate Action Commitment (CUS Resolution 2020-21A)
- Faculty Open Access Policy (Ginny Pannabecker)
- Modifications to Policy 13015 (COR Resolution 2020-21B)
- Undergraduate Honor System (Kara Latopolski)

Other Significant Discussion Topics



- Adaptations to Promotion and Tenure (P&T) in Response to Pandemic
- Standardized Test Requirements for Admissions
- Expectations for Instruction During the Pandemic
- Experiential Learning and Bridge Experiences
- Revisions to Shared Governance
- Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) Reporting

^{*} As outlined in the Faculty Senate Bylaws (VII.A.1.b), this report has been prepared for distribution to the senate, faculty, administration, and Board of Visitors. More detailed information is included in meeting minutes, available on the Faculty Senate website: https://www.facultysenate.vt.edu/

Ideas/Topics Highlighted for Future Attention



- Assessment of Instruction (Including SPOT & Peer Review)
- Faculty Senate Policy Oversight
- Google Workspace for Education
- Services for Students with Disabilities
- Software Licensing and Procurement
- Undergraduate Admissions' Use of Standardized Test Scores

Surveys & Reports



Facilitated a university-wide faculty/staff survey on Fall 2020 planning that yielded more than 3,000 responses.

Co-sponsored a town hall on COACHE Survey of Faculty Job Satisfaction, highlighting faculty insights on how to improve the workplace.

Structural Improvements Through Constitution & Bylaw Amendments



- Affiliation of college faculty associations (and representatives)
- Expansion and balancing of senate membership
- Oversight of Faculty Senate committees
- Transition of secretary/treasurer role to operations officer

University Governance Resolutions Considered



The Faculty Senate Cabinet considered 34 resolutions that were advancing through university governance. Of those, 8 resolutions were advanced to the full senate for comment, including resolutions from the Commissions on Faculty Affairs, Research, and University Support.

Public Statement



In solidarity with Virginia Tech's Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) community, the Faculty Senate formally adopted a statement condemning the acts of violence committed against members of the APIDA community.

Recognitions



After serving in Faculty Senate officer roles for four consecutive years, Bob Hicok and John Ferris have earned membership in the Academy of Faculty Service and the Academy of Faculty Leadership (respectively).