



# VCU

Faculty Senate

## **Faculty Senate Leadership Meeting Minutes — October 17, 2017** **Alumni Board Room, University Commons, MPC, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

**Attendance:** Jose Alcaine, Holly Alford, Kristy Artello, Ashley Brewer, Pat Cummins, Brian Daugherty, Nancy Jallo, Andrew Ottens, Joan Pellegrini, Maria Rivera, Carmen Rodriguez, Scott Street

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

**Scott Street**

**Minutes from August meeting**

**Brian Daugherty**

- Discussion topics: Daugherty asked senators to introduce themselves before asking questions or offering comments in future senate meetings, so that Daugherty can include senators' questions and comments in the meeting minutes.

**4:10pm--Update on Human Resources Redesign      Susan Carkeek (Senior Advisor to the President) and Jim Hinterlong (Advisor to the President)**

- Discussion topics: Carkeek and Hinterlong distributed a handout that explains the three proposed HR employee groups (Classified Staff, University and Academic Professionals, and Teaching and Research Faculty), new policies that apply primarily to University and Academic Professionals, and the implementation timeline of the HR Redesign. Carkeek and Hinterlong also explained what things will not change under the HR Redesign. Carkeek and Hinterlong also asked senators to carefully review the details of the proposed changes to help prevent any concerns from arising during the implementation process next year. Senator Cummins asked that administrators who are grouped within the Teaching and Research Faculty not be given the opportunity to impact curriculum, which has traditionally been the purview of Teaching and Research Faculty, and Carkeek and Hinterlong promised to address this concern. Senator Alford asked Carkeek and Hinterlong to ensure that University and Academic Professionals be allowed to continue to serve as Principal Investigator on grant projects and as advisors for graduate students, when relevant. Senator Jallo asked if staff and faculty have had the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed changes, and Carkeek and Hinterlong answered in the affirmative. Senator Artello asked about the role of units in determining the placement of Teaching and Research Faculty, and Carkeek and Hinterlong responded that the proposed policies are meant to ensure the voice of VCU's units while still allowing administrators the ability to make final decisions.
- Hinterlong noted that the two leaders of the University Budget Redesign Steering Committee will attend the next full Faculty Senate meeting, and spend an hour discussing the budget redesign and taking questions. Hinterlong also noted other public forums that will be taking place in the near future about the budget redesign. Hinterlong also asked if there are issues that the two should be prepared to address before Faculty Senate, and Senators Street, Cummins, Ottens, and Artello offered points/questions to bring to their attention, concerning grant funding, how students

will be counted within majors, the impact on interdisciplinary teaching, and the impact on online education.

#### **5:00pm--MCV Campus Representatives**

**Andrew Ottens**

- Discussion topics: Ottens outlined goals for this year for the MCV campus, including: clarifying the roles of Provost Hackett and Dr. Rappley on the MCV campus; whether a Faculty Council is needed on the MCV campus; and faculty oversight on the MCV campus more broadly. Ottens and several senators discussed other differences between administrators on the two campuses, and raised the possibility of clarifying roles and responsibilities in the coming academic year.

#### **5:25pm--Vice President's Report**

**Nancy Jallo**

- a. Membership of Standing Committees:** Jallo distributed a revised list of Faculty Senate committees, with a few caveats as to what remains to be done. Senator Street asked Jallo to make sure all elected senators are appointed to a committee, and the assembled senators offered suggestions as to which committees might benefit from additional members.
- b. Symposium on Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech:** Jallo announced that the committee overseeing this event will meet next week, and that Senator Daugherty has helped to secure space on campus in April. Jallo also mentioned a potential format, including a speaker or panel, and then questions. Jallo asked the assembled senators as to the overarching goal of the event as well as our potential audience. Alcaine asked if senators can invite graduate students, and Street mentioned that the event should focus on current and future faculty.

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

- a. Academic and Professional Status — Kristine Artello:** Artello announced that she recently learned that most VCU course evaluations are available online, and that she has a graduate student looking through the evaluations to see what questions/issues various units prioritize.
- b. Academic Programs and Research — Susan Bodnar-Deren:** no update offered.
- c. Academic Support Services — Valerie Robnolt:** no update offered.
- d. Affirmative Action — Stephanie Goldberg & Mary Secret:** no update offered.
- e. Alumni and Community Relations — José Alcaine:** noted that Allison Toney will attend our next full senate meeting to discuss Homecoming. Senator Pellegrini asked why MCV and the MPC celebrate Homecoming at different times of the year, and Senator Alcaine suggested that would be a good question to ask Toney at the meeting.
- f. Communication, Publicity, and Publications — Ashley Brewer:** no update offered.
- g. Credentials and Rules — Joan Pellegrini:** no update offered.
- h. Economic Status, Budget, and Planning — Brian Daugherty:** Daugherty announced that Senator Street will be sitting in for him at the next few New Budget Model Steering Committee meetings, and that his committee will meet after the discussion of the budget model at the next full senate meeting.
- i. State Legislative & Statewide Relations — Carmen Rodriguez & Pat Cummins:** Faculty Senate of Virginia will meet October 28 and we will place a reminder on the Faculty Senate website.
- j. Student Affairs — Chris Saladino:** no update offered.

### **5:55pm--President's Report**

**Scott Street**

- a. **Grievance Policy Update:** Street and Artello met with Provost Hackett and several others to discuss the Grievance Policy update and obtained a list of potential concerns that will be addressed as the process moves forward.
- b. **Inclusive Governance Task Force:** Street is working carefully with the President of Staff Senate on this.
- c. **VP for Inclusive Excellence Candidates (Christopher Whitt & Laura Castillo-Page):** Street met one candidate today and is scheduled to meet the second tomorrow.
- d. **Policy Open for Comment: "Timely Warning and Emergency Notification, Response, and Evacuation" (comment by Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>):** Street reminded senators to review this and offer feedback, particularly those who regularly teach on campus.
- e. **President's Forum (afternoon of Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, Election Day):** Street strongly encouraged senators to attend.
- f. **Strategic Plan 2025 Town Hall (Oct. 19, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM in ALC Room 1201):** Street encouraged senators to attend this Town Hall and to represent Faculty Senate.

### **October 31<sup>st</sup> Faculty Senate Meeting**

**Scott Street**

- a. **Costume Contest:** Street announced a senator costume contest, with prizes for 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> place (wine!). Provost Hackett will serve as judge.
- b. **VCU Master Plan – Jeff Eastman (University Planner):** Eastman and several consultants will discuss the VCU master plan.
- c. **Alumni & Outreach – Allison Toney (Assoc. Dir. of Outreach and Engagement):** Toney will discuss Homecoming.
- d. **New Budget Model Update – Gail Hackett (Provost and VP for Academic Affairs):** will discuss the VCU Budget Model Redesign along with Karol Kain.
- e. **HR Redesign – Susan Carkeek (Sr. Advisor to the President):** Carkeek will discuss the Human Resources Redesign.
- f. **Strategic Plan Update – Kathleen Shaw (Vice Provost for Planning & Decision Support):** may come to discuss the Strategic Plan, or this may be pushed back to the next meeting.
- g. **Roundtable Discussion Topic:** New Budget Model Redesign

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