



VCU

Faculty Senate

DRAFT Minutes

Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda – May 3, 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

(4:00 - 3 minutes)

Valerie Robnolt, President

VR – Started the meeting at 4:01 pm

- Thanked Faculty Senator for their service.
- We will spend time discussing “shared governance”
- Discuss the Provost’s report.

Minutes from meeting on April 5, 2022

(4:03 - 2 minutes)

Gaynell Sherrod, Recording Secretary

- Asked for approval of the Minutes
- VR – Minutes moved from draft to approval – will be put on the website.

Shared Governance

Provost Office Report

(4:05 - 30 minutes)

Fotis Sotiropoulos, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Provost Sotiropoulos.

- Dean of College of Engineering – Dr. Barbara D. Boyan will step down as Dean and transition to developing collaborations between the Schools of Engineering and Medicine.
- Looking for interim Dean for College of Engineering, the College of Humanities and Sciences and the School of Social Work.
- Thanked Deans in interim roles for their leadership and for taking on interim positions
- Decided not to fill the position at this point for VP Strategy and Implementation – because no one is a good fit for the position that the provost had in mind
- Other leadership positions are moving forward
- We are not considering a hiring freeze at this point.
- The provost spoke about the importance of hiring VP for faculty mentoring and support
- Note, there is no budget from the State at the moment, which will impact VCU hiring
- The “Scott Oates” position – who retired, and the leadership has expanded the position and hope to find a strong candidate to fill the position (Assistant Vice Provost, Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness)
- The Provost and other members of the leadership team addressed the salary disparity between admin salaries and those of faculty.
- The provost is open to looking at a more expansive examination of the salaries at VCU across the board.
- In 2015/2016 there was a salary equity study.

- Is the question that the percentage of the budget at VCU for admin salaries are going up while the salaries for faculty aren't?
- Question: Why was the position of Assistant Vice Provost, Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness expanded?
- Response: To address the programmatic assessment and global support on multiple levels. Gen Ed, programmatic, online development, and be more supportive of faculty effectiveness and the demands of innovating the curriculum. Comprehensive assessment of VCU general education.

Information

Brand Research

(4:35 – 10 minutes)

Grant Heston, Vice President for University Relations

- Grant Heston - Brand research report.
- Research
- Creative
- Marketing – launching and implementation
- We don't have negative attributes to overcome
- There were several focus groups that we tapped for this report
- Q&A what about VCU's history of segregation and how might we heal that historical legacy
- Q&A what about the importance of a large athletic programs provide?

Faculty Senate Committee Updates

(4:45 - 20 minutes)

Valerie Robnolt and Committee Chairs

University Committee Updates

- Minor Revision to Resolution: Defending Academic Freedom to Lead Discussions About Racial, Class and Gender Justice - Liz Canfield, Interim Chair, D&IE Committee
- The resolution returned for revisions, including the editing of the acronym BIPOC.
- VR – shared a poll to vote on the resolution with the edits
- The results of the poll = 98% Yes, 2% No, 0 abstained
- For this resolution to go the Board of Visitors, President Rao must present it, it will also need to be sent back to University Council for confirmation/vote.
- University Budget Advisory Committee Update – Roxanne Spindle, Chair, Economic Status, Budget, and Planning Committee
- Any unit that what to put forward a budgetary concern, give it to the Provost to advocate for at the appropriate time when meeting with the state rep.
- Governance Committee 2022 Report – Kristy Artello and Oliver Karam, Co-Chairs, Governance Committee
- The committee did research on governance and shared-governance, Faculty Senates at several institutions and created a report – see attached.
Link - [//scholarscompass.vcu.edu/edd_capstone/10/](https://scholarscompass.vcu.edu/edd_capstone/10/)
- Other Committee Updates – Committee Chairs
- Alumni Committee – Nothing to report currently

- Gen-Ed Committee – The new gen ed courses are moving forward and the committee is looking at how these courses will be assessed
- Qatar Campus – Had two nominations and what to know if the two senators can be elected by acclamation
- School of Medicine – election was sent out to SOM Faculty for new Faculty Senators
- DIE Committee – We are making plans for next year and feeling good about the resolution
- Faculty Affairs – No updates currently
- State Legislative Committee – Not available
- Academic Support – VR
- Student Affairs – Chris
- Academic Success Council – VR and Chris are on this new committee
- VCU Health Systems Committee – Nothing to report
- Website and Social Media Committee – Not available
- VR – I'd like to work on and consider over the summer is the potential to have a FS shared google drive.

Shared Governance Discussions – Breakout Rooms and Debrief (5:05 - 45 minutes)

Break out rooms:

Questions to discuss – Please have one person in each group be note taker and send notes to Valerie to compile:

- How do we define shared governance?
- How do we know when we have it?
- What are we looking for in shared governance practice?

Valerie will share a document of the compiled ideas, thoughts and concerns derived from the discussions in the breakout session.

University Committee Updates (5:50 – 10 minutes)

Syllabus Policy (Valerie Robnolt)

- The syllabus is going to University Council for a vote on Thursday, May 5 – there were over 100 comments from faculty and students that will be considered.

Other Committee Updates

VR – (final Faculty Senate meeting for the 2021-2022 academic year)

Thank you all for your work this year and have a great summer. I hope you get time to rest and recharge.

VR – Adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm (6:00)

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

Next Meeting: August 30, 2022 4-6pm, Student Commons, Commonwealth Ballroom A-B