Faculty Senate Meeting Notes 3 May 2011


Absent: Baechle, Brown, Coogle, Cowles, Dent, Dhillon, Dishman, Dodson, Ellis, Jacobs, Larner, Matthews, McClure, McCollum, McCracken, E. Miller, Mital, Nguyen, Ortiz, Piciche, Rhodes, Rotabi, Rowe, Rybarczyk, Smith, South, Stenhagen, StTern, Strong, Sweeney, Wallin, Williams, Wright

I. Approval of April Meeting Minutes
Approved

II. Report on General Assembly (Mark Rubin)
Budget Notes:
--5% salary increase (but it goes into retirement plans) but VRS folks get to keep their raises
--3M to transfer the MCV parking lot to the City of RVA (where the slave burial ground is located)
--42M allotted to fund the new instruction building (in the VV lot on Floyd Ave)
--Higher Education Funding Model: A framework for future funding: Need-based financial aid, each VA undergrad student will automatically be enrolled, money for basic operations and funding, and support for targeted financial incentives. This is intended to fuel the economy of VA by creating a skilled workforce and giving them jobs.
--Trauma fund has been revised
--AIDS Drug Assistance Program has been instated
--Medical Malpractice Legislation: Medical Malpractice Bill (increasing the cap on amt. that a claimant can recover from a medical malpractice suit). Peer review bill protects reviewers for medical malpractice cases. They were vetoed by the Governor, but passed by the GA.
--The Office of Government Relations is here to talk w/ us. www.govrel.vcu.edu

III. Revisions to University Council Bylaws (Bob Andrews)
At Thursday’s UC meeting, they will have substitute language for the committee’s language will be voted on.

IV. Faculty Senate Representative to the Board of Visitors
(Linda Corey)
--The Leadership Group suggests that Faculty Senate sends two names to the BOV (the FS rep and their alternate). They would like the immediate Past President to be the rep and the current president to be the alternate. (The President makes the final decision). This motion to submit the immediate Past Pres. and the current Pres. as alternate as reps. was approved.

V. Proposal to Move Spring Break Up One Week (Corey)
--Moving SB up one week (earlier) would make it easier for the Withdrawal period, as it would allow more time for students to be graded before they decide to Withdraw. The advantage of making SB earlier would improve things in regard to where the Withdrawal period is in relation to Spring Break and the semester. One issue is that folks who teach two 1.5 credit courses in a semester have their first class ends before SB. Linda will send the email to all of us that explains this idea, and will give us a chance to respond to this email. FS members will poll their colleagues and get info back to Linda by Monday, 5/9. What the committee is looking for is a list of things that might make moving SB complicated.

VI. Faculty Grievance Policy (Valerie Robnolt)
--Ad Hoc Committee made up of Faculty Senators, folks on the Grievance Panel, and Frank Baskind (Ombudsman). They are discussing policy. They’ve thought about eliminating the school-level grievance boards. One issue that arises is during accreditation, folks look for grievance policies. A motion was made to support the idea of disbanding school-level grievance boards, and it was approved. Another question arose: If the policy is revised, should administrators be removed from the University-level grievance boards?

VII. VCU Libraries (John Ulmschneider)
Please see handout. Funding has not been reduced. New journals have been added. New off-site storage facility that holds 200,000 volumes has been added. A student common space has been added. Funding for staff and operations has not been further reduced. ARL membership has been identified as a metric in the Strategic Plan. The new library building on MPC hopefully will be next in the queue for funding. We looked at a scheme for renovations and student flow.

VIII. Humanities Center (Catherine Ingrassia); (Pat Cummins)
What the Center will concentrate on:
--providing a catalyst for advanced research in the humanities
--strengthening the connection with international partnership institutions
--creating innovative and themed curricula and programs, and
--building and enhancing our relationships with other cultural institutions in Richmond (e.g. VMFA, State Library, Virginia Historical Society) and with the community in Richmond.

The work of the center—research, curricula, and community-engagement—will share four defining characteristics: the work will be

- **interdisciplinary** and inclusive, bringing together multiple disciplines and departments
- **collaborative** by fostering activities among faculty (interdepartmental and interschool), students, the community, and our international partners
- **global** its engagement of research areas and in its focused activity with our global partners, and
- **public** in the dissemination of research through talks, colloquia, and strategic outreach activities.

A discussion followed about whether or not to support the idea. Please see handouts for details.

**Motion:** To support H/S Faculty Council’s motion to table the review of the Humanities Center. **Favor:** 17 **Opposed:** 3 **Abstain:** 2

**IX. President’s Report (Linda Corey)**
Faculty Senate is invited to University Council to hear about the Quest for Distinction at 3:00 on Thursday, in Commonwealth Ballroom B.

**X. New Business**
- **Meeting Schedule for 2011-2012 (David Fauri)**