



VCU

Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes — February 27, 2018

Court End Ballroom, Larrick Center, 4:00 – 6:00 PM

<https://maps.vcu.edu/mcv/larrickcenter/>

Present:

Alcaine (EDU), Alford (ARTS), An (NUR), Arrington (ARTS), Bodnar-Deren (HAS), Bostian (BUS), Branch (VCU-L), Brewer (Webmaster), Clarkson (BUS, Alt. for Bosco), Coe (DEN), Daugherty (HAS), DiazGranados (MED), Docef (EGR), Doherty (VCU-L, Alt. for Crookendale), Dula (BUS), Faris (ARTS), Franzak (BUS), Fueglein (UC), Ghosh (MED), Gregory (NUR), Gronert (HAS), Hawkins (StAff), Hsu (MED), Jallo (NUR), Jin (WS), Jones (EDU), Jones (HAS), Kidd (MED), Kopryanski (ARTS), Kornstein (MED), Lawton (ARTS, Alt. for Klein), Lockeman (MED), Manjili (MED), Moslow-Benway (WS), Nadpara (PHA), Nicholson (HAS), Ottens (MED), Pellegrini (DEN), Price (RetFac), Rivera (HAS), Roberson-Nay (MED), Robnolt (EDU), Rodriguez (HAS), Russell (DEN), Saladino (HAS), Samso (MED), Sherrod (ARTS), Street (HAS), Sun (MED), VCU-Q (Jesse), Wajciechowski (EDU), Waugh (MED), Wayne (EGR), York (MED), Zhou (MED),

Absent:

Anthony (HAS), Coston (HAS), Dawson-Cruz (HAS), Dixon (PHA), Frankenhoff (MED), Fraser (SWK), Goldberg (MED), Hogan (MED), Jamerson (AHP), Kunkes (StAff), Le (MED), Lodge (UC), Mansfield (EDU), Rafiq (MED), Ramsey (MED), Stevenson (HAS), Wen (EGR), Wike (SWK), Williams (AHP), Zhang (MED)

Procedural Items:

4:05pm--Call to order

Scott Street, President

Minutes from January 30th meeting

Brian Daugherty, Recording Secretary & Treasurer

Guests:

4:10pm—Provost's Office Report

Gail Hackett, Provost

Deborah Noble-Triplett, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

- Hackett provided an update on a variety of administrative searches. In terms of the Vice Provost for Strategic Enrollment Management, an offer has been made, and the university is waiting for a response. In terms of the Dean of Social Work search, an offer has been made, and VCU is waiting for a response. For the Dean of University College search, interviews of top candidates recently began. For the Vice Provost for Research and Innovation search, an offer was made in the fall semester, but not accepted, so additional interviews will be held shortly to fill the position. Hackett also thanked senators who have been involved in any of these searches.
- On behalf of the Provost's Office, Noble-Triplett updated the Senate on the Navitas partnership, and VCU's recruitment of international students. She spoke about Navitas' corporate history and principal interests, as well as the benefits that the

company will provide for VCU. She explained the Global Student Success Program (GSSP), which allows potential students to understand VCU's expectations and requirements as well as what the university offers. Students who do not meet the GSSP expectations can pursue opportunities at VCU via the Pathway Program, which will allow them to take preparatory courses as well as courses that can count toward a degree, and later enter in a traditional program. Noble-Triplett emphasized that VCU is seeking to increase its number of international students without reducing its academic expectations or requirements, and that Navitas' reputation and accomplishments in this regard are what led VCU to partner with it. She also provided data on the financial terms of the agreement. Hackett emphasized the VCU will control the academic content of the courses within this program.

- Senator Wayne asked whether the Pathway Program would be considered their first year at VCU, even though it is a transition year prior to admittance into a traditional academic program. Noble-Triplett responded the program will include 12 credit hours per semester, and students who complete the first year successfully will have second-year level credits, but perhaps have not met all the traditional first-year classes as traditional VCU students.
- Senator Saladino asked how international students will be counted at VCU, and whether it will impact VCU's admissions. Noble-Triplett explained that she does not envision the growth of international students as impacting our non-international admissions. Hackett added that VCU is hoping to grow its international enrollment to approximately 25% of the student body, from the <15% today.
- Senator Alcaine asked about faculty that will be employed. Noble-Triplett explained that VCU will choose who teaches the courses, but they will be paid by Navitas.
- Senator Sherrod asked about admissions into particular programs, such as the School of the Arts. Noble-Triplett responded that she thinks only the strongest international candidates will be drawn and admitted to programs that require portfolios or specific application materials.
- Senator Franzak asked about when we might see an impact from this recruiting effort. Noble-Triplett explained that faculty who teach lower-level courses may see some impact by summer 2018.
- Senator Docef asked about the Pathways Program, specifically when students can obtain acceptance into a traditional program. Noble-Triplett responded that units she's met with agree that students must complete the Pathway courses with a "B" or better to move on at the master's level. For undergraduates, they must pass all 24 credit hours before matriculating to become traditional students. Docef asked if Pathways students are guaranteed admission to traditional programs, and Noble-Triplett responded that students are told what will be expected, and if they meet those expectations then they will be admitted.
- Carol Gray provided an update on the New Budget Model, stating that the committee plans to hold all units harmless as it transitions into the new model. Senator Street asked senators to speak with their financial officers if they have any questions about the new model. Aashir Nasim asked department chairs to join a Provost's Office meeting on March 16 to learn additional information about the new budget model.

