



VCU

Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda – September 1, 2020

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 with questions or corrections.

Pre-Meeting Orientation for New Senators and Alternate Senators 3pm-3:45pm– Nancy Jallo, Valerie Robnolt, Scott Street, Maria Rivera, Everett Carpenter

Procedural Items:

Call to order, Welcome

Nancy Jallo, President

(3 minutes)

Minutes from meeting May 5, 2020

Everett Carpenter, Recording Secretary

(2 minutes)

Shared Governance

1. Return to Campus

Provost Office Report

Gail Hackett, Provost for Academic Affairs

Member, Public Health Response Team

(30 minutes)

2. Spring Calendar

Deborah Noble-Triplet, Office of Provost

(10 minutes)

3. University Committees

Academic Continuity (Valerie Robnolt)

REAL (Everett Carpenter and Pat Cummins)

VCU Strategic Research Priorities Planning (SRPP)

(Susan Bodnar-Deren and Nancy Jallo)

University Budget Advisory Committee (Scott Street)

(15 minutes)

4. 2020-2021 Faculty Senate Representatives to University Council

Nancy Jallo, President

1. Nancy Jallo (Faculty Senate President)

2. Valerie Robnolt (Faculty Senate Vice-President)

3. Scott Street (Faculty Senate Past-President)

4. Everett Carpenter

* Alternate: Patricia Cummins

(5 minutes)

Information

1. "Call Me By Name" (5 minutes)
Archana Pathakc
Office of Institutional Equity, Effectiveness and Success

2. Housing COVID-19 Students
Tom Briggs
Safety & Risk Management (10 minutes)

Faculty Senate Items:

Faculty Senate President's Report (10 minutes)
Nancy Jallo, President Faculty Senate
Faculty Senate Work
Statements from Faculty Senate
FS Leadership Retreat Update

Faculty Senate Committees (30 minutes)
Faculty Affairs
Maria Teves (chair)

Shared Governance
Neno Russell (chair/co-chair)

Academic Programs and Research
Susan Bodnar-Deren (chair)

Academic Support Services
Valerie Robnolt (chair)

Diversity and Inclusive Excellence:
Open (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)

Vamsi Yadavalli (co-chair)

Committee Members Sign-Up

Valerie Robnolt

Adjournment

Next Meeting: September 29, 2020 4-6pm Zoom

Summer Activities:
Faculty Senate
2020 Snapshot Summer Activities

June-on-going 2020: COVID-19 Faculty/Staff Advisory Committee: There are 9 Faculty Senators who are on this committee facilitated by Dr. Hackett (Provost) and Dr. Weiss (Vice President for Administration)

July 2020: Anti-Racism Statement: Sub-committee of Faculty Senate met over the summer to discuss, read, learn and work tirelessly to draft, edit, and re-edit a statement which was reviewed by Faculty Senate Leadership, re-edited, reviewed by our colleagues Drs. Christopher Brooks and Aashir Nasim and then back to the original committee for final edit. The Faculty Senate voted to adopt the statement which was then posted on the FS web-site, Faculty Senators were asked to share the statement with their units/schools, and is incorporated into one of the 2020-2021 Faculty Senate Goals.

July 2020-ongoing: VCU Committee on Commemorations and Memorials: This committee reviewed documents and reports of commemorations and memorials on confederate commemoration and put forth recommendations. Those recommendations were available for public comment and the link was provided for all Faculty Senators to provide input. Recommendations will be forwarded to Dr. Rao.

June 2020-ongoing: Strategic Research Priority Plan (SRPP) committees: Faculty Senate representatives participate several of these sub-committees focused on implementation of the Strategic Research Plan. There are multiple sub-committees focusing on: Equity and Justice, Human Experience, Health, and Energy and Environments. Each committee is discussing action plans for implementation of the various initiatives for the research plan.

June 2020-ongoing: Return to Research Committee: Faculty Senate representative participates in this committee, which addresses concerns, issues and strategies facing the research enterprise during COVID-19 and return to campus.

June 2020-ongoing: VCU Board of Visitors Meeting: Faculty Senate is represented by the FS Past President and the President as an alternate. FS report is shared at each meeting with discussion.

June 2020-ongoing: Faculty Senate Past President, President, and Vice-President meet monthly with Dr. Hackett (Provost) for discussion of issues.

New faculty orientation at 3:00

Welcome (all) 5 minutes

*President: Nancy Jallo

*Vice President: Val Robnolt

*Corresponding Secretary: Maria Rivera

*Recording Secretary: Everett Carpenter

*Past FS President: Scott Street

HI! I am Nancy Jallo, faculty in the school of nursing, have been with FS for about 8 years and have served as an FS alternate, faculty senator, MCV campus co-rep, FS VP and now President.

