



VCU

Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Leadership Meeting Minutes — March 20, 2018

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

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

Attendance: Holly Alford, Kristy Artello, Ashley Brewer, Brian Daugherty, 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 February 20th meeting

Brian Daugherty

4:10pm--Faculty Senate Symposium Update

Scott Street & Jose Alcaine

- Discussion topics: Street announced that committee members and others from the senate will most likely be invited to have dinner with the speakers and guests. Street also asked senators to volunteers to help set up for, and monitor, the symposium. Alcaine added that the committee is now working on decorations, table linens, and name tags. The symposium is now on the VCU calendar of events, and news will be shared via VCU's campus TV monitors. Just about 60 individuals are now registered.

4:20pm--Committee Updates

- a. Academic and Professional Status — Kristine Artello: Artello distributed a draft white paper related to student evaluations of faculty teaching, and will offer a presentation on this topic at the next senate meeting, to determine options for moving forward.
- b. Academic Support Services — Valerie Robnolt: This committee met recently and determined that one pressing issue relates technology in classrooms overseen by the School of the Arts. More broadly, Robnolt is seeking an inventory of lapses or needed items related to Academic Support Services for her committee's future work.
- c. Communication, Publicity, and Publications — Ashley Brewer: Brewer is updating the senate website and related links. She is also helping to promote the upcoming symposium on academic freedom and free speech.
- d. Credentials and Rules — Joan Pellegrini: Pellegrini announced that approval for the bylaws revision has been mailed out, and Street announced that most of the votes thus far have been for approval. This vote closes on April 2. Pellegrini is now working mostly on the rules of Faculty Senate.
- e. Diversity and Inclusion — Mary Secret: Secret reported this committee has been waiting for the hiring of the VP of Inclusive Excellence, which was just announced.
- f. Economic Status, Budget, and Planning — Brian Daugherty: Daugherty explained that at its last meeting, the New Budget Model Steering Committee discussed a proposed VCU tuition hike to potentially be adopted in May. Daugherty also announced that the Economic Status, Budget, and Planning committee met recently and is proposing two options for presentations to the full senate this coming spring:

(1) having a presentation relating the New Budget Model to faculty affairs specifically, or (2) bring representatives from VCU's Optional Retirement Plan retirement system to speak to faculty about retirement planning, investments, and so on. It was decided that the first option will most likely take place at the May 1 meeting, and that the second option should be tentatively scheduled for the fall semester.

- g. Alumni and Community Relations — José Alcaine: Alcaine reminded senators that April is alumni month at VCU, and he will send out relevant information shortly about a variety of events. Alcaine also indicated that his committee will be working more on the community relations aspect of its mandate in the near future.

5:45pm--Faculty Senate President's Report

Scott Street

- a. VP for Inclusive Excellence (Aashir Nasim): Nasim will begin this position on April 1.
- b. Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs search continues: This search is continuing with the hope that someone will be in the position this summer. There is no word yet of an interim appointment to this role.
- c. Inclusive Governance Task Force: Street discussed efforts to ascertain how the Human Resources redesign will impact inclusive governance at VCU. Street noted that the proposed changes will not impact Faculty Senate.
- d. University Council Bylaws Revision Committee (survey): Street announced that President Rao sent out this survey today, in light of discussions about revising the UC bylaws. Pellegrini serves on this task force, along with Street, and they asked senators to complete the survey.
- e. Board of Visitors Meeting (March 22nd): Street and Alford will attend this meeting.
- f. Quest 2025, Together We Transform: Street reminded senators of two town halls related to VCU's new strategic plan, and encouraged senators to attend.
 - i. March 26, 2:30 – 4:00 PM in Academic Learning Commons Room 2100
 - ii. March 29, 9:00 – 10:30 AM in Cabaniss Hall (Nursing) Room 1009
- g. Provost's Meeting (March 29th): Street and Alford are meeting with the Provost on this day, and he asked senators to send him any items that need to be addressed.
- h. Candidates for Assistant Vice Provost for Relevant Experiential and Applied Learning: The Provost's Office sent out an email regarding this search today; they are seeking faculty members who are willing to meet with finalists for this position this spring.
- i. Strengthening Virginia Transfer Outcomes Institute: will take place on April 2–3 near Virginia Center Commons, and VCU will send Gail Hackett, Sybil Halloran, Maggi Tolan, Scott Street, and Holly Alford.

6:15pm--April 3rd Faculty Senate Meeting

Scott Street

- a. Faculty Senate Officer Elections will take place; Alford will lead this.
- b. Task Force on History and Commemoration: Brian Shaw will speak about this VCU task force which is examining sites and symbols related to campus.
- c. Academic and Professional Status Report presentation will be an agenda item.
- d. Roundtable Topic (will be either Shaw's Task Force presentation or APS presentation)

Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Brian Daugherty.