



VCU

Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Leadership Meeting Minutes — January 16, 2018

Alumni Board Room, University Commons, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

<https://www.maps.vcu.edu/monroepark/univcommons/>

Attendance: Jose Alcaine, Holly Alford, Kristine Artello, Brian Daugherity, Stephanie Goldberg, Nancy Jallo, Andrew Ottens, Joan Pellegrini, Maria Rivera, Valerie Robnolt, Carmen Rodriguez, Mary Secret, Scott Street, Jennifer Wayne

4:05pm--Call to order

Scott Street

Minutes from December 12th meeting

Brian Daugherity

4:10pm--Higher Education Advocacy Day

Carmen Rodriguez & Pat Cummins

- Discussion topics: Rodriguez announced that attendance was a little smaller than in previous years, but that attendees met with delegates and senators to inform them of faculty concerns. Some of the principal issues that attendees focused on were the budget, and tuition remission for dependents. Street reminded senators that he also shared HEAD position papers were shared via email.

4:15pm--Committee Updates

- a. Academic and Professional Status — Kristine Artello: Artello said members of her committee from the health sciences campus met recently to discuss student course evaluations, and she will be reviewing their comments shortly. Street added that the Provost's Office has indicated a willingness to discuss student course evaluations, and faculty evaluations, with her committee. Secret suggested that VCU compile data related to faculty who have been granted tenure based on excellence in teaching. Jallo asked if the committee is focusing primarily on student course evaluations, and Artello responded that is the principal issue/concern, but the committee is also interested in the peer review process and other aspects of faculty evaluations. Secret suggested that faculty members should be trained to describe and discuss their teaching (and teaching successes) more effectively. Artello asked if it would be acceptable to recruit someone as co-chair of her committee, and Scott said that would be acceptable. Secret raised a concern from an anonymous senator that he/she is being overloaded by emails related to Faculty Senate, and Street said he would investigate best practices for communication and report back on that subject.
- b. Academic Support Services — Valerie Robnolt: Robnolt announced Noodle Partners will assist VCU with the development of its online programs, and that she plans to call a meeting of her committee shortly.
- c. Alumni and Community Relations — José Alcaine: Alcaine reported that the next big event is a spring luncheon with a well-known author (with ties to VCU). There is a fee for the event, but the money goes toward scholarships for incoming VCU students. Pellegrini asked if Alcaine had info on VCU Health Sciences' Homecoming this spring;

Alcaine said no, and Pellegrini offered relevant information and said she would share it with Senator Alcaine.

- d. Credentials and Rules — Joan Pellegrini: Pellegrini reported on proposed revisions to Faculty Senate rules and the bylaws of the faculty, and the justifications for them. Several senators provided feedback, on issues including wording, required meetings discussed within, and formatting. Pellegrini noted that many of the changes involved rewording and moving sections, rather than substantive changes.
- e. Diversity and Inclusion — Stephanie Goldberg & Mary Secret: Secret mentioned VCU's efforts in this regard, and asked for input on the committee's work. Alford suggested that the committee co-chairs should sit on the VCU Council on Inclusive Learning, and that she will make contacts to facilitate that.
- f. Economic Status, Budget, and Planning — Brian Daugherty: Daugherty and Street discussed the New Budget Model Steering Committee's latest activities. Street noted that the committee will be meeting with deans in the near future to prioritize its funding decisions, because of an inability to fund all of its desired initiatives. One hope is that increasing the number of international students at VCU will increase revenue, another is to increase funding from alumni and donors. Daugherty announced that he would like to bring the leadership of the New Budget Model Steering Committee back to Faculty Senate for an update soon. Senator Ottens agreed to serve on a Optional Retirement Plan committee on behalf of Faculty Senate.
- g. State Legislative & Statewide Relations — Pat Cummins & Carmen Rodriguez: Rodriguez announced that a joint AAUP and FS of Virginia meeting will take place later this semester, in northern Virginia.
- h. Student Affairs — Chris Saladino: Street announced that Saladino has been busy with minor health issues.

5:30pm--Faculty Senate President's Report

Scott Street

- a. Nominating Committee: Street reminded senators that it is time to determine Faculty Senate officers for 2018-2019. Several senators nominated Alford to serve as chair of the nominating committee, and Alford asked senators to indicate to her whether they plan to run for re-election to their current position.
- b. Policies vs. Standards; Communications Plans; Issues/Concerns: Street explained that he recently learned about a "policy" regarding student email that was transformed into a "standard", without public notice, and that he plans to ask the administration to clarify its processes in this regard.
- c. Interim Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs (Aashir Nasim): Street announced that two finalists will be on campus within the week for the Vice President for Inclusive Excellence position, and Aashir Nasim is one of the finalists. Street raised the question of how this might impact Nasim's current position of Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs.
- d. VP for Inclusive Excellence search continues: Street announced that two finalists will be on campus within the week to offer their visions for this position.
- e. Focus Group meeting on VCU's Master Plan: Street explained that Jeff Eastman recently asked for a representative senate group to meet with planners of VCU's new master plan. Street suggested that the leadership group participate, and he will send more details shortly.
- f. Inclusive Governance Task Force (meet with Senior Leadership on January 22nd): Street co-chairs this group and explained that it will meet with VCU leadership next week. The Task Force is considering new models for Faculty/Staff Senate, in response to the Human Resources redesign.

- g. University Council Bylaws Revision Committee: Street and Pellegrini serve on this committee, and it was determined at its last meeting that the council's bylaws should be completely revised.
- h. Provost's Meeting (January 24th): Street informed senators that he and Alford will be meeting with the Provost for their monthly meeting on January 24.
- i. VCU Faculty Meeting with President Rao (February 6th): Street reminded senators that Rao's State of the University address will take place in late January, just before he addresses Faculty Senate.

5:55pm--January 30th Faculty Senate Meeting Scott Street

- a. No guests currently scheduled.
 - Do we want to invite Susan Carkeek to discuss HR Redesign?
 - Do we want to spend some time in committees?
- b. Roundtable Topic (Symposium on Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech?)

Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Brian Daugherty.