



VCU

Faculty Senate

VCU's Philosophy on Share Governance states:

"We value transparency in university and unit decisions such that the various constituencies of the university are aware of how decisions are made and the rationale for those decisions, which will ensure the university remains mission-focused." For this transparency to work, please share information with your constituents. The full statement is located at

https://president.vcu.edu/media/president/assets/pdfs/Univ_Council_Philosophy_of_Shared_Governance_Approved_May_4_2017.pdf.

Faculty Senate

Connecting faculty to VCU administration and to each other

The purpose of the Faculty Senate shall be the furtherance and dissemination of knowledge and professional skills through teaching, study, research, creativity, exhibition, performance, and provision of community service. An additional objective will be to help insure through investigation, examination, comment and recommendation that the educational goal of the University is being realized by the policies and procedures employed in the University.

Faculty Senate Meeting DRAFT Bullet Points — March 24th, 2020

ZOOM Virtual Meeting

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

Please email Everett Carpenter (ecarpenter2@vcu.edu) questions or corrections.

Call to order at 4:02

Nancy Jallo, President

76 callers on the zoom meeting, 45 voting members present

Introduction of Proposed P/F grading plan (proposal will be attached)

Initial Comments from Provost Hackett

- Temporary policy, not a permanent one.
- Students are freaking out over online and this is an attempt to reduce that stress
- A population when even in normal times might be underprepared and stress over the work load
- Trying to mitigate the drop-out rate and withdrawal rate
- Best interest of student, keeping them connected to university (financial reasons)

Proposal Comments from Associate Provost Noble-Triplett

- Many comments in the google form from Friday through today
- All students grad and undergrads for a P/F threshold

- Undergrads: P/F option a P for A-C or P/D for a D a new grade introduced for this semester. Deans suggested to drop PD
- For Grads: Similar choice--Grad Students A/B get a S rather than P, a C would get U, another would be F. This is the biggest sticking point. GradDean would prefer A-C to be a S.
- Students would create an electronic form and directed to talk to advisor for approval, then to the chair
- Less bureaucracy. Maybe not need an ARAC appeal for every situation
- There were lots of discussion during the session regarding the timetable students would have to exercise the P/F option. Ultimately, faculty voices were heard and students will be given until the May 15, after final grades are calculated before deciding to make the switch.

Course Evaluation update - Valerie Robnolt

- Redoing the evals, to maybe only 2-5 open-ended questions to give feedbacks
- For annual evals, still discussion around that and working on it
- Students need the voice, but we need to figure out how to use them.

Additional Comments

Term faculty questions, cannot address when contracts will come up. Need to make sure that it is equitable between different groups of faculty and staff. Currently working with deans on that. Her message to deans to start thinking about faculty and staff now.

The vote was completed online with a total 44 in favor of endorsing the proposal and 1 against. Final Version of the endorsed option is at <https://provost.vcu.edu/option/>