



VCU

Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – September 29, 2020

4:00 – 6:00 PM

<https://tinyurl.com/faculty-senate-vcu>

For complete minutes and related files, see: <http://www.facultysenate.vcu.edu/>

Please email ecarpenter2@vcu.edu with questions or corrections.

Procedural Items:

Call to order, Welcome **At 4:00** (3 minutes)
Nancy Jallo, President

Minutes from meeting September 1, 2020 (2 minutes)
Everett Carpenter, Recording Secretary

Shared Governance

1. GenEd (30 minutes)

- Couple of faculty came forward with a proposal for a racial literacy course. There was initially miscommunication with GenEd committee and the faculty was sent to the committee and could have a discussion about whether we should include it or not. Initially thought was, one course, which is being developed in sociology right now, the GenEd committee is still concerned with logistics. They are working on a timeline trying to get all the courses in place by fall 2021. Would not increase the number of courses, but would replace one. Now going to let the committee take some more time to work it out. So nothing until fall 2020 at the earliest. Will need to be approved by faculty. Nothing decided yet. There could be discussion about not only racial literacy but also cultural literacy.
- Will a related course be offered in the fall of 2021 before the GenEd requirement be approved? The one course in Sociology in development could be offered as an elective.
- Corrections:
 - stated that the course is being developed in Sociology. This is incorrect. The course is an interdisciplinary effort by a CORE (Committee on Racial Equality) group of CHS and CoED faculty, including several from sociology. There will be a new course code Critical Social Inquiry and Justice studies (CSIJ) for a new interdisciplinary degree program that addresses race, racism, anti-racism, and related concepts.

2. Term Faculty Report

Elizabeth Ripley, Professor of Medicine Division of Nephrology

Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs

PowerPoint attached

- Will there be clear criteria in determining which term faculty are eligible for research/scholarship support? -- Some of this relates to job descriptions. So with that

confused it is hard to provide support. Need to clear up job description in order to give good attention to who really need the support. There might be a teaching term who wants to do research, but that is a difference.

- Can we get a copy of the full report? Yes, it will be distributed
- will this change the path/requirements to go from term to tenure track? -- Entire taskforce will be looking at the promotion guidelines and evaluate if there are pathways from term to tenure take.
- Will this change the path from term to tenure? This report did not address that, but there is a policy already in place for that transition. Technically a move from term to tenure needs to be a search.
- Doing anything to protect term from service requirements? Was a statement in the report comments on service loads should be looked at and should be protected.

3. Additional items

Provost Office Report

Gail Hackett, Provost for Academic Affairs

- Spring calendar feedback is mixed, students don't want change, faculty coming down with option 2 delay and no spring break. Public health response team is going to have input as well. Still concerned about the flu season. Tomika looking to see if there is a way to add a couple of reading days toward the end of the semester to give mini breaks
- Why is the full online not even an option? Cannot answer that. By that point the ICT must have felt that did not make real sense. There are many programs which require in person for certification. Also only 17% of students are fully online this fall.
- The recommendations for the spring 2021 calendar came forward from the academic calendar committee. All options for modality were discussed. There was a recommendation to remain exclusively online until it was safe to return to campus with a variety of modalities. No recommendation was advanced for exclusively online for the entire semester.

4. REAL

(15 minutes)

Erin Webster Garrett

Assistant Vice Provost, REAL

Strong student advisory board to help understand the student experience and then communicate this to future students.

PowerPoint slides attached

Looking for feedback before Oct 1 Using the following :

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd9KrrE0-plvZPtv6UMPSDRVhw_w5qsQz0WMQRzeb25Kw7lKw/viewform

5. Policy Process

(5 minutes)

Nancy Jallo, President Faculty Senate

Scott Street, Past President Faculty Senate

How is faculty senate involved in the policy process? Pilot will provide a list to FS will review the list and identify the ones that faculty would be most interested in. So when they review them they will come to FS to review them.

6. University Committees-Standing

(10 minutes)

Faculty Senate Committees and Discussions

(30 minutes)

Nancy Jallo: represents the Faculty Senate on the Health sub-committee of the Strategic Research Priorities Planning Committee...we are developing actions to support the goals and objectives of the committee- some of the proposed actions to meet the goals are: increasing research space, incorporating members of the community in health areas (cancer, neuroscience/addiction, cardiovascular and metabolic disorders);develop retreats/collaborative forums to stimulate collaboration and partnership within VCU and the community/diverse constituents; provide resources/training for engaging in team science; collaborative software...to name just a few. The complete report will go to Dr. S.Rao for review and presentation to President Rao prior to the Board of Visitors.

The VCU Safety and Well-being Advisory Committee is requesting faculty to consider serving on this committee, which has been charged with defining and instituting the components of a new transformational model for public safety and wellness across campus, independent of VCU Police. We seek dedicated candidates who feel compelled to lend us their expertise and are willing to commit to serving as a member from September 2020 to May 2021. Anticipate the committee will meet a minimum of twice a month, concluding after findings are presented to the VCU Board of Visitors and VCU Health System Authority Board of Directors next May. Andrew Daire – dean, school of education and Sheryl Garland, VCU Health system will lead the committee as co-chairs.