Faculty Senate Items:

4:45pm--Nominating Committee Report

Holly Alford, Past President and Chair of Nominating Committee

- Alford offered the slate of candidates put forth by the Nominating Committee for 2018-2019 Faculty Senate offices. She explained that candidates' bios have been

distributed via email. Susan Kornstein self-nominated for the number two slot as VCU Health Sciences campus representative. There being no other nominations from the floor, this slate was accepted. Senators will vote on this slate at the next meeting. Alford thanked her committee members for their assistance.

4:55pm--Symposium on Academic Freedom & Freedom of Speech

Nancy Jallo, Faculty Senate Vice President and Chair of Symposium Committee

- Jallo announced the details of this forthcoming symposium, which will occur in the Monroe Park Student Commons on April 5, from 9:30am to 1pm. Jallo announced the principal speaker, and panelists. She asked senators to help spread word about the event, and to put the date on their calendar to attend. Registration for the event, and an opportunity to choose box lunches, will be forthcoming. Jallo thanked her committee members for their assistance.

5:00pm--President's Report

Scott Street, Faculty Senate President

- Street reminded senators that he is part of a committee that is working to revise VCU's academic calendar, which may impact faculty on both campuses. Changes under consideration deal with the beginning of the semester, class days just prior to holidays, and the VCU "reading days" schedule. Senator Sherrod asked about Thanksgiving week and how some of the proposed adjustments will impact that holiday. Senator Ottens asked if the changes will apply to both campuses; Street said yes, although the two campuses will have some flexibility. One senator expressed concern that reducing the "reading days" in October would remove the only real break in the fall semester prior to Thanksgiving. Senator Doherty asked how the proposed changes would impact intersession courses, and Street announced that he did not foresee any changes.
- Ashley Brewer, Faculty Senate webmaster, explained that big changes are coming to VCU's website soon, and these will impact the Faculty Senate website. Some portions of the senate website will be placed behind authentication temporarily.

5:15pm--"Bylaws of the Faculty" and "Standing Rules of Faculty Senate"

Joan Pellegrini, Credentials and Rules Committee Chair

- Pellegrini distributed copies of the annual Faculty Senate apportionment report, and discussed the reapportionment of Faculty Senate for the coming year. Pellegrini highlighted key aspects of the report, including which units lost representatives based on proportions outlined in our governance documents (and the VCU Human Resources redesign), which units will need volunteers for positions (and as alternates) in the coming year.
- Street announced that he emailed senators the latest version of the "Bylaws of the Faculty" (which incorporates all recently-submitted feedback) just prior to today's meeting, with the intent to discuss it today in order to allow for a vote in two weeks, before proceeding to the Board of Visitors. Pellegrini distributed copies of the proposed "Bylaws of the Faculty," and explained key changes. Senator Nicholson moved to move the vote on revisions forward, Daugherty seconded, and the motion passed.

5:30pm--Committee Meetings

- a. Academic and Professional Status — Kristine Artello & Masoud Manjili
- b. Academic Programs and Research — Susan Bodnar-Deren

- c. Academic Support Services — Valerie Robnolt
- d. Alumni and Community Relations — José Alcaine
- e. Communication, Publicity, and Publications — Ashley Brewer
- f. Credentials and Rules — Joan Pellegrini
- g. Diversity and Inclusion — Stephanie Goldberg & Mary Secret
- h. Economic Status, Budget, and Planning — Brian Daugherty
- i. State Legislative & Statewide Relations — Pat Cummins & Carmen Rodriguez
- j. Student Affairs — Chris Saladino

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm. Most senators stayed for meetings with their committees.
Minutes respectfully submitted by Brian Daugherty.