Purpose of Faculty Senate (NJ) 5 minutes

Purpose of the Faculty Senate is to represent the faculty
On our web site it states:

Purpose: 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.

What does that mean? – Our FS By-laws provides more in-depth info:

- (The Faculty Senate represents the Faculty) to help create, maintain and protect a University environment conducive to growth of scholarship, creativity, learning, teaching, research, service and respect for human dignity and rights ;
- We review and comment on proposed policies, programs and other matters that are proposed by the administration, school faculties, student organization and individual members.
- We develop and propose academic or educational policies which affect the university, the faculty, or students;
- We express opinions on University affairs as the Faculty Senate deems appropriate and necessary.

So in other words, we identify, articulate, and advocate for areas of interest to faculty, and we do this through the involvement of the faculty, Administration, and Board of Visitors, (and General Assembly.)

Accomplishments (Scott) 5 minutes

Role of Faculty Senator (Valerie) 5 minutes

Role of the Faculty Senator:

1. Recognize as a FS you have a voice to help create, maintain and protect a University environment conducive to growth of scholarship, creativity, learning, teaching, research, service and respect for human dignity and rights
2. Represent your unit/school by attending meetings, bringing issues forward, providing updates to your school/unit, providing them with information that is important to faculty life...it is very difficult for us to send out information to all the faculty..another words, using a listserve with all the VCU faculty included...thus, we really count on you the senators to send out the info/requests to your unit/school. The faculty symposium info is a great example.
3. Serve a 3 year term as an elected senator; elected alternate senators serve 1 year. Alternate senators are always welcome to attend any meeting and if all the elected senators are present, the alternate senators have rights of discussion in FS but not voting.
4. When an elected senator is unable to attend a meeting, it is that person's responsibility to contact the alternate senate to attend the meeting. The alternate senator signs in on the FS attendance sheet and then designates who are they are replacing. When an alternate is

serving as the substitute, the alternate senator has voting rights.

5. Sign up for a committee – the real work of the senate is done within the committees and we ask each Faculty Senator to sign up for one committee..at today’s meeting the chairs/co-chairs will introduce themselves and the committees...Alternates are welcome to join...you don’t have to but are more than welcomed.

Communication (Everett)

1. Email...we use the Faculty senate list serve to send out information, agenda etc.
2. Web-site – meeting dates/locations, events, helpful links
3. Use your unit list/serve, method for communication – if you have any pushback we will be delighted to offer our support to your conversation with your dean
5 minutes

Goals for the Year (Maria) 10 minutes

- 2020-2021 FS Goals
Faculty Senate Leadership (5 elected officers and the chair/co-chairs of our 12 sub-committees) met to plan the FS2020 FS goals.
* Diversity/Inclusion Plans – to operationalize the last sentence of our statement “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”. We included Kim Case and plan to collaborate with the CTLE for learning activities and to link with others across the campus. We are excited about the concept of faculty learning communities – plans are in the beginning phase – we welcome any and all ideas and connections to others as well...

* Faculty Shared Governance – this remains to be a main goal for 2020-2021- to demonstrate FS has a voice and input into the decision making – not necessarily a vote -but evidence that we are involved in the development of critical policy decisions – to harness our voice – more about this in a minute

* Course/Faculty Evaluation: Course evaluations are part of our annual evaluation and as we reported from the work of the Faculty Affairs committee these differ across units. Shared Governance chaired by Kristy Artello developed a white paper on evaluation and shared with the Provost office. No surprise there is faculty concern about tenure/promotion....we recognize the university has reassured faculty that the results of COVID-19 will be taken into account for promotion/tenure...we appreciate that...but what is guidance going to be? What will be “taken into account”? and who will be deciding this? Is there a committee or maybe APT committee? Do they need to be “given the charge”?

Full Meeting called to order at 4:00 - 78 participants on the zoom link

Your leadership:

President - Nancy Jallo
VP = Valerie Robnolt
Record Sec= Everett Carpenter
Corresp Sec= Maria Riveria
MCV = Mark Crosthwaite

MPC = Jesse Goldstein

Meeting Minutes from May are approved

Provost report Gail Hackett return to campus

Many resources over the summer to help faculty develop online courses. Continually monitoring, with a public health response team, heads of the student health office, but also faculty from medical school, as well as individuals incident command team.

Our student body is different than others, it is very diverse, high number low income students, first gen students, and minority students. This groups was the one that last spring had the most difficulty with the spring online courses. Ran surveys where student felt they could not return with personal instruction. Know from literature, from these groups, if they don't return, high risk for completely dropping out. So we need a personal presence for those students.

46% of the courses in person, only 17% of students in those courses. Tried to make allowances for faculty who wanted to be online.

