



VCU

Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes — May 1, 2018 Court End Ballroom, Larrick Center, 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Present:

Alcaine (EDU), Alford (ARTS), An (NUR), Arrington (ARTS), Artello (WS), Bodnar-Deren (HAS), Bostian (BUS), Boyes (HNR), Branch (VCU-L), Clarkson (BUS, Alt. for Dula), Crookendale (VCU-L), Daugherty (HAS), DiazGranados (MED), Dixon (PHA), Docef (EGR), Frankenhoff (MED), Franzak (BUS), Ghosh (MED), Gregory (NUR), Hogan (MED), Hsu (MED), Jallo (NUR), Jamerson (AHP), Jin (WS), Jones (EDU), Jones (HAS), Kidd (MED), Kopyranski (ARTS), Lawton (ARTS, Alt. for Klein), Lockeman (MED), Lodge (UC), Manjili (MED), Meier (UC, Alt. for Fueglein), Nadpara (PHA), Nicholson (HAS), Ottens (MED), Parham (AHP), Pellegrini (DEN, Alt. for Coe), Price (RetFac), Ramsey (MED), Rivera (HAS), Roberson-Nay (MED), Robnolt (EDU), Rodriguez (HAS), Saladino (HAS), Samsó (MED), Secret (SWK), Sherrod (ARTS), Stevenson (HAS), Street (HAS), Sun (MED), VCU-Q (Khaled), Wang (MED), Waugh (MED), Wayne (EGR), Wike (SWK), Wunsch (DEN)

Absent:

Anthony (HAS), Bosco (BUS), Coston (HAS), Dawson-Cruz (HAS), Faris (ARTS), Fraser (SWK), Goldberg (MED), Gronert (HAS), Hawkins (StAff), Kornstein (MED), Kunkes (StAff), Le (MED), Mansfield (EDU), Moslow-Benway (WS), Rafiq (MED), Russell (DEN), Wajciechowski (EDU), Wen (EGR), York (MED), Zhou (MED)

Procedural Items:

4:00pm--Call to order

Scott Street, President

Minutes from April 3rd meeting

Brian Daugherty, Recording Secretary & Treasurer

Faculty Senate Items:

4:05pm--President's Report

Scott Street, Faculty Senate President

- Street discussed the search for the Vice President for Research and Innovation, and asked senators to meet with candidates during campus visits, which will start in mid-May. Street also reminded senators of the open forums for the Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs search, and asked senators to pay careful attention to the Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Programs search, which is ongoing.
- Street provided an update on the VCU Black and Gold development campaign, and asked all faculty, staff, and employees to contribute. Street reminded senators of our friendly competition with Staff Senate, which is currently leading us in the percentage of members who have donated.
- Street announced that Scott Gronert of the Dean's Office (College of Humanities and Sciences) is leaving VCU for a job at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

- Street read the names of Faculty Senate members whose terms expire this year, and thanked them for their service.

4:10pm--“Standing Rules of Faculty Senate” — faculty senate.vcu.edu

Joan Pellegrini, Credentials and Rules Committee Chair

- Pellegrini explained that final revisions to the Standing Rules based on recently submitted recommendations were only minor in nature, and that the updated Standing Rules of the Faculty Senate have been distributed. Senator Artello asked for an amendment granting her committee (Academic and Professional Status) to be re-granted authority over shared governance. That amendment passed, and afterward, the revised Standing Rules were adopted unanimously.

Guests:

4:15pm--Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence Update — ctle.vcu.edu

Enoch Hale, CTLE Director

- Street reminded senators that Hale is departing this summer for a new position outside of VCU. Hale discussed recent developments within the CTLE (including the development of institutional partnerships, and the creation of its strategic plan), and introduced his staff, and explained that he believes the CTLE is well positioned to move forward under new leadership.

4:20pm--Administration Update — administration.vcu.edu

Meredith Weiss, Vice President for Administration

- Weiss introduced her staff, and discussed the overall structure of the Office of Administration. Weiss mentioned the new VCU master plan—One VCU—and discussed its development and implementation. Weiss also discussed “Make It Amazing,” VCU’s customer service initiative, which aims to serve VCU and its constituents as best possible. The head of Facilities Management discussed major VCU construction projects, including the recently-completed Institute for Contemporary Arts, and the forthcoming new STEM building on Franklin Street. The head of Human Resources discussed the HR Redesign and new initiatives for the training, evaluation, and promotion of VCU employees. In the future, the office will be focused more on serving VCU employees better, after gathering data from various VCU units about what changes are needed. The head of Safety and Risk Management highlighted the importance of data in its decision-making, which has allowed VCU to reduce the number of accidents as well as to provide better care for workplace injuries and to reduce the danger of hazardous substances. The head of Technology Services announced several key initiatives, including a coming update to Blackboard, an expansion of the Top Hat student response system, as well as an upgrade to the Echo360 lecture capturing service. The Chief of Police discussed improvements in VCU Parking, including the creation of the Parking and Transportation Advisory Board. The chief also noted reductions in robberies on the core campus, updates to the campus video surveillance system, and efforts to avoid cases of officer use of force.
- Senator Kopryanski of the School of the Arts asked about updates to equipment and facilities within the School of the Arts, and the head of Facilities Management explained that he recently met with the Dean of the School of the Arts to address the issues.
- Senator Artello asked about the HR Redesign, including the number of professional faculty who are no longer designated as faculty, and the number who have appealed

their new status. The head of Human Resources indicated that the number of faculty in that category is small, and that she has not received word regarding appeals.

