



# VCU

## Faculty Senate

### **Faculty Senate Leadership Meeting Minutes — February 20, 2018** **Church Hill Room, Larrick Center, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

**Attendance:** Jose Alcaine, Holly Alford, Kristy Artello, Susan Bodnar-Deren, Ashley Brewer, Brian Daugherty, Nancy Jallo, June Nicholson, Masoud Manjili, Joan Pellegrini, Maria Rivera, Valerie Robnolt, Carmen Rodriguez, Chris Saladino, Scott Street, Jennifer Wayne

**4pm--Call to order**

**Scott Street**

**Minutes from January 30<sup>th</sup> and February 6<sup>th</sup> meetings**

**Brian Daugherty**

**4:05pm--Nominating Committee Report**

**Holly Alford**

- Discussion topics: Alford reminded elected officers to inform her if they plan to stand for re-election this spring (for next year), and to send her a short bio also.

**Proposed VCU Health System Relations Committee**

**Scott Street**

- Discussion topics: Street reminded senators that the administration recently expressed concern about the lack of a direct, formal Faculty Senate connection between the Monroe Park campus and the VCU Health System. This issue came up with a recent meeting with President Rao, and it was suggested that the Senate create a new committee to remedy the situation. Street asked senators for input, and Pellegrini, Artello, Wayne, Rivera, and Alcaine offered questions about the role and makeup of such a committee. Street clarified that the committee would be primarily tasked with sharing information and serving as a liaison between the two entities. He added that he would prefer to establish the ad hoc committee on a trial basis, with the understanding that we can reassess it in a year or so. Robnolt indicated her preference for an ad hoc committee for one year. Nicholson reminded senators that VCU's new strategic plan places an emphasis on connecting the two campuses, and indicated her preference for creating the committee as a permanent entity, rather than on a trial basis. Daugherty concurred, as did Pellegrini. Artello indicated her preference for an ad hoc committee.

**4:35pm--Bylaws of the Faculty**

**Joan Pellegrini**

- Discussion topics: Pellegrini reported on ongoing revisions to the Faculty Senate rules and the bylaws of the faculty, and justifications for them. Pellegrini noted that many of the changes involved rewording and moving sections, rather than substantive changes. Several senators provided feedback related to wording and formatting. A discussion of terminology ensued, related to the words "unit" and

“School.” Senator Nicholson suggested that a one-page list of the principal changes be provided to all relevant parties before the votes to update the documents.

### **Symposium, Academic Freedom vs. Freedom of Speech      Nancy Jallo**

- Discussion topics: Jallo reminded senators of the upcoming symposium, scheduled for April 5, from 9:30am-1pm in the Commonwealth Ballroom at the Student Commons. The keynote address, delivered by John DeGioia (President of Georgetown University), will be followed by a panel discussion. Attendees will be asked to register prior to the event. Jallo asked senators to share news of the event, and the date, widely. Alcaine asked if attendees will be allowed to provide feedback on the event, and senators widely agreed that would be a good idea.

### **5:15pm--Faculty Senate President's Report      Scott Street**

- a. Board of Visitor's Meeting (March 22<sup>nd</sup>): Street noted that he and Alford will be attending this meeting, and will inform them on the April 5 symposium. Street asked senators to email him if they have other news or items to bring before the Board.
- b. Senior Administrator Searches: Alford informed senators that they will be asked to attend lunch presentations from the finalists for the position of Dean of the Honors College. Alford also updated senators on the search for the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs position, noting that one of the qualifications for candidates is that they be a full professor. This is a national search, overseen by a consultant firm, which will consider internal as well as national candidates. Street mentioned several other ongoing searches, including the Director of the Institute of Contemporary Arts, Vice President for Research Innovation, Vice President for Inclusive Excellence, and the Vice Provost for Strategic Enrollment Management.
- c. Undergraduate Curriculum: Street reminded senators of President Rao's commitment to modernizing the undergraduate experience, including the revision of VCU's general education requirements. Street indicated that several Faculty Senate committees could effectively be engaged in this effort. Street also noted that several Faculty Senate leaders will be attending an April meeting organized by the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia on transfer credits and undergraduate education.
- d. Promotion Guidelines: Street announced that the Provost's Office has had several difficulties during this year's promotion and tenure cycle. Key issues include the large number of term faculty applying for promotion. Related to that, there is currently a lack of widely-used standards for promoting term faculty. Street indicated that the Provost's Office is considering an update to the university's Promotion and Tenure guidelines, but in the meantime, units have been asked to address this shortcoming. Artello mentioned that the Wilder School developed guidelines for its term faculty recently, which might serve as a model for other units. Saladino added that Political Science also generated policies for term faculty promotions within the last few years.

### **5:45pm--Committee Updates**

- a. Introduction: Senator Wayne thanked committee chairs for recently submitting information about committee activities and successes over the past several years. She also asked those who have not submitted updates yet to do so as soon as they have the opportunity. Street suggested the Senate webmaster create web sites for each committee in order to list their members as well as recent accomplishments.

- b. Academic and Professional Status — Kristine Artello and Masoud Manjili: Artello said her committee has been working on the issue of teaching effectiveness. She outlined how various VCU units currently measure teaching effectiveness, including the most commonly-asked questions. Artello also offered suggestions for more effectively monitoring teaching effectiveness.
- c. Communication, Publicity, and Publications — Ashley Brewer: Brewer explained that she's been tasked with increasing the accessibility and functionality of the Faculty Senate web site, and that she will be working on an update to resolve this issue in the near future. However, she indicated that she will most likely not meeting the deadline that's been suggested, which is March 1, so she will need to prioritize what senators want/need for the coming months.

**6:10pm--February 27<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate Meeting**

**Scott Street**

- a. Agenda: Academic and Professional Statue Committee will give a presentation; we will discuss updates to faculty by-laws with some mention of Senate Standing Rules; John Ulmschneider of University Libraries may attend to talk about Open Content (which may be a potential roundtable topic).
- b. Roundtable Topic: VCU Libraries on open education resources?

Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Brian Daugherty.