



VCU

Faculty Senate

**University-wide General Faculty Meeting with President Rao
Bullet Points — February 12, 2019
Court End Ballroom, Larrick Center, 4:00 – 6:00 PM**

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

Welcome and Brief Updates (Scott Street)

- Faculty Senate is planning a symposium in the fall, on October 18, 2019, to coincide with reading day
- The topic of the symposium is to be decided but a possibility is shared governance

President's Update (Michael Rao)

- Hoped many faculty attended the State of the University address (<https://president.vcu.edu/bio/speeches/2019/state-of-the-university-address-transcript/>)
- Focusing on the undergraduate experience at VCU is very important
- Would like to increase the graduation rate to 80% and more than 7,000 graduates per year; this means a lot for shaping our society as many of our graduates, about 50%, stay in the local area
- Very proud of the accomplishments at VCU (records in external funding, CTSA grant, NCI funded cancer center, strides in patient care, improvements in the inpatient and outpatient experience, etc.)
- Challenges exist and VCU is trying to address (increasing faculty salaries, increasing financial aid, increasing endowed resources, etc.). Improving facilities is an ongoing challenge but crucial to address.
- Renovations and new buildings have come on-line in recent years but is aware of space needs especially when dealing with historic or aging buildings on campus. This is a recurring concern.
- Regarding curriculum and student experience, would like to see higher education be a development opportunity for all students, to find their true intellect; no one can miss out on a rich experience because of background and everyone needs to be included; would like to focus on more engagement opportunities to connect what we are teaching with the real world
- Views part of his work as agent to bring people together and believes universities through their work can make a difference; is concerned and invested in promoting diversity and inclusion
- Would like to do more in the way of providing financial aid to students; development activities can be used to gain some ground in these efforts