



VCU

Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Leadership Meeting Bullets — September 15, 2020

4:00-6:00 pm

Faculty Senate Leadership meeting link:

<https://tinyurl.com/faculty-senate-vcu>

For complete minutes and related files, see: <http://www.facultysenate.vcu.edu/>

Please email ecarpenter2@vcu.edu with questions or corrections.

Preamble to the By-laws of the Faculty adopted 1970, “We, the Faculty of Virginia Commonwealth University, having been duly appointed by the Board of Visitors, and believing the purposes and objectives of any university can best be met through the combined effort and cooperative deliberation of its governing board, its administrators, and its faculty, do hereby establish these Bylaws to set forth the governing principles and procedures which will guide the Faculty of Virginia Commonwealth University in all its deliberations.”

Procedural Items:

Call to order

Nancy Jallo, President

4:00-4:03

Minutes from April 21, 2020 meeting

Everett Carpenter, Recording Secretary

4:03-4:05

Faculty Senate President’s Report/Issues

Nancy Jallo, President

4:05-4:10

- Calendar committee updated from the COVID group
- Talked about options and with MCV having almost a normal calendar and exceptions made for studio and lab classes.
- From faculty retreat - Scott and Nancy in meeting with Jacquelin Kniska university chief ethics and compliance officer with a discussion about policy and procedure process
- COVID Dashboard - Tom Briggs coming at 5:00 to talk about it
- Requests for Faculty Reps on committees
- Asking for mentors both term and tenure

University Committees Update

All Committee members

4:10-4:20

Update from the Faculty/State COVID-19 Taskforce

- Dashboard discussion - how it works a little more clear still missing context
- Provost hopes to give demographics soon - Already surveyed to check enrollment to see what students are enrolled in which courses.

- How to help students with wifi issues - no more hotspots to check out in library, CARES act money may still be available for computer or hotspot. Add link in minutes for faculty to forward to students with issues to help advertise it.
- Clarification about testing - need to be proactive on REDDIT maybe
- Testing is being done at VCU for symptomatic cases up to 100/day
- Prevalence testing still by Kallaco and no problem with volunteers from non-residents but a big problem getting residential students to participate in test. This might be due to fears of being labelled positive.

Faculty Senate Agenda (Sept 29, 2020)

4:20-4:30

President Rao

Erin Webster Garrett- REAL

Blythe Alison Bowman Balestrieri- University Grievance Annual Report

Chris Cynn-Gender, Sexuality & Women's Dean's COVID 19 working group

Kim Case - new faculty support initiatives

Work time for committees? (different zoom link)

Round table discussions (separate break outs)?

Faculty Senate Responsibilities to the University

Mike F. Melis

4:30-5:00

University Counsel

VCU Office of University Counsel

- He prefers to look at the source documents--did not find a charge for Faculty Senate from bov, state, etc. So he used the by-laws of the faculty, interesting article7 section4 "history language" original approved by BOV 1970 unanimously. Newest version of standing rules approved in 2018. Represent faculty in responsibility and concerns.
- Key participant in shared governance to help vet faculty concerns and presented to president
- Do you see anything in by-laws in conflict with how the university is set up to be run? Nothing was seen at first glance
- Collective bargaining unit similar to faculty senate? State law prevents agencies for working with CBUs. The legislature passed law to allow localities to work with CBU, but not us...
- Recourse if by-laws are not followed? Not clear what the enforcement is. It is different from policy which governs employees/students. Will investigate and get back to us
- Who as the ability to veto by-laws because right now there is no policy or procedure one way or another? Would look first at provost's office for relationship between dean's and faculty. Will investigate and get back to us. Reluctant to interrupt policies but instead focuses on legal matters. His office not the ultimate arbitrator of university policy.
- Anything that FS leadership needs to be aware? Way to try and avoid confusion is to be in close communication with Provost's office.

- Is there an official way that FS should use to represent the faculty? On academic matters the president will most likely turn to the Provost.

VCU COVID-19 Dashboard

5:00-5:30

Thomas Briggs took questions and talked about the concerns about the Dashboard:

Assistant Vice President

Safety & Risk Management

- Students feel the dashboard is fake? Feedback gotten back, will change next week, 10 days active cases not symptomatic roll off. Have to look at the bottom to see the total number of data. 894 to take a test per month, 220 from resident hall. Finally got student last week by over inviting. By the end of the month should have good data.
- Why not reporting percentage positive tests since only testing symptomatic? Is put not under prevalence but need to put it.
- Free testing on campus for at-will? Can use 250/300 left over from prevalence testing which can be repurposed to provide at-will.
- Concerns with students going elsewhere for testing, maybe the numbers are skewed by students not wanting to report to VCU the results for fear of retaliation? What are we doing to help mitigate those concerns? 13 students for contact tracers are VDH employees, the system we use is the same system that state uses. Employee going to doctor and did not report positive. Takes a bit for VCU to find out, but they always come back to VCU. Chuck Klink working to help communicate about testing.
- Why is the dashboard for Richmond DH and VCU dramatically different? Richmond is testing using PCR only, while VCU uses PCR testing for symptomatic. So not apples to apples data.
- What is the metric for closing? The metric for closing is complicated but involves 3 factors, hospital bed capacity, quarantine/isolation capacity, and percent positive compared to Richmond and surrounding communities.
- Is it more difficult to get a handle on it if we were more isolated campus? Yes it would be much easier. Using data from suburbs as well to get a better picture. The current prevalence test does not have high rigor we use it for timeliness. Nothing really available for other options. Looked at antigen testing, but only tests for RNA fragments. All testing is PCR. Symptomatic is done at VCU and other labs. The response team looks at trends.
- Last comments: We considered all tests available. Looked at type and capacity and turn around. The choice of testing type and group was based on balancing the accuracy of the test with the speed of the test.

