



VCU

Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes — October 31, 2017

Commonwealth Ballroom, University Student Commons, 4:00 – 6:00 PM

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

Present: Alcaine (EDU), Alford (ARTS), An (NUR), Arrington (ARTS), Artello (WS, Alt. for Jin), Bosco (BUS), Bostian (BUS), Brewer (Webmaster), Brown (NUR, Alt. for Gregory), Coe (DEN), Coston (HAS), Crookendale (VCU-L), Cummins (HAS, Alt. for Gronert), Daugherty (HAS), DiazGranados (MED), Docef (EGR), Dula (BUS), Faris (ARTS), Ferrari (StAff, Alt. for Hawkins), Frankenhoff (MED), Franzak (BUS), Fueglein (UC), Ghosh (MED), Goldberg (MED), Gulla (EGR, Alt. for Wen), Guo (PHA, Alt. for Dixon), Hsu (MED), Jallo (NUR), Jones (HAS), Klein (ARTS), Kopryanski (ARTS), Kunkes (StAff), Lockeman (MED), Lodge (UC), Manjili (MED), Moslow-Benway (WS), Nadpara (PHA), Nicholson (HAS), Ottens (MED), Pellegrini (DEN), Ramsey (MED), Rivera (HAS), Robnolt (EDU), Rodriguez (HAS), Russell (DEN), Sherrod (ARTS), South (HAS, Alt. for Stevenson), Street (HAS), Sun (MED), Wajciechowski (EDU), Wayne (EGR), Wilson (EDU, Alt. for Mansfield), Zhang (MED)

Absent: Anthony (HAS), Bodnar-Deren (HAS), Branch (VCU-L), Dawson-Cruz (HAS), Fraser (SWK), Hogan (MED), Jamerson (AHP), Jones (EDU), Kidd (MED), Kornstein (MED), Le (MED), Rafiq (MED), Roberson-ay (MED), Samso (MED), Waugh (MED), Wike (SWK), Williams (AHP), York (MED), Zhou (MED)

Procedural Items:

4:05pm -- Call to order

Scott Street, President

Minutes from October 3rd meeting

Brian Daugherty, Recording Secretary & Treasurer

- Discussion topics: Daugherty announced that the October 3rd minutes and Bullet Points have been shared via email. Any questions or concerns can be addressed to him. Daugherty also asked faculty senators to introduce themselves before offering comments or questions during senate meetings in order to inform our guests, and to allow him to add senators' comments to the meeting minutes.

Guests:

4:05pm -- Alumni & Outreach

Allison Toney, Assoc. Dir. of Outreach and Engagement, VCU Alumni

Cidnye Weimer, Coord. for Student Programming, Univ. Student Commons & Activities

- Discussion topics: Toney and Weimer discussed this year's Homecoming events (Nov. 5-11), including the Homecoming Parade and tailgate, campus blood drive, and alumni socials. They also explained how faculty can register, RSVP, and/or

purchase tickets. [Http://homecoming.vcu.edu](http://homecoming.vcu.edu) is the official website. Toney also mentioned several upcoming events and initiatives for VCU alumni.

4:15pm -- VCU Master Plan

Jeff Eastman, University Planner

- Discussion topics: Eastman discussed the first phase of VCU's new master plan, and announced opportunities to provide feedback on the plan. Consultants from Ayers Saint Gross, the company that VCU has employed to assist with the plan, presented an overview of the development process. The principal concepts are "One VCU" to link the two campuses, an effort to consolidate previous plans and initiatives, and a long-term vision. [Https://masterplan.vcu.edu](https://masterplan.vcu.edu) is the official website.
- Senator Robnolt encouraged the designers to consider additional green space, and to allow space indoors where students can congregate in between classes.
- Senator Cummins asked the designers to address building access for the disabled, and mentioned several campus shortcomings in this regard. She also for spaces for students of all backgrounds to gather.
- Senator Sherrod also addressed shortcomings with regard to access for the disabled, and suggested planners incorporate additional means of transportation for travel between the two campuses, including bike lanes. Several senators offered support for this concept.
- Senator Kopryanski encouraged designers to consider needs for specific programs such as the arts, where soundproof rooms and other specific types for spaces are needed.
- Senator Faris encouraged the designers to address problems of water damage in older campus buildings, and how campus space could be used to promote faculty collaboration.
- Senator Artello reminded the designers to expand the amount of classroom space available, as this has been a longstanding problem.
- Senator Scott also encouraged the designers to expand the amount of classroom space available, but in conjunction with an effort to link class size with space.
- Senator Nicholson noted that many buildings, including the one housing the Robertson School, are antiquated and lacking modern technology.

Faculty Senate Items:

Halloween Costume Contest

- President Street oversaw the Faculty Senate's first Halloween Costume Contest, in conjunction with judges Gray and Hackett. Senators Alcaine and Crookendale were the big winners. See the last page of the minutes for more details!

