



VCU

Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Leadership Meeting Minutes — December 12, 2017

Alumni Board Room, University Commons, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

<https://www.maps.vcu.edu/monroepark/univcommons/>

Present: Holly Alford, Kristy Artello, Ashley Brewer, Pat Cummins, Stephanie Goldberg, Nancy Jallo, Joan Pellegrini, Maria Rivera, Valerie Robnolt, Carmen Rodriguez, Scott Street

Procedural Items:

4:09pm -- Call to order

Scott Street

Minutes from November 14th meeting

Ashley Brewer

Brian Daughterity is not on campus today because of a family emergency. Recent senate minutes have been posted online. Ashley Brewer is taking minutes today.

Faculty Senate of Virginia -- Higher Ed Advocacy Day

Carmen Rodriguez and Pat Cummins

Discussion topics: Talking about scheduling shuttles for after lunch, around 1:30 or 2:30. Still getting schedule finalized. Once Carmen and Pat have it finalized, they will send it to Scott who will get it on TelegRam and share with Ashley to get on the web as a news item.

1/11, 9AM. Members of AAUP and faculty senate of VA are writing position papers currently. Brian is reviewing bills. Carmen will pass the bills and position papers around as soon as they have them. Bills about budget, student tuition, likely.

Typically starts with reps sharing relevant bills, especially ones that would be valuable to have faculty input or pressure.

Things are set up pretty well, but need more of a publicity push and recruiting of faculty to get people to attend.

Symposium on Academic Freedom & Freedom of Speech

(5 minutes)

Nancy Jallo

Commonwealth Ballroom. Two possible dates in early April. Probably 9am-2:30pm.

President Rao introduction. Pres of Georgetown to be keynote, potentially.

Title: Academic Freedom/Freedom of Speech: What Does it Mean and How Do we Live It."

Three topics for panelists (check with Nancy again about what they all are.)

Still trying to identify someone to talk about social media, e-communication, etc.

Target population: VCU faculty

RSVP? (Yes, through Google Forms) Lunch provided? (YES)

If anyone has ideas or comments, please let Nancy know.

Pat: Are you going to tackle issue of how much academic freedom do you have? Nancy says share that topic with me over email.

Brought up an issue with whether to speak out with junior faculty v. tenured, re feeling safe to do so (and even then many don't.)

Faculty Senate discussed with Provost put into action raising min pay for adjuncts. Some units had variable rates for adjuncts.

Scott: We actually have an adjunct faculty as a member of faculty senate. Rudy Burgess (assistant to the secretary of finance?) works for office of governor, and also is an adjunct here. He wanted to know if he could attend meetings, and then "well, be an honorary senator!" To speak for the interests and needs of adjunct faculty.

Susan Goodin was appointed to a governor's policy council on higher ed. Part of Northam's transition team.

Committee Updates

(30 minutes)

- a. Academic and Professional Status — Kristine Artello
 - a. Created a 4-point thing to look at.
 - i. Some dean's still need persuading about not relying on course evals. Getting access to course eval data for last few years. We can aggregate info for schools currently, but we need to be able to get it down to the individual faculty member and have it be anonymous. Anonymizing can be a challenge. Gherkin is the guy's name? This has been a great step forward. Making slow progress.
 - ii. Split the committee – 3 monroe park and a whole bunch of MCV people (professionals.) MPs are going to look at ugrads and 360 degree evals as a potential alternative to individual evals. Encouraging extra credit is actually something the university uses and encourages for getting course evals (maybe? This is a debate.) Different schools have different P&T guidelines. It's refined at the school level, because it is vague at VCU level. Departments get yet further specific. (Somehow this got into a long conversation about p&t guidelines for term v tenure faculty and the discrepancies of expectations.) There is yet another layer with the professional faculty at the med school. Outcome of the two working groups: come together with a suite of options and tools for evaluating faculty. Maybe suggestions of student completion as well.
- b. Academic Programs and Research — Susan Bodnar-Deren
- c. Academic Support Services — Valerie Robnolt
 - i. On Library faculty committee. At the Library (Cabell): Space is at a premium. Need to reduce space for books. Offsite storage needs to expand and possibly working with W&L. Asking faculty: how many books do we need in Cabell? What should the selection criteria be. Definitely need books that are being assigned. VCU doesn't have the budget, though. So what can faculty do themselves to reduce the cost in selection criteria. But if we could have copies on reserve at library, faculty supports that. Also on RFP for supporting online programs. We're in negotiations with a company for advertising and recruitment for fall 2018 online programs. Being very clear with this company that

