The meeting was called to order at 4:01 P.M.

1. Dan Ream presented a plaque and gavel to Linda Corey, immediate past president, as a token of thanks for her service to the Senate as president from 2009-2011.

2. Senate president David Fauri presented the Senate Leadership members and the guests at today’s meeting.

President Rao thanked past Senate presidents Linda Corey and Dan Ream for their assistance to him and looks forward to working with current president David Fauri. Kevin Allison is working with President Rao on the Quest for Distinction. In his remarks he addressed our loss of $63 million, revenue from tuition dollars, and the size of the student body, making it clear that VCU is more concerned about graduation rates than the size of the student body. VCU clearly needs more faculty and the funds to pay them well.

Senators introduced themselves.

Scott Street, parliamentarian, spoke about the web site and the By-Laws and Standing Rules of the Faculty Senate.

3. Minutes of May 2011 meeting were approved with amendments.

4. Announcements – information only
Notice of forthcoming draft “Policy on Institutional Conflicts of Interest in Research” was presented by Monika Markowitz, Director, Office of Research Integrity & Ethics. This policy requires approval by the Board of Visitors. Her office is working toward an electronic process for registration and reporting. The draft will come to Senate soon for our information and review. The policy should come before the Board of Visitors by the first of the year.

Dan Ream, prior past president, addressed his development of a photo directory of Senators. If there is no photo of you on the VCU website Dan has placed an image of either Marie Curie (women) or John Houseman as Professor Kingsfield (men). If you are either a Curie or a Kingsfield please send your photo to dream@vcu.edu. The directory can be found at tinyurl.com/facsen

5. Continuing Business from the Previous Year
Pat Cummins presented an update on the Humanities Center Proposal from the College of Humanities & Science.
6. Committee Leadership, Committee Membership and Faculty Senate Representation to university boards and committees
Vice President June Nicholson spoke about senate committees, requested participation in committees of interest to senators, and provided sign-up forms for volunteers. Holly Alford, Scott Street, Pat Cummins and Valerie Robnolt presented information about the important work of our committees, Lobby Day, Academic Support Services and membership on the University Hearing Board. Chairs are needed for some standing committees. Please phone or e-mail June with questions or requests to participate.

7. Provost Warren explained to the new senators that she comes to Faculty Senate to share important information, share ideas and hear faculty ideas and concerns. Her presence here is part of her work towards openness and transparency in communication.

There were one hundred seventy-five new faculty at the new faculty orientation. Ninety-four are tenure track faculty provided by the Excellence funds. Seventy-four have been hired. Approximately thirty new faculty will come to VCU this year courtesy of President Rao and the Excellence funds. Changes have been made to New Faculty Orientation. The Six Year Plan was presented to the state before a group of six legislative leaders and fifteen constituents: 1. increase the number faculty and staff. 2. Improve salaries of faculty and staff. 3. Technology and equipment for 21st C. 4. Financial aid – need more for the lowest quartile of the student body. The final report will be presented in October.

She addressed the creation and implementation of Quest for Excellence. It is our obligation to educate students to the best of our ability. Raising our profile while increasing research and educating our students will bring top professors into the classroom. We must have targeted strategic enrollment management. Base budget adequacy no longer follows FTE. We will increase our graduation rate; 6 years till graduation makes sense for VCU but 61% graduation rate is unacceptable. GPAs and SAT scores are getting higher but must be higher still. To meet the challenge of a research university students must be academically prepared.

We will look at P&T guidelines with respect to Quest for Excellence and funding of research. We may want to consider lengthening the probation period for tenure eligible faculty because of the difficulty in funding research. A faculty committee will soon be appointed to examine promotion and tenure.

8. New Business
Vice Provost Laura Moriarty presented an update on the Advising Plan and the advising manual. Dr. James Wiznerowicz, chair of the UUCC and special assistant to the Vice Provost, presented an overview of the new process for submitting proposals to the UUCC for courses and curriculum. Blackboard will be used; the new forms clearly define the process and all submissions will be electronic. Ms. Barbara Judy, Director of Degree Audit Operations, spoke about the importance of reviewing degree audits and communicating inaccuracies which result from curricular changes to her office. Ms. Terri Dunnivant spoke about the uniform presentation of curriculum via the bulletin and Seth Sykes, special assistant to the vice provost, announced that the university training program for advisors starts Spring semester.

The meeting adjourned at 5:47
Adjournment until Tuesday October 4, 4:00 PM.
Respectfully submitted: Cynthia Donnell, Recording Secretary