Procedural Items:
Call to order, Welcome 4:00-4:02
Valerie Robnolt, President

VR – Convening the meeting at 4:04 pm
Welcome everyone. Let’s review and approve the minutes from the March 15th leadership meeting.

Minutes from March 15, 2022 4:02-4:05
Gaynell Sherrod, Recording Secretary
Minutes approved by consensus.

Shared Governance 4:05-4:20
Administrators Visiting Faculty Senate Meetings – Discussion about the role of Faculty Senate
Valerie Robnolt and All
- Trying to figure a way to organize FS meetings that allow time for equitable representation for both faculty representatives and administrators.
- Comments:
  - Part of the problem is that the culture of what is expected from administrators and the over production and showing of presentations that take a lot of the time and does not allow for FS input.
  - I think we’re in a good place and being productive. Let’s be strategic about the decision-making process.
  - We can be pro-active and take the reins of the admin presentations, a small group of FS decide the Q&A
  - Sometimes FS input is ignored
  - Two issues, 1) everyone is fatigued and 2) I’m not sure that senators are aware of the function of Faculty Senate.
  - It was an interesting idea to do a “flipped” meeting and have admin submit a video of their presentation and submit for FS review prior to the meeting to prepare Q&A
  - I think the Provost is more mindful of our time than previous leadership – the question is how do we get other administrators to do the same?
  - Does the administrators know the type of format we prefer for them to present?
  - VR, yes, I make sure to communicate the format and time frames for admin presentations.
  - We can do a trial run for the model that Jesse presented in the next meeting. For example, for the “branding” presentation.
  - Our time as FS is very valuable and we don’t have many opportunities to talk about important issues and organize around the concerns.
- The FS table discussions were very successful when the meetings were in-person.
- What do we want to present to the administration to “do” based on the findings from the executive summary?
- VR – 1) Have the Provost present only the “high points” from his reports, 2) have break-out room discussions based on the findings from the executive summary, and 3) Ask FS what suggestions do they have about the shared governance document 4) We should mix up the FS reps in the break-out groups
- How do we define “shared governance”? How do know when we “have’ it? What are we looking for in a “shared governance” practice?
- VR – shared a link to the VCU Shared Governance Statement
- **VR - May 3rd meeting – we’ll have break out rooms and randomly assign participants, we’ll excuse admin at that time – and remind them it’s for senators and alternates for committee work.**

**Faculty Senate Committee Business/Goals**

4:20-5:00

**Diversity and Inclusive Excellence**
Sarah Jane Brubaker (chair), Liz Canfield (interim chair)
Resolution: Defending Academic Freedom to Lead Discussions About Racial, Class and Gender Justice – Feedback from University Council, Final Revision and Vote
- VR – The resolution statement was reviewed by Aashir Nasim and I’m hoping this will be the final revisions.
- **REVISED Paragraph:**

  **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Faculty Senate calls upon President Michael Rao and Provost Fotis Sotiropoulos to affirm that they reject any attempts by bodies external to the faculty to restrict or dictate university curriculum on any matter, including matters related to racial and social justice, and will stand firm against encroachment on faculty authority by the legislature or non-faculty entities. VCU senior administrators and faculty to uphold the AAU&P’s 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure and to advance these principles in a manner that preserves the integrity of our curriculum; subject matter and methods of instruction; research, scholarship, and practice; and faculty status.

- VR – this statement was brought up in the School of Ed’s Faculty Organization group.

**VCU Health Systems Relations**
Mark Crosthwaite (chair)
- Nothing new to report. And nothing regarding the salary increases.
- How and who should I invite to our meeting to discuss what happened last year regarding the salary increase? Invite the leadership and mention that “this could be an issue of faculty retention.”
- Try to get the questions to Dr. Kellerman in advance.

**Faculty Affairs** - faculty evaluations and appeal process
Maria Teves (chair)
- There are many people upset about the meeting times and not having time to meet adequately
- About the salary increase for VCU Health – this time they want to base the increase on merit because they do not have the budget to support an “equal across the board” increase.
- VR – what Art Kellerman – suggest that he come to meetings because he oversees academically a large section of units.
- Search for Senior Vice President for Faculty Affairs – historically, FS Leadership has met with admin leadership candidates. Such a meeting with FS Executive committee vs FS Leadership should include an invite to the final presentations,

- **VR - Should FS Leadership request to be invited to participate in the searches of admin leadership positions?**

  - I will send an email to Tim Davey, Fotis Sotiropoulos and Joe DiPiro about this issue of failing to invite FS Leadership to admin search meetings.

  - VR – how do we collaborate with admin around the issues and concerns that we are trying to move forward? The work requires organizational collaboration and engagement from both entities.

  VR – We will return to in-person FS meetings in the fall, and this will allow us to better manage the organization and flow of the meetings.

**Governance**-shared governance (school/unit)-what are other schools doing
Kristy Artello (co-chair)
Oliver Karam (co-chair)
  - I want to review the final before I send it out.
  - Do we want to put this on FS Letterhead?
  - Yes, that’s a good idea.
  - VR – can you share this document with FS at our peer institutions?

**Academic Programs and Research** - course evaluations
Ryan Cales (chair)
  - Talking to the CTLE
  - Curriculum review

**Academic Support Services**-
Valerie Robnolt (chair)

**Alumni and Community Relations**
Gaynell Sherrod (chair)
  - Meeting with new VCUArts Executive Director of Development, Sarah Hendricks to work with the VCU Alumni office for developing a plan to increase SOTA and university-wide alumni donors and engagement.

**Website and Social Media**
Ashley Brewer (chair)
  - Working through our social media platforms.

**Credentials and Rules**
Scott Street (chair)

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

**Student Affairs**
Chris Saladino (chair)

**Economic Status, Budget, and Planning**
Roxanne Spindle (chair)
MCV/MPC Representatives
Mark Crosthwaite MCV Campus Rep
Jesse Goldstein Monroe Park Campus Rep - Land Acknowledgement Task Force
  - The president put a thumbs up for development of the task force

Faculty Senate President’s Report/Issues 5:00-5:40
University Committees Update/Issues
  Outside Consultant for Review of Administrative Structure and Salaries
  Role of FS Leadership in Search Process for Administrative Positions – Dean and Higher
  Unit and Department Bylaws and Other School/College Issues
  Annual evaluations
  Dean and Other Admin Evaluations across Units (next steps about goal)
  Online Strategy Task Force and Steering Committee (Valerie Robnolt, Kristy Artello)
  Academic Success Council
  Any other university committee reports?

Faculty Senate Agenda (May 3, 2022) 4:40-6:00
Provost Office Report?
Grant Heston – VCU Brand Update and Feedback
Committee Updates
Back to In Person Meetings for 2022-23

Leadership Appreciation Happy Hour – Tuesday, May 17 at 4:30 or another time before contracts end?

VR – I will send out a google poll for a vote on the appreciation happy hour celebration for either May 12 or May 17?
  - Faculty Senate Leadership Retreat scheduled for August 16
  - Invite President Rao to the September Faculty Senate Meeting

VR – Adjourned the meeting at 6:10 pm
Adjournment 6:00

Next Leadership Meeting: August 16, 2:00-6:00, Student Commons, Alumni Association Board Room – President Rao will visit at 3:00 – Do we want him to come to a Faculty Senate Meeting in the Fall?

Next FS Meeting: May 3, 2022 4-6pm Zoom