Procedural Items:
Committee Meetings
(4:00 - 25 minutes)

Call to order, Welcome
Valerie Robnolt, President
(4:30 - 3 minutes)

Minutes from meeting on November 30, 2021
Everett Carpenter, Outgoing Recording Secretary
(4:33 - 2 minutes)

Shared Governance

Provost Office Report
Fotis Sotiropoulos, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
(4:35 - 25 minutes)

Information
Quality Enhancement Plan
Deborah S. Noble-Triplett, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Erin Webster Garrett, Associate Professor & Assistant Vice Provost for REAL
(5:00 - 20 minutes)

Voting:
(5:20 - 20 minutes)
1) Sustainability Advisory Group – Climate Emergency Declaration
   Mark Wood, Beth Kreydatus, & Bill Muth, Sustainability Advisory Group
2) Resolution in support of the VCU AAUP report on Administrative Structure at VCU
   Everett Carpenter
3) Resolution: Defending Academic Freedom to Lead Discussions About Racial, Class and Gender Justice
   Liz Canfield, on behalf of the Diversity and Inclusive Excellence Committee

State Legislative and Statewide Relations:
Higher Education Advocacy Virtual Day
Carmen Rodriguez (co-chair)
Pat Cummins (co-chair)

University Committee Updates
(5:50 – 10 minutes)

Adjournment
(6:00)
Next Meetings:

- February 1, 2022 4-6pm – Faculty Senate hosts President Rao’s meeting with VCU faculty on Zoom (all faculty are invited)
- March 1, 2022 4-6pm – Zoom

Attendance: Valerie Robnolt, Nancy Jallo, Oliver Karam, Troy Martin, Allison Johnson, Liz Canfield, Craig Larson, Emily Williams, Laura Boomer, Mark Crosthwaite, Maria Rivera, Ed Boone, Paul Dukarm, Ryan Coles, Maria Teves, Gonzalo Bearman, Mary Boyes, McKenna Brown, Amol Karmarkar, Pat Cummins, Chintal Desai, Supriyo Bandyopahayay, Laxmikart Deshpande, Nora Alder, Jitendra Jethwani, David Toney, S. McIninch, Elizabeth Godbey, Jesse Goldstein, Robbie Kinter, Kimberly Guthrie, Sergio Chaparro, Heather Nunnally, Ryad Ghanam, Wendy Rogers, Joseph Landry, Dani Kemasuwan, Brie Haupt, Lisa Townsend, Jane Chung, Tahnee Causey, Kristine Artello, Jon Becker, Chris Cyn, Brooke Newman, Michael Porter, Sarah Glass, Hyojin Im, Janet Reid, Audrey Lafrenaye, Megan Lo, Yanxiao Zhao, Erin Zacholski, Scott Street, Salta Liebert, Teresa Saigado, Roxanne Spindle

Call to order at 4:30

Provost’s Comments: (his written report is included in the attachments)

- When institutions report data to IPEDS, they are not required to follow any particular protocol, so after the 2018 HR redesign there were some advisors and budget staff who were categorized as management. When the HR redesign is taken into account, we are a much better position compared to other VA institutions. Complete redline comments are available with the link provided in the report. We do need to improve the numbers of tenure track faculty and this is a priority.
- Highlight the faculty achievements during the past few months.
- Launching new seed grants for first generation students to allow them to get involved in research.
- New seed funding mechanism for humanities and arts to help with their research.
- Starting a series of faculty lunches. He would like to get to know as many faculty as possible so he will start inviting 2-3 faculty to lunch once a month.
- Highlighted the new administrative hires. There will be a search for a new Vice Provost for Strategy and Implementation who will help coordinate the activities which further the university plans. The OVPRI has hired staff to help with grants, this position would help to oversee activities which further the academic vision. We have to be strategic with administrative hires to make sure they advance our vision.
- Will start an annual report to the faculty on the state of academic affairs on Feb. 28, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. which this year will follow the presidents state of the university report on Feb. 15 at 11:00 a.m.
- There are plans to expand the faculty as well. All hires need to be targeted to support the different initiatives. Everyone should work within their departments, and with their deans, to help put a strategic vision in place. Ultimately a big thing determining hires is increasing enrollments, really to increase the value of a VCU degree and articulating that. How do we make sure that our students get internships, need an ecosystem of partners for REAL, build an entire community of stakeholders that will engage with our students. Expanding and incorporating things in a curriculum, there is a range of things that we need to do to increase enrollments, so we need a person in the Provost’s office to help advance these initiatives.
- One of the most profound experiences over the past 6 months is hearing the students’ concerns. So he is forming a student advisory group. These volunteers will allow him to hear directly from the students and become aware of their needs and concerns. Once needs or concerns are
identified, then his office can work with the deans and faculty to address those concerns and serve our students the best way.

Faculty can email the Provost directly with any questions or concerns.

Next meeting on February 1st, Faculty Senate will be hosting President Rao for a town hall style meeting. If there are question for issue for President Rao next Tuesday email Valerie Robnolt or your senator.

Every 10 years as part of the accreditation process VCU must create a quality enhancement plan. Please see the attached presentation that was given. Deborah Noble-Triplet -- with Erin Webster Garret, talked about the quality enhancement plan. This is faculty driven and lead effort. There will be nominations for the committee for rep from each school or college and one from faculty senate. Not every rep will be asked to be on the committee, to make sure we can balance out the group. These will go out in next week or two, and the committee will convene in February.

During this faculty senate meeting there were three resolutions on which we voted. The drafts of the resolutions were sent out back with the November minutes.

Voting:
- Climate Change emergency declaration: In addition to this resolution, the authors have sent out a petition that people can sign for support, also presented the resolution to the staff senate and SGA. Support--- 45 Against--- 3 Abstain---2 Faculty senate supports this resolution.
- AAUP Report on Administrative Structure: Made minor revisions to the resolved revised resolution for clarification. Support:--- 43 Against--- 2 Abstain---4 Faculty senate support this report.
- Race, Class, and Gender Resolution: The diversity committee drafted the resolution back in the fall, it is a resolution about academic freedom and shared governance. Essentially, asks that the president’s office affirm that anyone external to the university would not have influence over the curriculum. Minor revisions suggested for clarification. Support:--- 41 Against--- 1 Abstain---3 Faculty senate supports this resolution

Higher Education Advocacy report attached.