



# VCU

Faculty Senate

## **Faculty Senate Leadership Meeting Minutes — September 19, 2017** **Church Hill Room, Larrick Center, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

**Attendance:** Holly Alford, Kristy Artello, Brian Daugherty, Stephanie Goldberg, Nancy Jallo, Marilyn Miller, Andrew Ottens, Joan Pellegrini, Maria Rivera, Valerie Robnolt, Carmen Rodriguez, Chris Saladino, Mary Secret, Scott Street, Jennifer Wayne

### **4:00pm--Call to order**

**Scott Street**

### **Minutes August meeting**

**Brian Daugherty**

- Discussion topics: Daugherty announced that the minutes from the last meeting have been shared via email and posted online, and that senators should contact him with any concerns, corrections, or questions.

### **Update on Online @ VCU**

**Monica Orozco**

- Discussion topics: Orozco joined VCU on August 1 as the Executive Director of Online @ VCU. Her presentation focused on where VCU is today in terms of online education (as compared to our peers), where we are going (to address the cost of education, to reach a broader audience), and what we need to do to stay relevant in online education. Senators asked a variety of questions, and Orozco agreed to return and speak to the entire senate at a future meeting.

### **4:30pm--Update on Faculty Search Process Guidelines**

**Aashir Nasim**

- Discussion topics: Nasim spoke about the faculty search process, noting that he oversees hundreds of VCU searches each year. He discussed present-day challenges, including the fact that VCU's rate of faculty retention has remained the same in recent years despite efforts to address this. Nasim highlighted good practices based on the Faculty Search Process Guidelines, and VCU Hiring Protocols. He also announced that training for all search committee members at VCU is in the works, and that discussions over the makeup of faculty search committees is ongoing.

### **Annual Grievance Policy Report and Policy Revision update**

**Marilyn Miller**

- Discussion topics: Miller shared a list of proposed revisions to the Faculty Mediation and Grievance Policy, and noted that the revisions were delivered to the Provost's Office for feedback/approval this past spring. Miller noted that August 2016-August 2017 was a relatively quiet year in terms of grievances: 3 inquiries about the process were made to Miller; 1 case was mediated, and 1 case resulted in a lawsuit that was resolved during the academic year. This year, Miller has received 2 inquiries. Miller indicated that she would like to step down as grievance panel chair.

### **5:15pm--Committee Updates**

- a. **Academic and Professional Status — Kristine Artello:** Artello announced the committee's focus on measuring teaching effectiveness, recognizing that many VCU course evaluations were developed decades ago, and asked senators how she would like the committee to proceed this academic year. Mary Secret raised the concern that faculty members are being asked to complete service during the summer, and that faculty representation on university committees appears to be low.
- b. **Academic Support Services — Valerie Robnolt:** Robnolt announced that she would like the committee to focus, at least in part, on classroom technology.
- c. **Affirmative Action — Stephanie Goldberg & Mary Secret:** Secret and Goldberg announced they have been referring to the committee as the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Secret announced that they plan to consider the current climate on race relations, and learn how other universities are responding to present-day issues, to determine the committee's focus during the academic year.
- d. **Credentials and Rules — Joan Pellegrini:** Pellegrini announced that the committee intends to gear up its work in the coming weeks.
- e. **Economic Status, Budget, and Planning — Brian Daughterity:** Daughterity reported that he anticipates the committee will focus its work in 2017-2018 on the implementation of the university's new budget model, but that the timeframe of its implementation at this point is unknown.
- f. **State Legislative & Statewide Relations — Carmen Rodriguez & Pat Cummins:** Rodriguez reminded senators that on Saturday, October 28, the Faculty Senate of Virginia will meet on the VCU campus (at the Larrick Center). The meeting will, among other things, prepare position papers for Higher Education Advocacy Day.
- g. **Student Affairs — Chris Saladino:** Saladino announced that the committee will most likely meet with the VCU Student Government in the near future.

#### Vice President's Report

Nancy Jallo

- a. **Faculty Senate committees:** Nancy shared a list of senators and their tentative committee requests, and announced that she will distribute a final list shortly.
- b. **Roundtable discussion topics:** Nancy also announced that she is compiling a list of roundtable discussion topics gleaned from our last senate meeting.

#### 6:00pm--Board of Visitors Meeting (September 14<sup>th</sup>)

Holly Alford

- Discussion topics: Alford and Street attended an event the night before the BOV meeting, where faculty were introduced. Alford highlighted that she is hoping that faculty and faculty work will continue to be showcased before the board. Alford reported that the BOV meeting went well, and that the Faculty Senate resolution on the passing of Wanda Mitchell was well-received.

#### President's Report

Scott Street

- a. **University Council Committees:** Street announced that UC committees have been formed, and that several senate officers will be serving in various capacities.
- b. **Human Resources Redesign:** Street noted that the redesign's implementation is creating questions and issues in unforeseen ways, and that Human Resources (and other offices) are responding issue-by-issue.
- c. **Stephanie Hamlett, new University Counsel:** Street announced Hamlett's hiring this summer, and noted that she had previously worked at VCU several years ago.

- d. **Symposium on Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech:** Street noted that the Provost is interested in this event, and that others have asked about its development. Nancy Jallo will serve as chair of an ad hoc committee focused on developing this event, to be held in mid-to-late spring semester.

**6:10pm--October 3<sup>rd</sup> Faculty Senate Meeting**

**Scott Street**

- a. **Report on Student numbers from BoV meeting:** Street announced that he will share data on the makeup of the student body that was presented at the BOV meeting.
- b. **Rosalyn Hargraves & Kevin Allison on Diversity Initiatives:** Hargraves and Allison will attend and share information on diversity initiatives.
- c. **Kevin Harris and Marsha Rappley on MCV Campus administrative structure:** Harris and Rappley will attend and share information on the MCV administrative structure.
- d. **Frank Macrina to summarize comments on Intellectual Property Policy:** Macrina will attend and share information on updates to the Intellectual Property Policy. Street asked senators to review this policy ahead of time.
- e. **D'Arcy Mays and Ed McLaughlin to discuss academic status of VCU Athletics:** Mays and McLaughlin will attend and share info on the academic performance of VCU's athletes.
- f. **Information on clothing store:** Street announced that he will have additional information from the vendors that he will share at the meeting.
- g. **Roundtable Discussion Topic:** Most likely our roundtable will focus on online education.
- h. **New Budget Model update:** Street reported that we may have an update on the New Budget Model at the next meeting.
- i. **New Strategic Plan update:** Street reported that we may have an update on the New Strategic Plan at the next meeting.

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