Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, November 1, 2011, 4:00 PM

Student Commons Forum Room, Monroe Park Campus

Commons Map http://www.vcu.edu/maps/acmap/unstucom/unstucom.htm
Parking Map http://www.vcu.edu/maps/acmap/wmpark/wmpark.htm


The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

Minutes of October 2011 meeting were approved as presented.

Pat Cummins spoke briefly about Higher Education Advocacy Day on 1/12/2012. Participants will gather in the School of Nursing faculty lounge; position papers will be available; folks new to the process will be paired with experienced faculty; breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Agenda Review: No comments.

Action Item: Susan Robb, Associate Vice President for Research Administration and Compliance, presented the following items for information and discussion:
1. Office of Sponsored Programs Responsibilities Policy
2. Sponsored Program Proposals: Definitions, Solicitation, Review, Approval and Submission
3. Sponsored Program Proposal Submission Deadline Policy
4. Minimum Effort for Key Personnel on Sponsored Programs Policy
5. Policy on Limited Submissions Programs
6. Sponsored Agreement and Gift Policy

The Office of Sponsored Programs was reviewed by both an external consulting group and VCU’s internal audit group over the last two years. Both groups recommended that many of the "guidelines" issued by OSP relating to proposal preparation and processing, award review and negotiation, and post-award management be converted to administrative policies.

In the question and answer period following her presentation, Vice President Robb explained that what will now be policies were previously guidelines. The context of the policies is the same as the guidelines but there is some enhancement, elaboration, and an approval process. Additional items will be forthcoming in the review process as about 24 items are involved in all.

President Fauri suggested a resolution to support the recommendations of Ms. Robb’s office.
Resolution: The Faculty Senate supports the revision of guidelines to become administrative policies as recommended by the Office of Sponsored Programs. The resolution was passed with no nays and 4 abstentions.
Provost’s Comments  
Provost Warren addressed some of our concerns. The ad hoc committee reviewing promotion and tenure will have representatives from every academic unit, from tenured, tenure track and collateral faculty and from the chairs. The general charge will be to conduct a thorough review of promotion and tenure. There will be opportunity for confidential input. The report goes to President Rao by 4/11/2012. Recommendations go forth in April. The committee will convene in the next ten days.

She then spoke about Quest and metrics. Quest is about developing a road map, a way of giving clarity about where we are headed. It's about our document and defining quality. Students, staff and faculty all are included by how we define individual quality. Quest is about culture and style. It is about inclusivity, respect, civility, and will include a dialogue to move us toward implementation with a degree of trust. Not every metric is something individual faculty must address. Diversity is not only about our race or how we look but also about what we think, feel and contribute. Questions were asked and discussion ensued. The provost presented her administrative reorganization plan. Her office plans to launch a search for a Vice Provost for Diversity this semester.

New Business  
Director of Disability Support Services at VCU, Joyce B. Knight, spoke to senators about the work of her office.

Mariam Maddux spoke to senators about the Department of Parking & Transportation’s Alternate Transportation programs and green initiatives. These include free parking for carpool vehicles, Zimride <http://zimride.vcu.edu>, and pre-tax transit programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.  
Next Meeting, Tuesday December 6, 4:00 PM, MPC  

Respectfully submitted: Cynthia Donnell