



# VCU

## Faculty Senate

### **Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes — April 3, 2018**

**Richmond Salons III & IV, University Student Commons, 4:00 – 6:00 PM**

#### **Present:**

Alcaine (EDU), Alford (ARTS), An (NUR), Arrington (ARTS), Artello (WS, Alt. for Moslow-Benway), Bodnar-Deren (HAS), Boyes (HNR), Branch (VCU-L), Brewer (Webmaster), Brown (NUR, Alt. for Gregory), Carmine (StAff, Alt. for Hawkins), Coe (DEN), Coston (HAS), Crookendale (VCU-L), Daugherty (HAS), DiazGranados (MED), Docef (EGR), Dula (BUS), Faris (ARTS), Franzak (BUS), Fueglein (UC), George (MED, Alt. for Wang), Ghosh (MED), Goldberg (MED), Gronert (HAS), Hogan (MED), Hsu (MED), Jallo (NUR), Jamerson (AHP), Jones (EDU), Klein (ARTS), Kopryanski (ARTS), Kornstein (MED), Kunkes (StAff), Lockeman (MED), Lodge (UC), Manjili (MED), Nadpara (PHA), Parham (AHP), Pellegrini (DEN), Price (RetFac), Rafiq (MED), Ramsey (MED), Rivera (HAS), Robnolt (EDU), Rodriguez (HAS), Russell (DEN), Samsó (MED), Saoud (VCU-Q), Secret (SWK), Street (HAS), Ulmer (VCU-Q), Wajciechowski (EDU), Wayne (EGR), Wen (EGR), Wike (SWK), Wolen (MED, Alt. for York)

#### **Absent:**

Anthony (HAS), Bosco (BUS), Bostian (BUS), Dawson-Cruz (HAS), Dixon (PHA), Frankenhoff (MED), Fraser (SWK), Jin (WS), Jones (HAS), Kidd (MED), Le (MED), Mansfield (EDU), Ottens (MED), Roberson-Nay (MED), Sherrod (ARTS), Stevenson (HAS), Sun (MED), Waugh (MED), Zhou (MED)

#### **Procedural Items:**

##### **4:05pm--Call to order**

Scott Street, President

##### **Minutes from February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting**

Brian Daugherty, Recording Secretary & Treasurer

##### **4:05pm--Faculty Senate Officer Elections**

Holly Alford, Past President and Chair of Nominating Committee

- Alford reminded senators that candidates for 2018-2019 Faculty Senate offices were nominated at our last meeting, and nominations were then closed. Alford then asked for discussion or comments, and there being none, approval of the slate of candidates, which was done unanimously.

#### **Guests:**

##### **4:10pm--Marquita Aguilar Walkathon**

Gabriela Salinas, Walkathon Student Volunteer

- Salinas reminded senators of the upcoming walkathon, and the benefits that it provides to current VCU students in terms of Virginia Caring University scholarships. The walkathon will take place on April 10 from 11:30-2pm. Salinas also shared comments from previous scholarship recipients, and asked senators to contribute to the walkathon, at [walkathon.vcu.edu](http://walkathon.vcu.edu).

#### **4:15pm--Black & Gold & You**

Rich Spain, Leadership Annual Giving Officer, Development and Alumni Relations

- Street introduced Spain and reminded senators this campaign promotes philanthropy at VCU. Spain announced this year's official giving campaign will run from April 2-May 16, and the goal is to obtain donations from all VCU employees. Street announced that Faculty Senate's giving rate is currently about 20%, and he recently accepted a challenge from Staff Senate to see which body is more generous. Faculty can learn more at [support.vcu.edu/faculty](http://support.vcu.edu/faculty), and can donate at [support.vcu.edu/give](http://support.vcu.edu/give).

#### **4:25pm--History and Commemoration across VCU and VCU Health Committee**

John Kneebone, Chair, History Department

- Kneebone explained the genesis, purpose, and makeup of this committee. He then played a PowerPoint presentation, narrated by Jodi Koste, which explained many of VCU's connections to the Confederacy, including individuals, academic buildings, statues/monuments, and plaques. Kneebone explained that how we address this history, and these connections, is an important task for today. Kneebone emphasized that this work must be done in an open and transparent manner.

