VCU's Philosophy on Share Governance states:

"We value transparency in university and unit decisions such that the various constituencies of the university are aware of how decisions are made and the rationale for those decisions, which will ensure the university remains mission-focused." For this transparency to work, please share information with your constituents. The full statement is located at https://president.vcu.edu/media/president/assets/pdfs/Univ_Council_Philosophy_of_Shared_Governance_Approved_May_4_2017.pdf.

Faculty Senate

Connecting faculty to VCU administration and to each other

The purpose of the Faculty Senate shall be the furtherance and dissemination of knowledge and professional skills through teaching, study, research, creativity, exhibition, performance, and provision of community service. An additional objective will be to help insure through investigation, examination, comment and recommendation that the educational goal of the University is being realized by the policies and procedures employed in the University.

Faculty Senate Meeting DRAFT Bullet Points — March 3rd, 2020
Larrick Center, 4:00 – 6:00 PM

For complete minutes and related files, see: http://www.facultysenate.vcu.edu/
Please email Everett Carpenter (ecarpenter2@vcu.edu) questions or corrections.

Call to order by President Nancy Jallo, 4:02PM
Meeting bullets are accepted
Nomination committee report (Scott Street)
- It is time for elections again. The current executive leadership has agreed to stay on for next year, but as always feel free to nominate any willing participants.
- still need self-nomination for Monroe Park and Medical Campus Representatives
- Elections at next meeting
- Notice will go out to Schools and colleges about their elections.

Provost's report (Deborah Noble-Triplett)
- Updates given on the various executive searches
- Described the creation of an intercampus team to discuss potential reaction to coronavirus disruptions. Looking for faculty to help with the longer-term planning. See email that was sent from president's office earlier this week to all faculty. Link to the letter :
  https://orange.hosting.lsoft.com/list/ov8ia944/200302BL/9szbu5nqqlm3.vib?a0=16687

Tomikia LeGrande (Vice Provost for Strategic Enrollment Management)
- Gave a presentation on the three of the current initiatives of her office
- Tuition and fee Simplification

- o New scholarship portal. First comprehensive scholarship portal
  - o Working to improve net price calculator goal is to provide a more constant and predictable bill for the student. This will result in the consolidation of most course fees into a larger programmatic fee and creation of more general core curriculum fees. Some concern here about how this money will continue to get allocated to individual units. Especially when it comes to dual majors. But each unit administrators have been working hard to ensure this is revenue neutral.
- Course Scheduling redesign
  - o Optimize course offering, faculty resources, and space so students can graduate on time and eventually aiming for longer term multi-year scheduling
  - o Departmental space will be moving to a priority scheduling rather than the current reserved space. Care was taken to consider programmatic and accreditation considerations in room scheduling.
  - o Collecting information on what makes a good classroom space for pedagogical reasons
  - o Schools and Departments will need to examine what are course enrollment minimums
  - o Will be shifting from a primary core hours being 10-12 Monday-Thursday to more of a 9-3 hours.
- Course enrollment Management
  - o Better utilization of student information systems we have to ease burden on scheduling
  - o RAM-Attend pilot (WiFi attendance tracking program) is cancelled
  - o Planning several listening tours to identify pain points etc regarding student success starting in late March

Several emails were sent out this month regarding topics like State of Black Faculty at VCU, (link : (https://inclusive.vcu.edu/black-faculty-report/)) Nomination Calls for Presidential Awards for Community Multicultural Enrichment, Faculty to be representatives on Facility Planning Steering Committee. Please remind your constituents that for our voice to be heard we need volunteers when the opportunity to be on these committees come up.

Faculty Open Forum Discussion on Shared Governance

Approved May 2017: VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY - UNIVERSITY COUNCIL PHILOSOPHY OF SHARED GOVERNANCE

We believe that shared governance aligns the board, administration and faculty in common directions for decision-making regarding institutional direction and should be grounded in commitment to educational quality and results.

We value and appreciate the distinct, but mutually-supportive responsibilities distributed among the board, administration, faculty, staff, and students of the university. We believe in

collaboration that seeks and represents the voice of all constituencies in decisions and matters that impact those constituencies—recognizing that shared governance is neither consensus nor democratic governance.

