



VCU

Faculty Senate

MINUTES

Faculty Senate Meeting – January 31, 2023

4:00 – 6:00 PM

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

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

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

Procedural Items:

Call to order, Welcome and Celebrations

(4:00 - 3 minutes)

Valerie Robnolt, President

Minutes from meeting on November 29, 2022

(4:03 - 2 minutes)

Gaynell Sherrod, Recording Secretary – Review the minutes

Approve by affirmation – change the minute format

Attendance – 70+

Shared Governance

Provost's Report

(4:05 - 25 minutes)

Fotis Sotiropoulos, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

With Karol Kain Gray and David Allen

- Provost

- Please, refer to the report that I sent earlier today
- We have challenges, yet have made many accomplishments
- We are one of the top 50 of the R1 public institutions
- Provost starting a series of meetings with different schools and colleges – town hall format
- Want to engage with faculty with several key points
- It's time to activate/implement the vision
- Announced the accomplishments of faculty
- We will welcome new faculty and admin
- Announced new postings of VCU faculty/deans moving into leadership positions at other institutions.
- Announced new admin searches
- We are looking at revisions of the P&T policies
- Grow VCU online offerings
- Artificial intelligence discussion – it was well attended
 - How we teach and what we teach

- Valerie –

- Where do we find info for the feedback on the Hybrid University?
- Provost, why is so important to change the wording of the P&T policies around External Reviewer?
 - Why are these changes urgent?
 - Provost –

- I noticed that there is a very uneven standard amongst proposals that I had to review. I want us to have a clear process and standards for the external and internal review processes for an R1 institutions
- These new policies will be in place for new faculty moving forward
- I must be mindful of the quality of the process.

Faculty Senators – responded with questions about the urgency of implementing the new policy, and the faculty overall input and decisions.

- How might this change impact Term Faculty?
 - o There will be no difference in the process.
 - o Is the decision data driven?

Provost – Yes, esp. R1 institutions

- There are areas and fields where there are individuals top in the areas but not at a R1 institution. What happens then?

Provost – This is a great point and should be considered/vetted by the Dean.

Valerie – I will go on record to say that I don’t agree with this change, but the Provost has the authority to move this forward.

Valerie – I want to go on record to say that the P&T documents need to be reviewed overall.

[Faculty Senate Leadership Meeting w/Provost](#)

- Thank you, Provost, for this report and discussion.

Information

Budget Information/Update

(4:30 – 20 minutes)

Karol Kain Gray, Senior Vice President, and CFO (see presentation)

- We have a lot of questions about our budget this year.
- 2022 no budget cuts, probably due to the stimulus money.
- 2023 we will incur a significant budget cut
- We have a huge impact due to inflation
- We cut travel and staff professional development FY22 & FY23
- We’ve done well with state support over the last few years
- VCU is facing a \$51 million dollar gap to close the budget with no tuition increase FY2024
- VCU takes care of the Military waiver – but will ask the state to provide funding for this expense
- The state will not grant approving VCU’s tuition increase – which VCU needs to close its budget gap
- We are looking at a few deferrals to offset spending:
 - o Faculty salaries and advisors
 - o How are we going to execute the Quest 2028 plan?

David Allen, Assistant Vice President, Office of Budget, Analysis and Financial Planning

Gray – work with me on the information that I provide – I try to be transparent, and yet we must all be on the same page around the messaging and information so as not to compromise the work that the Budget office does.

- Valerie – Thank you Karol and David

Follow up information from David Allen on the military waiver received 3/1:

The Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program is established for the purpose of waiving tuition and mandatory fees at a public institution of higher education or Eastern Virginia Medical School for qualified survivors and dependents who have been admitted to such institution

Here is more information on the programs as well:

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/23.1-608/>

They also receive a stipend:

E.1. Out of this appropriation, \$7,680,000 the first year and \$7,680,000 the second year from the general fund is designated to support the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents program, § [23.1-608](#), Code of Virginia, to provide up to a \$2,200 annual stipend to offset the costs of room, board, books and supplies for qualified survivors and dependents of military service members.

