Meeting, May 2003

Agenda

Call to Order
Minutes of April Meeting
Opening Remarks and Status Report on Issues
Election of University Grievance Panel Chair
Update on E-mail Service
Proposed Revisions to
  
  • Bylaws,
  • Leadership Guidelines, and
  • Standing Rules

New Business
Adjournment

Minutes of the Faculty Senate

May 6, 2003

Lyons Student Lounge

VCU Health System Campus

Absent: Bilyeu, Crouch, Davey, Donnell, Fuller-Seeley, Heuman, Hutchinson, Jeter, Olds, Pyles, Rife, Sarkozi, Tepper, Ward, Wood

President Bob Andrews called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

The April minutes were approved as written.

President’s Comments

Bob, president for two years, thanked Stan Strong, Terry Oggel, and Wes Poynor for encouraging him to take a leadership role in Faculty Senate. He then proceeded to name each individual and his or her role as a member of the Faculty Senate Leadership for 2002-2003 and expressed his appreciation to the individuals for their support. Additionally, he thanked Alan Briceland for serving as parliamentarian.

Bob mentioned some highlights of the academic year concerning the Intellectual Property Policy, the request to have a nonvoting faculty representative appointed to the Board of Visitors, the Diversity Resolution of the Senate and the Assistant Vice Provost for Diversity position, and the recommendation by the Senate Budget Committee that VCU increase Spring 2003 tuition to $300 instead of the $200 the University administration initially planned. He also commended the Student Government Associations and Staff Senate for working with Faculty Senate to accomplish several items.

VCU Optional Retirement Plan (ORP)

Mike Pitts gave a brief summary of the status of the VCU Optional Retirement Plan. Bob Andrews, Mike Pitts, and Judy Lewis are working on this investment plan for VCU employees through a committee composed of faculty, staff, and administration. More details will be provided in the fall semester.
Bob Andrews announced that he was elected President of the Faculty Senate of Virginia for 2003-2004. One of his goals is to make the voice of faculty throughout Virginia more credible to members of the Commonwealth’s administration and legislature.

On behalf of the VCU Faculty Senate, Chris Turner thanked Bob for his leadership during the past two years and acknowledged “he has such strong leadership skills that the whole State now wants him.”

2003-2004 Faculty Senate Leadership

Judy Lewis, incoming president of Faculty Senate, reported that the new Executive Board met and did some initial planning for the 2003-2004 year. She encouraged senators to commit to a Faculty Senate committee before leaving the May meeting. The Executive Board plans to finalize the committee members in August. Judy stated that she is excited about working for the VCU faculty and is looking forward to working with the Faculty Senate members to continue all their good work.

University Grievance Panel Chair

Wes Poynor was elected to serve a three-year term, beginning August 15, 2003, as chair of the University Grievance Panel.

Proposed Revisions to Faculty Documents

Dianne Simons, Chair, Credentials and Rules Committee, gave an overview of proposed changes, including updated information and the use of current terminology, in the Bylaws of the Faculty, Faculty Senate Leadership Guidelines, and Standing Rules of the Faculty Senate. (Links to the proposed revisions are included in the Agenda, above.) A major recommended change in the Standing Rules was the division of the responsibilities of the Faculty Senate secretary into the two positions of corresponding secretary and recording secretary/treasurer. The Senate body had a lengthy discussion on the attendance policy in the Standing Rules. The majority of those present felt that attendance of faculty senators should be recorded and reported to the unit a senator is representing. Therefore, any changes in Senate membership resulting from attendance policy violation would be the responsibility of the unit instead of Faculty Senate. This was an informational session, so suggestions can still be sent to Dianne. Her committee will present its finalized recommendations for a vote
in Fall 2003.

**Rebuilding Together**

**Chris Turner** reported that the Rebuilding Together project on April 26 was quite successful. The individuals involved worked on 47 different houses in the Carver Community. VCU faculty, staff, and students worked on 3 houses. Chris noted that the School of Social Work was responsible for 1 of those houses.

**University E-Mail Service Update**

**Assistant Vice President for Administrative Information Technology Mark Willis** and **Bob Neale from the VCU Computer Center** were present to explain the problem with the University E-Mail Service in April, to answer questions, and to talk about technological and procedural changes the Computer Center is making to try to prevent the same problem from happening again. One of the three e-mail systems had a highly unusual hardware failure with the disk storage mechanism. This problem affected the server, not the mail itself. Also, part of the problem is that people keep mail for many years. The main reason it took 16 days to recover the e-mail was because of the amount of data—7.5 million e-mails, 256 gigabytes of data. To prevent this problem in the future, all in-coming e-mail is scanned for virus protection and more modern hardware is to be installed. VCU cannot afford to support multiple systems and systems that require a lot of hands-on staff support; so VCU is looking for an industry-standard, vendor-supported e-mail system. The direction now is to combine all the systems into one common mail storage system so the underlying infrastructure would be the same whether one is using Lotus Notes, Netscape, or any other e-mail package. The one system would be managed centrally, and a backup server would take over if the main server failed. After their remarks, Mark and Bob answered questions from senators.

**Senate Service**

All Senators completing their three-year terms were recognized and given a round of applause for their service to Faculty Senate.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

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Iris W. Johnson, Secretary
Posted by Neil W. Henry
August 28, 2003