- faculty are in charge of their programs. This particular company is doing pay per fee (not tuition sharing) and just a 3 year contract.
- ii. Getting committee together before January to talk about classroom technology.
 - d. Alumni and Community Relations — José Alcaine
 - e. Communication, Publicity, and Publications — Ashley Brewer
 - i. Getting the fac senate web in compliance with current branding and accessibility.
 - f. Credentials and Rules — Joan Pellegrini
 - i. Scott mentions that he was with Joan's office all day and got knocked out the bylaws of faculty and standing rules of faculty senate. 95% done on both. Other than librarians, only 22 AP faculty are going to T&R. Board of Visitors have to approve bylaws of faculty (meeting in May.) Before that, approved by University Council. Faculty have to vote before that with a review and comment period. Faculty senate before THAT. Fac senate standing rules only need to be approved by fac senate.
 - g. Diversity and Inclusion — Stephanie Goldberg & Mary Secret
 - i. Trying to figure out now where best to focus efforts. Interested in faculty recruitment and retention. Unrepresented minority number are being bragged about right now. They HAVE increased. But. A lot of them are only visiting faculty for 1 or 2 years. It's artificially inflated if those faculty are being included.
 - ii. Pat suggested diversity in the curriculum. Interdisciplinary - but also intercultural.
 - iii. Two VP candidates for inclusive excellence still coming - the original 4 fell through for various reasons.
 - h. Economic Status, Budget, and Planning — Brian Daugherty
 - i. State Legislative & Statewide Relations — Pat Cummins & Carmen Rodriguez
 - i. Nothing else to add aside from what we discussed previously.
 - j. Student Affairs — Chris Saladino
 - i. Scott sat next to president of student gov at commencement. She wants to meet with Scott and Chris to talk about student issues and concerns. University is considering plus minus grades. Faculty and students should weigh in before a decision is made on that.

Faculty Senate President's Report — Scott Street

(5 minutes)

- a. Board of Visitor's Meeting (December 8th)
 - i. Holly: Yes the online program was presented to the board. They wanted to know what VCU's plan is for online. They loved Monica's (from ALTLab) report to them.
 - ii. Dr Rao laid it out that the tax bill is what they're thinking about. They've been to DC. Thinking about hiring a lobbyist. There are actually people up there right now and have been up there.
 - iii. Excited about increase in graduation rates
 - iv. Strategic plan: "Together we transform: Quest 2025" - but who is "we." There was pushback last time about "we"? Anyway, this is what the board voted on.

b. Provost's Meeting (December 11th)

- i. Scott: Really wanted to discuss with the provost the memo that was presented to the council of deans before Thanksgiving. Academic affairs committees being made: a number of committees. Two standing committees: Gen Ed committee and the REAL Committee. Four ad hoc committees. All 6 are new committees.
- ii. Issue: how to these fit into shared governance? Some Deans already shared this, and some made it seem like admin was taking control of curriculum away from the faculty. Council of Deans were giving a list of people NOT to nominate for these committees. This was taken as a blacklist by deans. Scott feels like he's just getting hearsay. What was MEANT was to not give the SAME people over and over. THAT was the list. Not a blacklist, not opposed to people. Just wanted new nominees. Curriculum Transformation Comm, Co-req comm, Course eval comm, Dual enrollment comm
- iii. Provost wants us to be vigilant of issues with protests etc. esp related to confederate things at VCU
- iv. Navitas: tasked with "internationalizing" campus. Met with senior administrative. Dept chairs are going to hear the talk soon. Also have been invited as fac senate leadership.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Ashley Brewer.