Minutes of the Faculty Senate
May 7, 2002
MCV Alumni House, Room 114, MCV Campus

Present:

Absent:
Boothby, Bowlin, Costanzo, Davey, Dilworth, Hague, Kester, Kuemmerle, Leone, McCreary, Nicholson, Ottenbrite, Reynolds, Rife, Tepper

The last Faculty Senate meeting of the 2001-2002 academic year was called to order at 4:10 PM by President Bob Andrews. The motion to approve minutes of April meeting passed unanimously.

Vice President Christina Turner announced that she had circulated a list of standing committees. She asked Senators who were completing their three-year term to cross their names off the current committee list. She requested that those who wanted to change committee assignments and those who were interested in serving as a committee chair or co-chair please indicate those desires on the list.

President's Report

President Bob Andrews asked for a volunteer to represent the faculty on a VCU Dining Services committee. The volunteer would need to be available for vendor presentations the first week in August.
Dr. Andrews announced that the Leadership Group, composed of Committee Chairs and the elected Executive Committee meet monthly throughout the academic year. He encouraged those Senators with an interest in serving on this Leadership Group to contact him about leadership opportunities for 2002-2003.

**Proposed Changes to the University Council By-laws**

*Dr. Alan Briceland* shared that there were 3 issues in regard to proposed changes to the by-laws of the University Council. The consensus document, term limits and the composition of the Academic Affairs Committee. The consensus document included language changes that would permit the Academic Affairs Committee to turn down a recommendation and still allow it to be brought forward to University Council with a "negative recommendation." Another proposed change was to reduce the number of faculty representatives on the Academic Affairs Committee from 6 to 4 and to add the Vice President of Health Sciences and a representative from the Staff Senate. Dr. Briceland expressed his feelings that faculty should be an absolute majority on the Academic Affairs Committee. Dr. Briceland explained that unless a 2/3 vote for the by-law change was achieved that the composition of the Academic Affairs Committee would remain its current composition of: 6 faculty, 1 senior administrator, 2 deans, and 2 students.

Discussion of these proposed by-law changes included acknowledgement that most academic concerns such as program and course changes are reviewed by the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, the Graduate Curriculum Committee, or the Professional Program Committee. However, because there are no other committees of University Council that meet on a regular basis, the Academic Affairs Committee has become the committee that is used to review other items business prior to being brought to University Council. Policies such as the University Alcohol and Drug Policy, the Research Data Policy, and the formation of the Professional Programs Committee have been introduced for the first time at the level of the Academic Affairs Committee. Senators were encouraged to contact elected faculty representatives from their school to University Council to express their concern about a loss of faculty majority on the Academic Affairs Committee if this proposed by-law change were to be passed.

There was a general consensus of opinion expressed that steps should be taken to insure that faculty have the major say in all issues related to academics.

*Dr. Wes Poynor* stated that the Faculty Senate should take a stand to oppose term limits. He stated his opinion that "the Senate should be at liberty to send who they want to represent them."
Dr. Judy Lewis stated that the issue regarding the composition of the Academic Affairs Committee was "an issue of principle." Faculty should be in control of academic decisions.

Three votes were held providing Faculty Senate opinion in regard to these bylaw changes to the Faculty Senates' representatives to University Council. The first vote dealt with the issue of adding a section that changed the language of "approval" to "recommend." The Senate indicated with a vote of 13 For, 28 Against that they were opposed to voting in favor of the consensus document.

The second vote dealt with Term Limits. With a vote of 26 For and 12 Against, the Senate indicated that they favored term limits of 4 years. The final vote, which was unanimous, indicated that the Senate opposed any change in the composition of the Academic Affairs Committee that would alter the faculty majority membership. President Andrews indicated that the voice of the senate had been heard by those who represented them on University Council.

Research Data Policy

Dr. Andrews announced that the Academic and Research Committee co-chairs Joyce Lloyd and Bob Lamb were in the process of arranging a meeting with Dr. Chermside, and Mr. Dick Franson and their committee, consisting of Wes Poynor, Bob Andrews, Blue Wooldridge, Kathryn Murphy-Judy, Allan Lee, Jim McMillan, Frank Macrina, and Margo Garcia. This group may meet during the summer.

Action Items

A motion was made, sponsored by the Faculty Caucus of University Council, to request that the President of Faculty Senate assemble a committee to study the Faculty Grievance and Appeal Procedure Document. Dr. Alan Briceland commented that some years ago that Retired Faculty Senator Lucy Harvey chaired a Committee to revise the Faculty Grievance Document and that she might be willing to serve on whatever committee was assembled. Dr. Michael Smith, Chair of the Grievance Panel, has recommended that a number of other changes need to be made to the document. A new Chair of Faculty Grievance Procedure will be elected in the fall. The motion passed.

Dr. Andrews also announced that the chair of next year's Credentials and Rules Committee, Dr. Dianne Simons, would put together a committee to review the Faculty Senate Bylaws.
**Classroom Survey**  
*West Campus Representative Dan Ream* announced the results of the Classroom Survey report. Although the number of responses was not as high as the committee would have liked, there were 429 responses. Jimmy Gaffery from VCU Libraries provided programming assistance. According to Senator Ream, the results of the survey will help the Senate Academic Support Service Committee to help the Administration spend any money designated for classrooms "a little more intelligently." Senator Margo Garcia commended the work that the Senate had accomplished in this area over the last 3 years bringing the attention of the administration to this issue. She stated "In rooms that I’ve been teaching in, improvements have been made."

**New Business Item**  
Phyllis Self announced that “Dolly” Pakurar and John W. Bigbee had been selected for this year's award for Academic Technology Innovation for their “Digital Histology CD.”

**Final Comments**  
Prior to closing Vice President Christina Turner recognized Bob Andrews for his service over the previous year as Faculty Senate President. She emphasized that he should be commended for his grace in "walking a fine line" in representing the interests of the faculty with the administration. Not always an easy task.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM.  
Respectfully submitted,  
*Dianne F. Simons, Ph.D., OTR/L*  
Faculty Senate Secretary-Treasurer

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*Posted September 6, 2002*  
*Neil W. Henry*