#### **4:35pm--Provost's Report**

Gail Hackett, Provost and VP Academic Affairs

- Hackett told senators that VCU is still waiting to see the state's forthcoming budget, and waiting to determine increases in university tuition and/or fees. At our next meeting, Hackett will provide an update on the new strategic plan, as well as revisions to the general education program. In terms of searches, Hackett announced that the search for the Vice President for Research is continuing, and she hopes to bring finalists to campus before summer break; the new dean of Social Work was recently hired; the Vice Provost for Strategic Enrollment Management search also recently wrapped up. A new search will begin soon in the Provost's Office for a Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, and another search will begin soon for an Associate Vice Provost for Institutional Research. A search for a new position overseeing VCU's REAL initiative is also ongoing, and should wrap up soon.
- Senator Wayne asked about comments related to the general education revisions, and expressed a hope that those comments will be made public in the near future. Hackett agreed that this is important.

#### **Faculty Senate Items:**

##### **4:50pm--Faculty Senate President's Report – Scott Street**

- Street reminded senators of the new Senate email address: [facultysenate@vcu.edu](mailto:facultysenate@vcu.edu).
- Street explained that he and Senator Alford recently participated in a conference related to transfer students with Virginia's community colleges and other four-year colleges and universities. The discussions focused on how to better prepare students for transferring to universities such as VCU, and how to help them adjust to VCU upon their arrival. Street indicated that VCU receives the third largest number of transfer students among Virginia's colleges and universities, and that these discussions and work will continue in the future.
- Senator Boyer asked about the courses that students take at the community college level, and stressed the importance of ensuring that transfer courses are teaching the skills and knowledge needed to succeed at the university level.

- Street reminded senators that next Monday, April 9, at 4pm, in the basement of the Monroe Park Campus Student Commons is the reception for Faculty Appreciation. He asked senators to please RSVP ahead of time.

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

Nancy Jallo, Vice President and Chair of Symposium Committee

- Jallo reminded senators that this symposium will take place on Thursday. She briefly discussed the event's speakers, and asked senators to attend. Jallo thanked her committee members, and also senators who have helped promote the event.
- Senator Wayne asked if the event will be recorded, and Jallo responded that the keynote will be, but not the panel.

#### **5:00pm--Board of Visitors Meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Holly Alford, Past President and Faculty Representative to Board of Visitors

- Alford announced that Provost Hackett recently presented to the Board of Visitors, and highlighted the growing number of minority and underrepresented faculty members. Alford also mentioned student presentations to the Board of Visitors, and that several students thanked faculty members for their work, and asked the Board of Visitors to provide the resources that faculty need to succeed.

#### **5:05pm--“Evaluating Teaching Effectiveness”**

Kristine Artello, Academic and Professional Status Committee Chair

- Artello reminded senators that her committee has been focused on teaching for the last several years, and that committee members recently completed a report on student evaluations of teaching (SETs). Artello then reviewed the latest trends regarding SETs at VCU, and announced that her committee would like to obtain VCU-wide data to provide some statistical analysis of this issue. Artello then expressed her committee's concerns with regard to SETs at VCU, including the number of questions (too many), the last time updated, vague questions, a lack of detailed student responses, and a lack of customization possibilities for faculty. Artello also indicated that her committee would like to balance SETs with other methods of teaching effectiveness. Artello thanked her committee for its work.
- Provost Hackett thanked the committee for its report. She then explained why current evaluations ask questions related to student performance, and why that is needed and important. She also noted that issues such as gender and racial bias are complex, and often related to what students consider to be appropriate behavior. Hackett also discussed the best methods of peer evaluation, and indicated that this is rarely done well. Hackett added that current SETs are particularly useful for indicating when instructors are clearly not doing their job, though it is harder to evaluate when an instructor is doing good to excellent.
- Senator Street asked if additional personnel working on these issues might help to address some of these concerns, and the Provost responded that there is not currently funding available for this.
- Senator Klein asked about the timing of SETs, and how they are not required of students, but are used to evaluate instructors. Artello responded that she hopes units will respond to such concerns, especially when SETs are used as the primary means of assessing teaching effectiveness.
- Senator Secret asked if there was any distinction between undergraduate and graduate evaluations, and Artello indicated that all students are asked the same questions, but that she was not sure if student class-level impacts results.

- Senator Wayne asked if there was any correlation between class size and SETs, and Artello responded that she had heard of such a correlation, but that her report did not address this.

### **5:35pm--“Standing Rules of Faculty Senate”**

Joan Pellegrini, Credentials and Rules Committee Chair

- Pellegrini explained changes to the “Standing Rules of Faculty Senate,” and the reasons for the proposed alterations and additions. Pellegrini also asked for feedback from senators about the proposed revisions, in lieu of a pending vote at our next meeting. Street announced that the VCU vote to update the faculty bylaws concluded yesterday, and that the vote was strongly in favor of the revisions.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Brian Daugherty.