**MINUTES**
Faculty Senate Leadership Meeting Agenda – February 15, 2022
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 egsherrod@vcu.edu with questions or corrections.

**Procedural Items:**

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

**Minutes from January 18, 2022**
Gaynell Sherrod, Recording Secretary
4:02-4:05

Meeting called to order at 4:03 pm.

Review of the Minutes from Jan 18, 2022
The minutes were approved by leadership.

**Faculty Senate President’s Report/Issues**

**University Committees Update/Issues**
Concerns about Dr. Rao’s appearing without a mask during the in-person State of the University address at Cabell Library.
- Should FS send an email to leadership about this issue?
- Is it the VCU Monroe campus policy that for all indoor activities participants **must** wear a mask?

Next steps for resolutions passed by Faculty Senate:
- Resolution: Defending Academic Freedom to Lead Discussions About Racial, Class and Gender Justice
- Once the resolution is passed, what’s the next step?
- Speaker – after the Senate passed the resolution it was sent AAUP and Campus Rep for their review.
- We are asking the Provost to get behind this resolution
- We are looking at doing a list of resources around these issues for all units to have access to
- **Suggestion** – why don’t we seek University Council and the Board of Visitors endorsements?
- We could send a request to the President’s office to get it heard on the floor at the next convening of U Council
- FS can ask that UC open new business and then introduce the Resolution for review
- It would need to get it to the Board of Visitor’s by May 2022 for review
- Shared info about Truth be Told/African American Policy Forum - https://www.aapf.org/truthbetold
- FS should send an email to leadership about in-consistent messaging around COVID protocol
- Administrative Structure Report and Resolution
  - At one of the meetings, the President stated that he is okay about having a third-party (non-political affiliate) group look at the data do a thorough review of the Administrative Structure Report at VCU
  - FS should ask what the President meant by this statement and see if it can happen?
  - The data flaws are in-part blamed on the state HR system which does not encompass university HR systems, and the mis-categorizing of the positions/lines.
  - This would be an HR audit.
  - If the goal is to get more faculty, then why don’t we just push for that plan – keep hammering at that action?
  - FS President – it’s both. We need to look at the admin and push for more faculty.
  - FS – what is the timetable about getting any of this accomplished?
  - FS – when the report is finalized, then we must be honest about what we want.
  - FS – it appears that the leadership recognizes that VCU need more faculty.

- Sustainability Advisory Group – Climate Emergency Declaration
  - FS is advocating for recognition that there is a climate emergency, and what will VCU do moving forward in the One VCI Sustainability Plan?
  - FS – Send out the SCED for all faculty to review and sign off on. Trying to get at least 500 signatures.

Unit and Department Bylaws and Other School/College Issues
Land Acknowledgement Task Force – Jesse Goldstein
  - There are some faculty/staff who are interested in seeing VCU have a land acknowledgement
  - Why don’t we start with the FS and UC creating a formal resolution to present to the VCU leadership?
  - A small group of folks will attend the March meeting to present their idea around the Land Acknowledgement statement.
  - Part of the ask is a formal process to present the land acknowledgement and submit it as a policy for UC to vote on
  - How can figure out a way to operationalize the implementation of the statement?

Annual evaluations
  - There is still concern about the evaluation process of faculty and retaliation in this era of COVID
  - We are still looking for ideas about how we can advocate for VCU leadership to be more transparent about the Dean’s evaluation process.
  - There is a new person who is the ED of Audit and Compliant Services
  - We need to be supportive of faculty coming forward in the face of possible retaliation
  - FS Pres - Should we invite the new ED of ACS to a FS meeting?
  - Sure, that could be helpful.

Dean and Other Admin Evaluations across Units (next steps about goal)
  - There are multiple issues of concerns happening in many Schools/Units
- There will be a meeting on the **February 28** with the new Interim Dean of the School of Medicine.
- FS will hold off on any action until after that meeting.
- School of Dentistry – search for a new Dean. FS is concerned that the faculty is not involved in that process.
- Focus Inquiry – getting a new chair.
- University Council – The Faculty Affairs Committee is working on the new bylaws for UC.
- New direction: According to the Council of Deans, the Provost gets the final say about Chair appointments across the university.
- FS – if the Chair serves at the pleasure of the Dean, then why is the Provost interjecting himself and making decisions about the process?
- FS President – There must be written somewhere what the process is regarding the bylaws, and they should not be overruled by executive order.
- Who should fight this battle, the Council of Deans or Faculty Senate?
- FS will ask the Provost about this issue – to get clarification about the process and immediacy of it.

Faculty Technology Advisory Committee (FTAC) Letter to President Rao

Online Strategy Task Force and Steering Committee (Valerie Robnolt, Kristy Artello)

Any other university committee reports?

**Faculty Senate Agenda (March 1, 2022)**

- Provost Office Report
- Credit for Prior Learning Proposal – Seth Sykes, Associate Vice President for Transfer Initiatives
- Land Acknowledgement Resolution
- Slate of Candidates for FS Officers
  - We are losing the two campus reps
- Other Administrator to Invite – Google Form Feedback
- Graduate Dean Bullard
- Dean Karol Gray (Budget) – Topic – The Budget Model
  - CFO of the VCU Health System – and discussing the budget model between VCU and the VCU Health System. **Would like to hear about the overall balance between the two entities.**

Request for links:
- Link for students who no longer attends VCU

**Faculty Senate Committee Business/Goals**

- It’s 5:53 and we still have Committee reports

**Diversity and Inclusive Excellence**
Sarah Jane Brubaker (chair) – No report

**VCU Health Systems Relations**
Mark Crosthwaite (chair) – No report

**Faculty Affairs** - faculty evaluations and appeal process
Maria Teves (chair)
Governance - shared governance (school/unit)- what are other schools doing
Kristy Artello (co-chair)
Oliver Karam (co-chair)

Academic Programs and Research - course evaluations
Ryan Cales (chair) – No report

Academic Support Services - facilities
Valerie Robnolt (chair)
- There is a misunderstanding about definitions of teaching modalities at this almost post-Covid era.
- FTAC wrote a letter on teaching modalities and it is well written, and we need to have the letter shared with FS and faculty at the general meeting.
- FS – it is worth having a vote in support of the letter.

Alumni and Community Relations
Gaynell Sherrod (chair) – No report

Website and Social Media
Ashley Brewer (chair) – No report

Credentials and Rules
Scott Street (chair) – No report

State Legislative and Statewide Relations - Higher Education Advocacy Day Information
Carmen Rodriquez (co-chair)
Pat Cummins (co-chair)
- Thanks to all faculty who submitted comments for HB 1226 (the 12 hours a week teaching mandate)
- As a result, the bill will be reviewed and not moved forward at this time.

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

Adjournment at 6:00 pm

Next Leadership Meeting: March 15, 2022 4-6 pm Zoom

Next FS Meeting: March 1, 2022 4-6pm Zoom