The Domicile Appeals Committee requests a faculty member to serve as a voting committee member on this new committee. This Committee has the final authority at the university for all appeals related to domicile for tuition purposes. The responsibility for this committee has recently transitioned from Student Affairs to Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM). The committee meets once a month. The length of the meetings can range from a couple of hours to closer to four or five hours. It depends on the number of appeals the committee needs to review. Also, the appointment is for a 2-year term, although committee members can be reappointed for multiple terms.

Academic Continuity Committee:

1. If faculty have students who are having technology or other issues for virtual/online learning, these are some links that faculty can use to get the students help:

Refer a VCU Student for Support form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScpO42w9fDfl3gB51H2eo1AyG8ovyNqwazIz5tGBFN2r38F6A/viewform>

Ask for Help site: <https://keeplearning.vcu.edu/help/>

2. Maggie Tolan wants faculty to submit an alert if students aren't attending or doing work.

3. Currently, an analysis of the Spring 2020 course evaluations is being conducted. The committee is working on open-ended questions for the alternative course evaluation.

Similar to Spring 2020, the alternative course evaluation will need to be an option at the school/college level.

VCU Libraries Advisory Committee:

1. There are reduced hours in the libraries, but with fewer people using the libraries, the hours may be reduced more. Masks are required while in the library. They are doing front

door pick up of books, but in the Richmond area, they will do front porch delivery if people can't get to campus. They will mail books to students who are living outside the Richmond area.

2. There have been major budget reductions and they may be more in the FY 2022 budget. The libraries will save approximately \$300,000 with eliminating some of the Taylor and Francis individual subscriptions. They can get anything with interlibrary loan - they will always get the content that faculty and students need.

Others

See notes from the leadership meetings

Information

1. Mission and Offerings - Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence and Faculty Success (10 minutes)

Kim Case, Director of Faculty Success

Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence

PowerPoint attached

NEW website: <https://ctle.vcu.edu/>

Sept 29 newsletter full of events: <https://mailchi.mp/198674e50e40/vcu-ctle-newsletter-sept-4-1886962?e=9b15c329d3>

Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/VCUCTLE>

Fall workshop: <https://ctle.vcu.edu/events/workshops/>

Just Write: <https://ctle.vcu.edu/events/write/>

Faculty Wellness Day: <https://ctle.vcu.edu/events/wellness/>

Wellness day amazing agenda book!

https://www.canva.com/design/DAEJG_2zoLU/xQUvk9NfAT4u-y6YOIYP_A/view?utm_content=DAEJG_2zoLU&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=publishsharelink

2. University Faculty Grievance Panel (5 minutes)

Chair's Annual Report August 2019-August 2020

Blythe Alison Bowman Balestrieri

L. Douglas Wilder School of Government

Faculty Senate

Report attached

Virtual meetings with Matt Conrad, Government Relations Office, have the following updates:

In the house a new bill 5005, if passed 10M\$ flexible funding to VCU would get 10\$, In CARES would be getting about 16\$ to VCU with additional money to convert the honors overflow back. 1500\$ bonus to faculty with 750\$ to adjuncts. Also maybe two pay periods to skip health care payments. In Senate, bonus of 2% to faculty. More detailed report attached.

Break (10 minutes)

Valerie Robnolt Will present the results of the breakout room discussions at next leadership meeting.

Faculty Senators were divided into breakout rooms to discuss the following questions.

- 1) How can we garner the assistance of VCU alumni in addressing some of the critical concerns facing the university at this time?
- 2) How are the faculty supporting students during this challenging time while also making sure that they are learning what they need to learn to meet the objectives of their courses. How are we receiving support and doing what we need to do to maintain our well-being?
- 3) What are some ideas for how to support our anti-racism goal. We've talked about doing faculty learning communities, but what are some other ways to facilitate learning and growing?

Anti-racism Statement of the VCU Faculty Senate:

The VCU Faculty Senate recognizes that structural and systemic racism across our educational and social institutions affect the psychological, physical, and spiritual well-being of our entire VCU campus and broader community.

The VCU Faculty Senate affirms the powerful statement made by Dr. Aashir Nasim to the Board of Visitors recognizing the lived experiences and rights of those who call attention to historical and present-day abuses of power and privilege. We pledge to fully support and help to implement the university initiatives identified in his report that are intended to eliminate bias, discrimination, and racism across our campus. *We as VCU Faculty Senators commit to learning about, developing, and engaging in concrete anti-racist work at both individual and collective levels to support our students, faculty, and staff, and to promote real and lasting change.*

Statement of Dr. Nasim:

[https://news.vcu.edu/latest/key-issues/Remarks by Aashir Nasim PhD](https://news.vcu.edu/latest/key-issues/Remarks%20by%20Aashir%20Nasim%20PhD)

Next Meeting: October 27, 2020 4-6pm Zoom