We value transparency in university and unit decisions such that the various constituencies of the university are aware of how decisions are made and the rationale for those decisions, which will ensure the university remains mission-focused. Groups and individuals should have timely and easy access to information about the decisions for which they are responsible and about decisions that impact them. Such transparency also means that decision-making groups and individuals are accountable for the decisions they make and for involving the appropriate constituencies in those decisions.

- Issues were presented involving faculty annual evaluations with the example given of current issues in the School of Education. These involved the creation of annual scholarship evaluation rubrics which were created by administration ignoring the previous work from the faculty. **The Provost has stated that the expectation is that deans will get input on issues regarding faculty on matters which directly impact faculty and curriculum.**
- Issues regarding the term faculty taskforce were brought up where there is a complete lack of transparency involving the committee. This situation also seems to be ignoring previous work done in units on the matter of term faculty pay, promotion, workload, etc.
- There had been considerable work at university council over the years to publish guidelines for unit by-laws and structure of shared governance. Within this framework, there should be more transparency and potentially even include wider distribution of annual review criteria. Faculty Affairs subcommittee of FS is working to gather information across campus on annual reviews criteria and developing guidelines for units to follow when creating rubrics
- There was some discussion that to improve transparency and better support for shared governance, when faculty recommendations are over-ruled by dean's office, there should be some follow-up discussion explaining why the recommendations were ignored.
- There needs to be greater communication when these issues arise. Faculty need to tell their senators so that the antidotal experiences can be collected, and recommendations/action plans can be created. **Subcommittee on Shared Governance of FS will be working on a new google form to help improve communication of these issues so we can improve communication.**
- Faculty should have discrete governance over certain areas such as P&T and curriculum keeping in mind the philosophy of Shared Governance.
- But there seems to be a breakdown in messages given to faculty which make it hard for us to participate effectively. Example was given of GenEd30 and the various inconsistent messages coming from the provost's office. The burden of developing a clear message should not be on the faculty. We need a clear message describing the issues and parameters in order to be active members of shared governance. More details coming out later about the progress of GenEd30. The bullet/notes from the meetings this year are attached.

- We have asked for, and still need a more nuanced and detailed presentation on student success data in order to better provide input.
- Some history of FS was presented. Historically FS was a stronger body but due to previous administrations, the voice of FS was muted, and the power was shifted to the more shared body of University Council. In order to regain some of this lost voice, it was suggested that we as senators need to become more active bringing up issues on the floor of the senate to better participate in shared governance.
- The issue was raised that maybe instead of having the administrators come and take up time with presentations that don't provide clear information needed for greater faculty involvement, we still get the presentations, but we start taking a more proactive role in governance. Bringing issues to the floor for discussion, asking for specific information, and making specific recommendations. **But we also need to make sure our constituents are aware of and take full advantage of public comment periods when they are available.** We also need to remember, if we are going to advocate for a stronger voice in shared governance, we need to step up and volunteer to be representatives on the administration taskforces and committees. **Shared governance subcommittee has been working on an inventory of administration committee's make-up and will be sending out a survey to all senators and faculty members on these committees this month asking for more information regarding their roles on those committees.**
- Other examples have been presented to leadership that time did not allow for discussion. One example was in the College of Engineering where the dean's office has begun requiring dean's approval on forms going to the global education office regarding reduced course load for international students. This issue has been raised with the Provost by the AAUP chapter. The chapter has requested that her office direct GEO to create a more university wide comprehensive plan regarding these issues and to prevent confusion with students and faculty in the meantime ask units to not create individual policies.
- Kim Case, from the Center for teaching and learning excellence, has been working on a conceptual framework to help communicate out to faculty about the work they are doing. The attached DRAFT is an infographic designed to do just that. Keep in mind, this graphic is about themes and intentionally does not address format for delivery or any specific programs/initiatives. She is looking for feedback, so please email your senator or the recording secretary if you have any questions/comments.
- Charles Klink, Senior Vice Provost, Division of Student affairs has some guidance on making religious accommodations for this coming fall. See the attached document.

Adjournment
Next Meeting:
Tuesday, March 31, 2020 — 4:00-6:00 PM in the Monroe Park, University Student Commons