

A Message from the Faculty Senate President

Dear Colleagues,

Faculty, like all major stakeholders in the university community and higher education, are experiencing first-hand the ongoing developments in higher education, particularly here in Virginia. The current pressures on higher education may be generating a wide array of responses within each of us, and the impacts on our students and community partners--as well as our work with them--are at the forefront of our thoughts and actions.

Along with these challenges comes opportunity, and one crucial opportunity is leveraging **faculty voice and engagement to shape our present moment and uncertain future.**

Participation in the Faculty Senate offers hope as well as an avenue for that voice. We are following issues closely and planning for an academic year that will be filled with import for VCU, higher education in Virginia, and the national sector. We are bringing our policy and practices into closer alignment so that we can be **collaborative and action-oriented** in the year(s) ahead. We are identifying priority issues to focus on, and we are preparing for work and action that will bring your voice to the forefront of decision-making. Thus, we welcome your input, ideas, experiences and commitment to the higher education experience we--students, staff, leaders, partners, and ourselves--value, need, and deserve.

We are YOUR faculty senate, and with your engagement, we can accomplish much together. Please join us.

Kim Bridges, Faculty Senate President 2025-2026