Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, September 4, 2012, 4:00 PM Student Commons Forum Room, Monroe Park Campus


ABSENT: Chestnut, Cowles, Dishman, Dodson, Groudreau, Groteweil, Grover, Hackney, Kaplan, Lamb-Barnes, McCracken, Morgan, Mulloy, Najarian, Nasim, Reid, Wickham

EXCUSED: Bachman, Jennings

- David Fauri called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.
- Minutes of the May 1, 2012 meeting were approved as presented.

- The agenda was reviewed, officers introduced, and announcements made. D. Fauri requested a volunteer to serve the 2nd half of the year term Corresponding Secretary for Marilyn Miller who will be on educational leave Spring Semester, 2013.
- Scott Street, Credentials and Rules Committee, reviewed and commented on By-laws/Rules of the Senate, with particular attention to participation and meeting attendance of Faculty Senators
- A Welcoming Serenade was provided by the Notocords, a VCU Student Activity Group.

ACTION ITEMS

Nominations, Elections/Affirmations, Leadership Transitions: The Senate body affirmed the nomination of Mary Secret as Recording Secretary for 2012-2013 and the continuation of Valerie Robnolt as Grievance Panel Chair for 2012-2013. Elections for the Grievance Panel Chair will be held in March 2013 as part of the regular process for nominating and election of FS officers. Marilyn Miller is willing to be nominated as Grievance Panel Chair for a regular 3-year term beginning Fall, 2013.

Grievance Procedures Revision: The Senate body voted to untable the original motion from last spring and to withdraw from consideration that motion. Valerie Robnolt, Chair, University Grievance Panel, presented a September 4, 2012 draft of Virginia Commonwealth University Faculty Mediation and Grievance Procedure which will be voted on at the October 2nd meeting. Senators should take note of the following recommended revisions:
• An enhanced mediation procedure which enable grievances to go directly to the University level.
• The Pre-review of the grievance
• Procedures that outline how the recommendations of the University Faculty Grievance Panel will be acted upon by administrators.

Senators were strongly encouraged to share this draft with their units and ask for feedback from their colleagues (which should go directly to Valerie). University Council Faculty Affairs Committee and then the University Council itself will consider these recommendations with the intent that they will be effective January, 2013.

Draft of Communication to University of Virginia Faculty Senate: David Fauri read a letter to the UVA Faculty Senate acknowledging their involvement in the recent issues at VCU re the President and Board and highlighting the importance of shared governance. The senate body voted to forward the letter to the UVA Faculty Senate President

INFORMATION ITEMS

Senate Committees and Faculty Senate Representation: Vice President June Nicholson asked for senators to sign-up for Senate Committees; David Fauri encouraged senate participation on the University Substance Abuse Committee.

Faculty Senate Theme for the Year: David Fauri announced that the Faculty Senate Leadership group had selected ‘shared governance’ as this year’s Faculty Senate theme and focus. Bob Andrews shared a report from the 2011-2012 Faculty Affairs Committee of the University Council about Faculty Governance. The intent is for Shared Governance to become the Faculty Senate Theme for the year. David Fauri said that Bob is spearheading this effort in University Council and is working with the Provost on it.

Communications, Publicity, Publications: Erin White and Jeff South reviewed progress of setting up the faculty senate list-serve and website. Additional discussion about the possibility of video recording some aspects of the faculty senate activities. Senators may send their pictures for inclusion on the website.

Announcement of AAUP function: Pat Cummins shared a flyer announcing the September 29, 2012 AAUP meeting with President Rao as speaker; she encouraged all Senators to attend. It will be held at the Student Commons, Monroe Park Campus, at 10:10 am.

Guest Speaker – John Blohm, Vice President for Development, reviewed the steps and the approach that his office is taking for development and fund raising activities. He stressed the importance of the university office working with and supporting the efforts of the development offices in individual units. A summary of the presentation will be posted on the Faculty Senate website.

Provost’s Comments: Provost Warren began with a note of appreciation for faculty members and the work of the faculty senate. She highlighted the relationship between shared governance and shared responsibility and mentioned various upcoming university activities and plans that are associated with the implementation of Quest for Distinction.

Senate President’s Report:
• David Fauri reported on plans for the scheduled Oct 30th reception with Dr. Rao. This Faculty Senate reception will be held from 4 to 4:45 on October 30th to provide an opportunity for senators and the President to meet informally. The regular Faculty Senate meeting will follow immediately, 5 – 6 pm.
• We are moving forward to obtain a representative to Senate from the Retired Faculty Council
• The University Budget process is being revised toward a ‘mission’ driven budget process. David is representing the Faculty Senate on the University Budget Advisory Board.
• David reported on involvement, as Faculty Senate representative, in the recruitment and hiring activities of the recent University Administrative positions.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10

Respectfully submitted: Mary Secret, Recording Secretary