- Senator Rodriguez asked about funding for the new STEM building. The head of Facilities Management noted that the state legislature is still working to address this issue in its final budget.
- Senator Sherrod of the School of the Arts asked about a building on Broad Street, and the Real Estate office head explained that is where his office is now located. Senator Sherrod also asked about empty space near the Grace Street Theater, and the head of Facilities Management answered that the space has already been allocated for new commercial business.
- Senator Street asked about House Bill 1, which is a new law intended to protect student information, and how it will impact VCU. The head of Technology Services explained that VCU will be making its student directory and similar information behind VCU sign-in/authentication website access.
- Senator Wayne asked what might be considered a reasonable classroom utilization, and the head of Facilities Management indicated that the figure would be above 70%, but that he did not have the exact figure.

4:30pm--GenEd30 — go.vcu.edu/gened30

Jennifer Johnson, Co-chair of the General Education Task Force

Faye Prichard, Co-chair of the General Education Task Force

- Johnson presented an update on GenEd30. The committee took approximately two years to develop its recommendations, and then organized a number of campus presentations and forums regarding its recommendations. Between February and April 2018, the committee met to vet the feedback it received online and via its presentations, and to utilize and/or respond to this feedback. Johnson then reviewed the principal suggestions that were submitted, as well as the changes that were made to its recommendations. The committee submitted a final report to the Provost's Office in April 2018, and is seeking additional feedback this summer before presenting to Faculty Council in the fall.
- Senator Secret asked about the media coverage of these revisions, and how she might respond to a curious neighbor. Johnson responded that concerns that were recently expressed in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* were those of a sole VCU employee, not his/her academic department. Johnson noted that this faculty member submitted feedback to the committee. Johnson responded to this faculty member's general concern(s) by saying the committee did its best to address his concerns throughout the revision process, and that the committee sought to provide a broad-based curriculum in addition to newer ideas related to math and science.
- Senator Wayne asked how existing courses will fit into the revised curriculum. Johnson responded that the committee is now working with the Provost's Office to determine how its recommendations will be implemented.
- Senator Robnolt asked about the timeline for the implementation of GenEd30, for faculty and departments developing courses. Hackett responded that the implementation will take at least a year.
- Senator Sherrod asked how the new GenEd will affect majors like Dance, which takes its majors early in their college careers. Hackett indicated that the GenEd revisions will apply to all majors.

5:20pm--New Budget Model Update — budget.vcu.edu/redesign.html

Karol Gray, Vice President for Finance and Budget

Gail Hackett, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

- Gray explained that VCU ran parallel old and new budgets during the 2017-2018 fiscal year, to monitor ramifications of the new budget model. For the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the new budget model will go live, but units will be held harmless. Gray also noted that the Budget Office has been working with deans and chairs to explain the new system.
- Senator Wayne asked about the impact within units, and Gray responded that the model works on the dean (or higher) level and then funnels down to department chairs. Hackett added that operating at the deans' level is the most effective means of this type of budget, and that VCU is still working towards that. She highlighted that the big change will be decentralizing the budget, sending money to the schools and then having them responsible for managing revenue. Hackett also indicated that, in the future, the university will operate a priorities fund that will allow it to address particular needs.
- Senator Sherrod asked if there was any difference between schools and colleges in the new budget model; Hackett responded no.
- Senator Robnolt asked how the new budget model will impact collaboration across disciplines. Hackett responded that deans are aware of this challenge and that deans' level collaboration should lead to other collaborative endeavors. She added that the university's priority fund can be used to support collaboration in the future.
- Jennifer Johnson asked how the new budget model may shape new research or budget priorities in the future. Hackett responded that VCU's current research priorities are strong and that the university will be placing continued emphasis on them in the future, even as we diversify our research profile moving forward.
- Senator Secret asked what the new budget model will mean for the individual faculty member and Hackett responded that there should not be a noticeable impact. However, Hackett emphasized that entrepreneurship and some initiative in terms of revenue is beneficial under such a budget model.
- Senator Lawton asked about how the new budget model will impact the i3 (i-cubed) initiative, and Hackett responded that it should have no discernible impact.
- Gray discussed the tuition/fees increase being proposed to the VCU Board of Visitors in May 2018. She indicated that VCU is proposing an increase of ~6.4%, which will just then meet the needs of the university, and will require delaying proposed faculty-staff raises until November.

5:30pm--Provost Office Report — provost.vcu.edu

Gail Hackett, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

- Hackett thanked the GenEd30 committee members and announced that this process will continue in the coming academic year. Hackett also told senators that her office has been focusing on student success, and will be discussing this more next year. Hackett also mentioned that a task force on Term Faculty will be created next year. Hackett indicated that additional faculty groups related to undergraduate curriculum transformation (for the 21st century) will also be coming. Hackett discussed a task force related to class scheduling, to make more efficient use of our classrooms and to offer the best schedule(s) for student success. Hackett will soon announce an interim dean of the Wilder School; in addition, finalists for the VP for Research and Innovation will be visiting campus shortly; and a new dean for University College has been recently hired.
- Senator Artello asked about the new director of CTLE, and Hackett announced that that search will begin shortly.

- Jennifer Johnson asked if the class scheduling task force will be considering paperless course scheduling; Hackett responded yes.

5:50pm--Symposium on Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech

Nancy Jallo, Faculty Senate Vice President

- Jallo thanked those who were involved in the recent symposium on academic freedom and freedom of speech.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Brian Daugherty.