<https://budget.lis.virginia.gov/item/2023/1/SB800/Introduced/1/142/>

Faculty Affairs Office, MCV Campus (4:50 – 10 minutes)

Joe DiPiro, Associate Vice President for Health Sciences, Faculty Affairs

- My role at MCV campus – but we do have a lot of crosstalk between the two campuses
 - o MCV - Review of P&T
 - o Review of emeritus appt
 - o Endowed positions
 - o Personnel issues
 - o Effective Communications with the Monroe Campus
 - o More support for faculty on MCV campus
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Faculty Senate Business

Faculty Senate Updates and Committee Reports (5:00 – 60 minutes)

Valerie Robnolt and Committee Chairs

- All reports and presentations shared in the meeting are on Faculty Senate website Canvas Module

Nominating Committee

Nancy Jallo, Past President, and Chair

- See presentation presented by Nancy Jallo on the role of the nominating committee
- This committee meet to review and discuss the slate for the Elected Officers and Campus Reps
- The committee meets between now and Feb to create the slate and present it to FS
- **The slate for the FS nominating committee is Mary, Ryan, Lyons, Nancy, Scott and ___**

Nancy, can we make a Motion to accept the slate for the Nominating Committee

Motion – Nora Alder – I make the motion.

2nd – Mark Crosthwaite – I second the motion.

The Motion Moves.

- On the website are the Standing rules for all elected officers and committees.

Credentials and Rules – Reapportionment for 2023-24

Scott Street (chair)

- (See the document)
- [Reapportionment 2023-24](#)
- VCU has 60 more faculty than last year
- Senators = 2 for every 80 faculty; if the unit hits 81 = 3 senators
- The elections will happen in the spring
- The corresponding secretary will contact the schools to solicit elected reps

Academic Programs and Research – GECC Update

Ryan Cales (chair)

- The committee met and voted to have the slides vetted by the units.

- Have all the information vetted in Feb and then by March the Gen ED committee will then vote on moving the courses forward.
- They also want to organize meetings with faculty.

Academic Support Services – Division for Academic Success – MCV Campus
Valerie Robnolt (chair)

Alumni and Community Relations
Gaynell Sherrod (chair)

Diversity and Inclusive Excellence
Laura Boomer (chair)

Economic Status, Budget, and Planning
Roxanne Spindle (chair)

Faculty Affairs – Statement on Support Faculty during Budget Restrictions Periods
Maria Teves (chair)

- See Statement on Budget Restriction Period (see document)
- Valerie – what’s going to be our process for this statement?
 - o Scott – yes, all senators share the statement with their schools/colleges to get feedback.
 - o Then the statement is disseminated through our website and so on.
- Valerie – Maria is going to create a google form link w/survey to be sent to senators to share with their units and then get feedback for Maria to share with her committee for changes.

Governance
Chris Cynn (co-chair)
Jesse Goldstein (co-chair)

- Not much done recently.

State Legislative and Statewide Relations
Carmen Rodriquez (co-chair)
Pat Cummins (co-chair)

Student Affairs
Chris Saladino (chair)

VCU Health Systems Relations
Mark Crosthwaite (chair)

Website and Social Media
Ashley Brewer (chair)

MCV/MPC Representatives
Andrew Barnes & L. Harold Barnwell - MCV Campus Co-Reps
Liz Canfield - Monroe Park Campus Rep

Adjournment

(6:00)

Next Meetings:

- February 7, 2023, 4:00-6:00 p.m., Commonwealth Ballroom in the Student Commons – Faculty Senate hosts President Rao’s meeting with hall faculty (NOTE: Senators are encouraged to come in person but there will be a Zoom option)
- February 28, 2023, 4:00-6:00 p.m., Zoom