Introduce Tom Briggs - Risk Management - Status of testing. Two type of testing, asymptomatic testing, opt in pool trying to get 2% of population per month, 5% of residential students, not opt in for them. Symptomatic testing at old Ramsbike and Nelson clinic through referral by student health free of charge. Are seeing an increase in residential positive rates. Looking to add popup testing to test residential students. Also needed to open due to experiential learning. Honor's College, only started with 54 beds for isolated student. Health system already set up honors college for overflow, so we are using it for isolation. number of tests is too small need a full month to get good date. Two dorms have large numbers coming back. Symptomatic testing is 15% positive rate. 4400 students on campus. One issue with a spike in cases was due to student behavior, but the other main spike is not attributed by student behavior. Dashboard is a living document and will continue to improvement. No hard threshold. There is low change for dropping back to phase 1 closure. There are a number of factors, prevalence rate compared to overall region, what is isolation capacity, what is hospital is available. If we go to phase 3, then we still have community placements, and clinical students. So the essential courses will continue. Maybe a partial closure, rather than a full closure. Working with university relations in order to change message to students to help them be better partners in prevention and more cooperative. HVAC over the summer were all checked to make sure that they would be functioning properly.

Noble Triplett - Spring calendar

Calendar Options, recommendation from calendar committee. Regular start spring break 1 week earlier, Option 1, January 19. Option two delay start Jan 25 no spring break, SACCS requires a 30 week calendar. Same modalities offered. Also start online. Looking for input on opinions. Removing spring break might be problematic because of pace of teaching or for experiential learning/volunteering partnerships. Exceptions for in person if we start online would be clinical or maybe other courses. January Intersession, still offered, also another option for intersession so instead of 2 weeks, now a 3 week option. Down by 600 freshmen, most the vulnerable students. Word document coming

Overview of Committees --

Budget committee
REAL

Faculty Senate Representatives for University Council: Everett Carpenter with Pat Cummins as Alternative. President, Vice President, and Past-President also are on UC.

Information Items:

Call me by name-- Archana Pathak Presentation Adding pronoun preference in e-services. It will add name of use, pronoun, and gender/gender identity. Myname.vcu.edu

President Report:

Leadership retreat - Diversity and Inclusion Plan, Statement on website
(<https://faculty senate.vcu.edu/news/anti-racism/>)

FS Leadership Retreat Update

- 1) 2020-2021 FS Goals

Faculty Senate Leadership (5 elected officers and the chair/co-chairs of our 12 sub-committees) met to plan the FS2020 FS goals.

* Diversity/Inclusion Plans – to operationalize the last sentence of our statement “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”. We included Kim Case and plan to collaborate with the CTLE for learning activities and to link with others across the campus. We are excited about the concept of faculty learning communities – plans are in the beginning phase – we welcome any and all ideas and connections to others as well...

* Faculty Shared Governance – this remains to be a main goal for 2020-2021- The Faculty Senate represents the Faculty to help create, maintain and protect a University environment conducive to growth of scholarship, creativity, learning, teaching, research, service and respect for human dignity and rights – one way we do this is to review and comment on proposed policies, programs and other matters that are proposed by the administration, school faculties, student organization and individual members - to harness our voice – it is about the conversation and providing valuable input to first prevent problems that might arise from a particular policy/decision and/or collaborate with improvement strategies

* Course/Faculty Evaluation: Course evaluations are part of our annual evaluation and as we reported from the work of the Faculty Affairs committee these differ across units. Valerie and other faculty represent us on the Academic Continuity Committee-they plan to work on this...

- Maria Teves represents faculty senate on the Strategic Research Priorities Planning - Implementation Committee and on is also a foundational sub-committee called Culture of collaboration. This sub-committee oversees foundational tasks to promote research at VCU.

Request for Faculty Representatives:

1) The VCU Safety and Well-being Advisory Committee

is requesting faculty to consider serving on this committee, which has been charged with defining and instituting the components of a new transformational model for public safety and wellness across campus, independent of VCU Police. We seek dedicated candidates who feel compelled to lend us their expertise and are willing to commit to serving as a member from September 2020 to May 2021. Anticipate the committee will meet a minimum of twice a month, concluding after findings are presented to the VCU Board of Visitors and VCU Health System Authority Board of Directors next May. Andrew Daire – dean, school of education and Sheryl Garland, VCU Health system will lead the committee as co-chairs

2) The Domicile Appeals Committee requests a faculty member to serve as a voting committee member on this new committee. This Committee has the final authority at the university for all appeals related to domicile for tuition purposes. The responsibility for this committee has recently transitioned from Student Affairs to Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM). The committee meets once a month. The length of the meetings can range from a couple of hours to closer to four or five hours. It depends on the number of appeals the committee needs to review. Also, the appointment is for a 2-year term, although committee members can be reappointed for multiple terms.

