



# VCU

## Faculty Senate

### Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda - February 2, 2021

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 [ecarpenter2@vcu.edu](mailto:ecarpenter2@vcu.edu) with questions or corrections.

#### **Procedural Items:**

Call to order, Welcome  
Nancy Jallo, President **4:00-4:02**

December 1, 2020 Minutes  
Everett Carpenter, Recording Secretary **4:02-4:05**

#### **Shared Governance**

Provost Office Report  
Dr. Gail Hackett **4:05-4:20**

- Setting up a faculty stress and coping task force headed by Gypsy Denzine to look at what can be done to further help faculty. Currently reviewing best practices from other universities and what they have done. Still looking for faculty involvement in the taskforce, soon to come out is a very brief open-ended survey. Welcome all ideas. Committee met for the first time Feb1, will meet again in a couple of weeks.
- If there are any questions, check out the COVID website for FAQs.
- Asked dean's for information and help for retention and recruitment
- Currently only down maybe 1.5% or a little more, but very good compared to others. This is good news because of keeping kids in school so they have a greater likelihood of finishing, but also in terms of our budget. We probably won't be able to avoid more budget cuts, but may be something that can be absorbed centrally. This might hit schools which have had enrollment drops. The federal stimulus money is going to help.
- The search for the library dean position is not as diverse as we would have liked even though the applicant pool was very diverse.
- We don't have the hiring freeze any longer. But until we are clear about enrollment and a firm picture of the budget, we are going to continue to be very careful about hiring. The VP level is still reviewing all requests in order to help make sure we can avoid cuts later.

#### **Diversity and Inclusion**

Process and Goals  
Sarah Jane Brubaker **4:20-4:25**  
Chair, Diversity and Inclusive Excellence

- Diversity and inclusion committee selected two readings with the help of Kim Case of CTLE to frame some discussion in small groups.

Small group discussion

**4:25-4:55**

Reconvene

**4:55-5:00**

Facilitated Discussion

**5:00-5:30**

Facilitator: Dr. Holly Alford

- More to come from the small group discussion later

## **Shared Governance**

University Promotion and Tenure Task Force

**5:30-6:00**

Update and discussion

Drs. Jill Gordon and Curtis Sessler, Task Force Co-Chairs

- Provided presentation to senate-- Who's on the taskforce, Charge of the taskforce, and what we have done
- Asked to focus on development of guidance for promotion to full professor via teaching, focus on both policy and procedural items
- Subcommittees-teaching, research, service, and policy. Provost.vcu.edu/faculty/faculty-resources/taskforce has a link to the make-up of the committees and has a link for comments to the committee.
- Just got the results at end of January of the faculty survey. Almost 600 responses over 20% response rate.
- Timeline would like the draft recommendations by end of spring semester
- Will the task force try and create a rubric for the university as a whole? Lots of differences across schools and colleges, as well as within colleges between departments. We are trying to be mindful of those differences. Will be talking with subcommittees more about this in coming meetings.
- Looking for feedback in identifying challenges and how to handle differences between units across campus. Especially are there any "hot button" issues which we need to take into account.

## **Adjournment**

**6:00**

**Next Meeting:** March 2, 2021 4-6pm Zoom

## **Subcommittee reports:**

Written Faculty Senate Updates/Announcements (2-2-21)

- Faculty Senators Requested: Dr. Denzine, Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, is requesting 2-3 faculty members to participate in a small group to look at the issue of faculty stress and coping during the pandemic. The Provost recognizes this is an issue for the faculty and has asked Dr.Denzine to quickly pull together some experts to look at this issue. Please let Nancy know if you are interested.
- Faculty are involved in several University searches: 1) The Provost search is on-going. The executive search team has been reaching out to sources and prospective candidates; 2) the search for the VCU Library Dean is moving forward- faculty leadership will be meeting with the candidates in the new few weeks – if you have particular questions for the candidates please forward to us so we can best represent all of us.
- The spring canvas training schedule is available: here is the link:

### [Spring Canvas Training Schedule](#)

- Information from Colleen Bishop, Director, Academic Technologies:  
In 2020, The Office of the Provost and VCU Technology Services worked cooperatively to identify a proctoring solution that could augment the current proctoring solution's capacity in order to meet the university's virtual education requirements; and to review alternatives that would better serve the needs of the university community. A remote proctoring solution committee was formed, which included five faculty members, and a representative from Academic Technologies, VCU Online, and the Campus Learning Center. The committee observed product demonstrations and reviewed information from select vendors about cost, functionality, technology requirements, privacy, accessibility, violation monitoring, reporting, and product support. After full consideration from all perspectives, the committee suggested that any new product be run on a trial basis in conjunction with the current product before a final decision is made. Running two products simultaneously allows faculty the opportunity to try the new product as it would be used, while also having a back-up option if the new product does not meet their needs. As a result of the committee's recommendations, a proposal was submitted for Examity and approved by both IT Governance and Procurement.

