

**Getting REAL:**

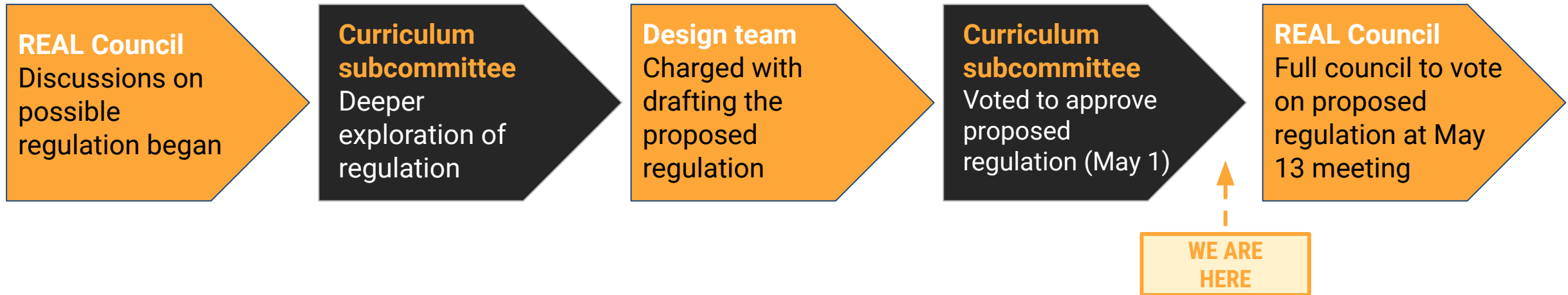
**Fulfilling our promise to students  
through a REAL academic regulation**



**VCU** Relevant, Experiential  
and Applied Learning

# Process for this academic regulation

To craft an academic regulation that fulfills Dr. Rao's vision, we have engaged in the following governance process during the 2019-20 academic year:



## Purpose of today's presentation

- To keep you informed and in the loop
- An additional part of our due diligence process
- Introduce you to the REAL academic regulation, with the intent to return this fall with an update and to seek your endorsement

# The proposal

A new academic regulation, titled “Experiential learning, or REAL, graduation requirement at the undergraduate level,” will be developed, and put into place for all first-year and transfer undergraduates matriculating in fall 2021 or later.

To satisfy this new proposed requirement, **a student** must do one of the following:

- Complete a 300-level (or higher) course that has received a REAL attribute of Level 2, 3, or 4
- Complete an approved co-curricular experience that has received a REAL attribute of Level 3 or 4

## REAL Levels

REAL courses and activities are leveled based on the degree to which they incorporate the REAL characteristics: hands-on learning, guided reflection, mentored experiences, and integrative learning. These levels were set in cooperation with the academic units in summer 2019.

# The proposal

- Each school, college or unit will be encouraged to determine the pathway through which a student may fulfill the REAL requirement within its academic context, as long as it does not increase the hours required for graduation beyond the approved limit
- Alternative pathways to fulfill the requirement through the co-curriculum are recommended (e.g., through undergraduate research, service-learning, etc.)
- Courses in a program of study that already require experiential learning may *concurrently* fulfill the REAL requirement as well, assuming these courses meet the defined criteria
- Criteria for the regulation were carefully calibrated using Opportunity Audit inventory data; it's designed to be reasonable/practical and easily met within most programs of study
- Having once satisfied the REAL requirement, a student will not have to fulfill it again (e.g., for returning students, or students who change major)

# **A REAL requirement:**

- **Aligns with the VCU mission**
- **Addresses equity and access as top priorities**
- **Enhances data collection systems**
- **Builds off of and expands what currently exists**

# Next steps

## Information sessions for faculty interested in learning more

- May 6, 2 to 3 p.m.
- May 7, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
- May 13, 1 to 2 p.m.

Email [real@vcu.edu](mailto:real@vcu.edu) to receive a Zoom link for any of the above times.

## Governance process

- Full REAL Council to vote on proposed regulation at May 13 meeting
- If approved, regulation will then be presented to deans and associate deans over the summer
- Regulation will return to Faculty Senate in the fall for potential endorsement

# Questions?

Thank you for your support!



Full motion can be found at [go.vcu.edu/realregulation](https://go.vcu.edu/realregulation)