From <<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/?shva=1#inbox/CIlgCHrgDXCCmgTZqssNgrjXHMxcQBQWHQpbxSLhvmJKbzQFxcbkVtvcvJsHdxTfhFZtsZXbtCg>>

3) Kim Case of CTLE would like your feedback on this anti-racism syllabus statement guide, please send her your ideas.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18Akx1w4Uq-JgbabN2-cro5bbXY5Nxl6MPG-WjGwxo/edit?usp=sharing>

The standing committees of the Senate, and their continuing charges, shall be as follows:

a. Academic Programs and Research: (i) to study and make recommendations concerning how the faculty might effectively respond to matters of administrative policy/practice concerning the establishment, maintenance, and curtailment of academic programs and their effect on faculty status; (ii) to recommend ways in which the administration of research policy would maximally benefit faculty efforts in expanding research.

Chair: Susan Bodnar-Deren

b. Academic Support Services: (i) to establish and maintain liaisons with academic support agencies at VCU, including libraries, media support services, computer technology services, campus police, bookstores, physical plant, and other agencies providing support for academics at VCU; (ii) to report on and discuss policies and procedures of these agencies.

Chair: Valerie Robnolt

c. Alumni and Community Relations: (i) to maintain a liaison with alumni and with the Office of Development and Alumni Relations; (ii) to maintain a positive image and relationship with the Richmond metropolitan community.

Chair: Gaynell Sherrod

d. Credentials and Rules: (i) to oversee and enforce Faculty Senate attendance regulations; (ii) to grant exemptions to attendance requirements for individual Senators when necessary; (iii) to reapportion Faculty Senate seats annually as specified in the Bylaws of the Faculty and the Standing Rules of the Faculty Senate; (iv) to reapportion Grievance Board seats annually as specified in the VCU Faculty Mediation and Grievance Policy; (v) to review and propose revisions to the Bylaws of the Faculty and the Standing Rules of the Faculty Senate.

Chair: Scott Street

e. Diversity and Inclusive Excellence: (i) to communicate with the various entities and offices associated with diversity and inclusive excellence; (ii) to discuss and explore any questions/issues concerning diversity and inclusion in the VCU Community.

Chair: TBA

f. Economic Status, Budget, and Planning: (i) to study the budget and planning policies/practices of the university and recommend appropriate faculty involvement; (ii) to report to the Faculty Senate the decisions of any executive-level budget advisory committee on which the members serve; (iii) to discuss implications of economic and fringe benefit matters, including salary, retirement, and insurance. At least one member of this committee shall represent the Faculty Senate on an executive-level university budget committee.

Chair: Roxanne Spindle

g. Faculty Affairs: (i) to explore faculty needs in the areas of evaluation/assessment, promotion, tenure, professional development, and other areas relating to the professional status of faculty at VCU; (ii) to report on and recommend policies and procedures that will enhance academic and faculty affairs.

Chair: Maria Teves

h. Governance Committee: (i) Evaluate and monitor the establishment of transparent and purposeful shared decision-making structure within VCU; and (ii) Foster a dynamic faculty-staff-leader partnership that promotes shared decision-making for University's mission in teaching, scholarship, service, and enhancing work-life.

Chair: Neno Russell

i. State Legislative and Statewide Relations: (i) to develop and maintain a positive image and relationship with the members of the State Legislature, the citizens of Virginia and the VCU Office

of Government Relations; (ii) to coordinate the selection and activities of faculty who serve as contacts with State legislators; (iii) to maintain an alliance with the Faculty Senate of Virginia; (iv) to assist with the planning of Virginia Standing Rules of the Faculty Senate Page 5 of 7 Revised and Approved on May 1, 2018 Higher Education Advocacy Day. At least one representative from the VCU Faculty Senate to the Faculty Senate of Virginia shall be a member of this committee.
Co-chairs: Carmen Rodriguez and Pat Cummins

j. Student Affairs: (i) to maintain a liaison with student government, student organizations, and Student Affairs staff; (ii) to represent faculty and faculty interests to students and to invite students to present their views and needs to the faculty.
Chair: Chris Saladino

k. VCU Health Systems Relations: (i) to maintain a liaison with the VCU Health System; (ii) to represent faculty and faculty interests to the VCU Health System; (iii) to discuss and explore any questions/issues between the faculty and the VCU Health System.
Co-chairs: Allison Gregory and Vamsi Yadavalli

l. Website and Social Media: (i) to maintain electronic distribution lists; (ii) to maintain the Faculty Senate website; (iii) to generally ensure that faculty at VCU are informed of Senate deliberations, actions, and proceedings using electronic mail, the Faculty Senate website, or other media; (iv) to maintain Faculty Senate social media platforms.
Chair: Ashley Brewer

A reminder, if you have not already, please sign up for your committee preference.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfbt9cenolJFcyBPUaOU2ROv8Lb7_io9rAvVe4LMEEK2o_4AA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0