A faculty review questionnaire will be provided to assist faculty in sharing feedback during the Spring 2021 trial period (February 1 - May 21). This questionnaire will be available on the [Examity site](#) beginning February 1.

If the feedback from the faculty questionnaire is positive, and the solution is proven to be technologically sound and secure, the university will proceed with the purchase of Examity. As with other technology teaching services, the use of Examity or proctoring is optional and at the discretion of the faculty member and/or their program, School/College.

If the feedback is not positive, use of our existing solution ([Respondus](#)) will continue and licensing renewal will proceed. In addition, the [procuring process](#) will begin, for the purchase of a new proctoring solution. **Please join the vendor for a demo & training of this tool Tuesday, February 2 from 1-2pm <https://zoom.us/j/91070310729>.**

- Thank you all for your support of the general faculty meeting January 26 – special thanks to Scott Street who, as usual, did an outstanding job of setting up the meeting and providing the live stream. We had as many as 217 people on attendance on Zoom at one point (and an unknown number watching on live stream) making this the largest attendance for the Annual General Faculty Meeting for over 20 years! Personally, I thought the discussion included some substantive issues.
- Special thanks to Sarah Jane Brubaker and everyone who has contributed time, energy, wisdom, and materials to today's learning session. We really appreciate it!

## **New Faculty Technology Advisory Committee (FTAC)**

### **Purpose of the Committee**

The VCU Faculty Technology Advisory Committee (FTAC) provides advisory and communications channels among Technology Services, faculty from the schools and colleges, and Faculty Senate. The Committee advises VCU Technology Services in matters related to service design and implementation, programming, and promotion of technology at VCU. Specifically, the Committee is designed to:

- Advise and assist in the design and implementation of services affecting all faculty.
- Offer a faculty perspective on relevant Technology Services issues.
- Participate in projects or activities that promote VCU Technology Services among faculty.

## **Committee Membership**

FTAC will be comprised of a representative faculty member from each MCV and MPC school and college and from VCU Faculty Senate. VCU Technology Services seeks a diverse group of faculty who will represent the various needs and perspectives of the VCU faculty population. Ex officio members of the committee include Colleen Bishop, Director of Academic Technologies, Alex Henson, Chief Information Officer (CIO), Mandara Savage, Executive Director of VCU Online and ALT Lab, and Kim Case, Director of Faculty Success.

## **Meeting Schedule**

The Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) is scheduled to meet twice a semester, or as needed throughout the year, on the first Monday of September, November, February, and April.

Also attached reports from the Library advisory committee, charge for the new Faculty Technology Advisory Committee, and the latest update on bills before the general assembly this session.

## Resources:

### Faculty Senate Committees

#### Faculty Affairs

Maria Teves (chair)

#### Shared Governance

Neno Russell/Kristy Artello (co-chairs)

#### Academic Programs and Research

Susan Bodnar-Deren (chair)

#### Diversity and Inclusive Excellence

Sarah Jane Brubaker (chair)

#### Academic Support Services

Valerie Robnolt (chair)

#### Alumni and Community Relations

Gaynell Sherrod (chair)

#### Website and Social Media

Ashley Brewer (chair)

#### 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)

VCU Health Systems Relations  
Allison Gregory (co-chair)

Anti-racism Statement of the VCU Faculty Senate:

The VCU Faculty Senate recognizes that structural and systemic racism across our educational and social institutions affect the psychological, physical, and spiritual well-being of our entire VCU campus and broader community.

The VCU Faculty Senate affirms the powerful statement made by Dr. Aashir Nasim to the Board of Visitors recognizing the lived experiences and rights of those who call attention to historical and present-day abuses of power and privilege. We pledge to fully support and help to implement the university initiatives identified in his report that are intended to eliminate bias, discrimination, and racism across our campus. *We as VCU Faculty Senators commit to learning about, developing, and engaging in concrete anti-racist work at both individual and collective levels to support our students, faculty, and staff, and to promote real and lasting change.*

Statement of Dr. Nasim:

[https://news.vcu.edu/latest/key-issues/Remarks by Aashir Nasim PhD](https://news.vcu.edu/latest/key-issues/Remarks%20by%20Aashir%20Nasim%20PhD)

Provost Report: