

**Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting**  
September 16, 2025, at 3-4:15 PM, Rabi Reich Room and ZOOM

**MINUTES**

*Attendance:* Chair Gillis, Vice-chair Yusuf, Secretary Lobova, Senator Burdige, Senator Burns, ODU Chapter of AAUP Acting President Kate Hawkins. *Absent:* Senator Hosseini, Senator Gregory, Senator Wittkower, Senator Land.

At the request of the ODU chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), the executive committee members held a meeting with the leadership of the ODU AAUP to discuss the Forward-Focused Digital Transformation initiative. This initiative aims, among other goals, to convert all current online courses to an accelerated 8-week asynchronous format.

**1. Discussions centered around the following:**

- a. The university administration has made an operational decision regarding the implementation of the Forward-Focused Digital Transformation Initiative;
- b. The leadership's decision to transition to accelerated 8-week asynchronous online courses will impact the curriculum, learning, and student success;
- c. In accordance with SACSCOC principle 10.4. Academic Governance: "The institution (a) publishes and implements policies on the authority of faculty in academic and governance matters, (b) demonstrates that educational programs for which academic credit is awarded are approved consistent with institutional policy, and (c) places primary responsibility for the content, quality, and effectiveness of the curriculum with its faculty."
- d. To effectively remodel courses in the 8-week asynchronous format, targeted pedagogical training for faculty is necessary, particularly for those whose courses are currently synchronous or incorporate active learning components, such as labs.
- e. Faculty need access to data and examples of both successful and unsuccessful pedagogical implementations of accelerated courses and programs. Recommendations should be provided on how to replicate successful initiatives and learn from the mistakes of other institutions.

**2. Planning Senate meeting on September 23, 2025:**

- a. Numerous issues need to be addressed during the scheduled Senate meetings.

- b. Updates on General Education Reform will be prioritized as the first item on the meeting agenda
- c. AAUP and Senate will host an open forum to discuss the Forward-Focused Digital Transformation Initiative on Wednesday, September 24, from 5-7 PM, at the Perry Library Learning Commons, Room 1310-1311.
  - i. **Objectives of the Forum:**
    - Develop a statement, resolution, or action plan to document faculty concerns and address faculty's role in the successful execution of the Forward-Focused Digital Transformation Initiative for the benefit of students.
    - Gather faculty statements addressing specific challenges and issues related to the digital transformation initiative, along with suggestions for institutional resources and support necessary to overcome these challenges.