4:45pm -- Faculty Senate President's Report – Scott Street

- a. Revised Intellectual Property Policy – Public Comment Period #2: Street announced that the Revised IP Policy is now open for comments a second time, until Nov. 9, and asked senators to review it and provide feedback.
- b. Adjunct Hiring Procedures: Street explained that all potential adjuncts, including those returning to VCU, must apply through VCU Jobs. He also noted that the

- minimum number of people required for a search committee is two, and that units can create a pool of eligible candidates and then hire from that pool as needed.
- c. Inclusive Governance Task Force: Because of the Human Resources redesign, many faculty and staff will move to University Academic and Professional positions, which will require updating a variety of VCU's governing structures. Street is part of a task force looking at this, and will update Faculty Senate moving forward.
 - d. Campus Interviews: VP Inclusive Excellence & Asst./Assoc. Vice Prvst. Academic Programs: There have recently been a series of job candidates on campus for these two positions, with various meetings and open forums. Street encouraged faculty to attend and to provide feedback on the candidates.
 - e. Faculty Senate of Virginia Report – Carmen Rodriguez, VCU Faculty Senate: Street announced that VCU hosted the Faculty Senate of Virginia this past weekend. Senator Rodriguez explained the FSVA, its meeting schedule, and its principal focus, which is lobbying legislators during Higher Education Advocacy Day each January. This year's key issues of interest/concern: DACA, free speech, open carry of weapons, Freedom of Information Act requests, faculty salaries, and the state budget.
 - f. Letter from Dr. Wanda Mitchell's family – Holly Alford, Past President: Senator Alford shared a letter from Dr. Wanda Mitchell's family thanking Faculty Senate for the resolution honoring Dr. Mitchell.

5:05pm -- Provost's Report

Gail Hackett, Provost and VP Academic Affairs

- Discussion topics: Provost Hackett discussed the upcoming state budget, and reiterated that faculty and staff salaries are a top priority. She also mentioned that several campus groups are investigating Confederate symbols on campus, and the university is monitoring campus (or near-campus) protests related to such. Hackett provided brief updates on a couple administrative searches.
- Senator Kunkes asked about the VCU Experiential Learning initiative, and Hackett noted that the EL Task Force has provided recommendations that will be shared in the near future, and that the administration is starting to hold discussions regarding funding and resources to support this initiative.
- Senator Artello asked about the decrease in foreign students at U.S. universities, and if that is also happening at VCU, and what might be done about this. Hackett responded that international students are sometimes choosing Canadian or Australian educational opportunities, even if they would prefer to come to the U.S., because of the current political climate. VCU is working to improve its recruitment of international students, including using an academic vendor, to counterbalance these trends.

Special Presentation:

5:20pm -- VCU New Budget Model

Gail Hackett, Provost and VP Academic Affairs

Karol Gray, VP Finance and Budget

- Discussion topics: Hackett and Gray discussed the rationale for redesigning VCU's budget, the staff involved in the process, and the role of steering committees and task groups. Gray offered an overview of VCU's current incremental budget,

discussed the principal terms/acronyms in the new budget, and discussed the principal changes to come in the new budget. These include the allocation of funds to units/schools, and the payment by units/schools of central costs to the university. The timeline of implementation is at: <http://budgetupdate.vcu.edu/timeline.html>, along with a copy of their PowerPoint presentation, and additional information.

- Senator Sherrod asked if a school's endowment was included in the new budget model, and Gray and Hackett said no.
- Senator Wayne asked if all units/schools will be assessed the same central costs, and Hackett responded that will be determined by a variety of metrics/factors (space used by the unit, faculty headcount, etc.).
- Several senators asked what units were part of the "Central Support Units," and Gray responded this includes VCU's legal team, Libraries, Facilities Management, and other portions of VCU's university-wide services.
- Senator Kunkes asked how budgets for the Central Support Units will be determined, and Hackett responded that these will be determined by members of the steering committee after presentations by each unit (which will occur regularly).
- Senator Faris asked about co-teaching classes and interdisciplinary teaching, and how those funds would be distributed. Hackett noted that deans and department chairs will have flexibility in this matter.
- Senator Ottens asked about the percentages of central costs, tuition funds, and so on, which Gray provided. Ottens also asked how small programs which cannot meet their costs will be affected, and Gray responded that some professional schools will be able to increase tuition. Hackett added that school-level administrators will also have flexibility to address shortcomings.
- Senator Jallo asked what will be the biggest challenge of implementing the new budget model. Gray responded that another budget cut would be difficult. Hackett said a change in mindset is needed, in order to move away from the habit of asking for more money instead of thinking of new, entrepreneurial ways to raise money.
- Senator Alford expressed the fear that some departments will generate money, but not be rewarded by the dean of their school. Hackett said those agreements should be established before the new revenue is generated.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Brian Daugherty.

Costume Contest Winners — October 31, 2017



Second Place: Jose Alcaine, School of Education (Disco Stu)
First Place: Carla-Mae Crookendale, VCU Libraries (Frida Kahlo)