Faculty Senate Committees Business/Goals

5:30-6:00

Faculty Affairs -faculty evaluations

Maria Teves (chair)

- Follow up on the white paper to be presented to the Provost Office.
- Develop guidance to modify P&T, so all research and creative outputs are clearly rewarded.

- Identify gaps in the units that are not rewarding or contemplating faculty for working with undergraduate students as research mentors/advisor. It was brought to the attention of this committee that some units do not consider working, mentorship or advising of undergraduate student (outside the classroom setting, e.g. research laboratories) as part of teaching efforts. These activities lack recognition in some units. The goal is to identify these units and develop clear guidance for these activities to be recognized in annual performance evaluation and P&T.

Shared Governance-shared governance (school/unit)

Neno Russell (chair)

- Actualize shared governance through examining existing committee structure across the university and within units so that the faculty senate can establish a fair and systematic process of appointment and apportioning faculty senate representation on university committees.
- Collect all existing unit bylaws to examine committee structure and apportionment of Faculty representation as appointed at the unit level.

Academic Programs and Research -course evaluations (?)

Susan Bodnar-Deren (chair)

Diversity and Inclusive Excellence-anti-racism statement (all)

Open (chair)

Academic Support Services

Valerie Robnolt (chair)

- Support faculty and students in teaching and learning online/virtually. Making sure they have what they need to be successful through the entities that this committee covers.
- Support faculty in the transition to Canvas.

Alumni and Community Relations

Gaynell Sherrod (chair)

- communicate with stakeholders,
- leverage opportunities, and,
- examine and mediate concerns whenever possible.

Overall, the committee's goal(s) are aligned with the VCU Office of Alumni Affairs, the university-wide academic units, VCU alumni and larger cultural and surrounding communities of VCU.

Website and Social Media

Ashley Brewer (chair)

Credentials and Rules

Scott Street (chair)

- Credentials & Rules Committee is planning to review the "Leadership Guidelines" document of Faculty Senate this year.

- We will also continue to compute the apportionment prior to the spring election season.

State Legislative and Statewide Relations

Carmen Rodriguez (co-chair)

Pat Cummins (co-chair)

- We are coordinating our efforts with FSVA and the Virginia conference of AAUP to strengthen our advocacy efforts for the 2021 Legislative Session as well as make plans for Higher Education Advocacy Day (currently scheduled for Jan 14, 2021).
- During the fall 2020 semester, members of our committee will begin to build relationships with select legislators in preparation for next year's legislative session.

Student Affairs

Chris Saladino (chair)

Economic Status, Budget, and Planning

Roxanne Spindle (chair)

VCU Health Systems Relations

Allison Gregory (co-chair)

Vamsi Yadavalli (co-chair)

Request for Faculty Senators

1) The VCU Safety and Well-being Advisory Committee

is requesting faculty to consider serving on this committee, which has been charged with defining and instituting the components of a new transformational model for public safety and wellness across campus, independent of VCU Police. We seek dedicated candidates who feel compelled to lend us their expertise and are willing to commit to serving as a member from September 2020 to May 2021. Anticipate the committee will meet a minimum of twice a month, concluding after findings are presented to the VCU Board of Visitors and VCU Health System Authority Board of Directors next May. Andrew Daire – dean, school of education and Sheryl Garland, VCU Health system will lead the committee as co-chairs

2) The Domicile Appeals Committee requests a faculty member to serve as a voting committee member on this new committee. This Committee has the final authority at the university for all appeals related to domicile for tuition purposes. The responsibility for this committee has recently transitioned from Student Affairs to Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM). The committee meets once a month. The length of the meetings can range from a couple of hours to closer to four or five hours. It depends on the number of appeals the committee needs to review. Also, the appointment is for a 2-year term, although committee members can be reappointed for multiple terms.

3) The provost's office has asked for a pool of internal reviewers to support academic program review.

VCU internal peer reviewers must be T&R faculty (Academic Program Review Handbook, sec. 4.3.2.1), and will

- receive a jointly signed letter of recognition from the provost and dean
- gain valuable experience
- make a significant contribution to degree program excellence at VCU

Cohort 1 peer reviews are planned for late February and early March of 2021.

Please distribute this call within your school/college. Interested volunteers should complete this form by September 30.

Questions can be addressed to Deborah Noble-Triplett (nobletriplett@vcu.edu) and Andrew Arroyo (atarroyo@vcu.edu).

Adjourn

Next Meeting:

Faculty Senate, Next Meeting: September 29, 2020 4-6pm via zoom

Faculty Senate Leadership, Next Meeting: October 20, 2020