Meeting Tuesday, May 4, 2004
4:00PM Lyons Building Student Lounge

Agenda

I. Minutes

II. President's Report
   FSVA Constitution
   2004-05 Faculty Senate Representation on University Council

III. Action Items:
   Proposed Changes to P&T Document
   Research Personnel Policy
   Faculty Handbook
   Standing Rules and Leadership Guidelines [2 attachments]

IV. Information Items/Reports
   Tim Hulsey, Director, Honors Program
   School of Public Health Proposal -- Drs Retchin, Sarrett
   VCU Libraries -- John Ulmschneider

Minutes of the Faculty Senate
President Judy Lewis called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

1. The minutes of the April 6th meeting were approved.

2. President Lewis reported on the following…

--Senators and Alternates were thanked for the efforts on behalf of the Faculty Senate over the past year.

--A Faculty Senate of Virginia Constitution amendment has changed term limits in an effort to improve continuity in the statewide body.

--President Lewis recommended the following Senate representatives to the University Council:

   President Judy Lewis
   Vice-President Kathryn Murphy-Judy
   Monroe Campus representative Gary Sarkozi
   Medical Campus Representative Dianne Simons
   Corresponding Secretary Dan Ream (alternate)

When asked if the holders of these offices would permanently represent the Senate at University Council, President Lewis said not. These nominees were then elected by vote to serve as the Senate’s University Council

--The Board of Visitors budget meeting in April was discussed. The board set new tuition rates of approximately a 5% increase for in-state students and no increase for out-of-state. President Trani and Vice-President Paul Timmreck both emphasized to the Board the need to increase faculty salaries and gave examples of salary impaction problems for returning faculty as well as the loss of teaching faculty to the corporate sector. President Lewis felt that their interest in improving faculty salaries was impressive and noteworthy.

3. Questions from the floor were raised about the status of recent Faculty Senate resolutions concerning Domestic Partner Benefits and Research Data Ownership. President Lewis reported both had been sent to Provost McDavis and President Trani and nothing more had yet been heard about either.

4. A change has been proposed in the University Promotion and Tenure document that would allow collateral faculty to apply for tenure-track faculty positions without resigning their current position first, as is now required. A motion was made to support this change. In discussion, Wes Poynor noted that he could find no one who could remember why this requirement was put in the document originally. The motion unanimously passed.

5. The Research Faculty Appointment and Compensation Policy was next discussed. A motion was made to approve it—no further discussion followed- and the motion was passed unanimously.

6. The Faculty Handbook revision was removed from the agenda and will be discussed next fall. This revision will not go to the Board of Visitors at their May meeting. Senators are encouraged to share this with their school's faculty for comment.

7. Dianne Simons, chair of the Senate’s Credentials and Rules Committee, led a discussion of the revision of our “Standing Rules” and “Leadership Guidelines” documents, which follow the “Bylaws of the Faculty” changes voted on in March. She noted that penalties for sending alternates have been removed and that alternates would now be designated first, second, and third upon election to suggest in what order they would be expected to replace any senator from their school who
cannot finish their term. The new expectation of campus representatives taking a leading role in communications among their campus’s senators was discussed. Some spoke of their opposition to attendance requirements, others mentioned the difficulty in finding an alternate to attend meetings in their place. It was noted that Credentials and Rules Committees have been very liberal in granting exceptions to attendance rules—every appeal ever offered has been approved. Two items were voted upon—the new communication duties of campus representatives was clearly supported by a majority present. Continuing the attendance rules passed by a 22 yes to 17 no vote with 2 abstentions. The overall documents were approved by vote.

8. Vice-President for Health Sciences Sheldon Retchin introduced the School of Public Health proposal, noting that no such school existed in Virginia and a task force report presented by Associate Vice-President David Sarrett would be available for review on the web at http://www.people.vcu.edu/~dsarrett/sophtf. The creation of the School of Public Health within the School of Medicine, rather than as an independent school was explained as a method of increasing the time available to strengthen the program before the two year clock began ticking on required accreditation as an independent school. Vice-President Retchin said the ultimate goal is an independent School of Public Health. After review by University Council, this proposal will be presented to the Board of Visitors at their May meeting.

9. The new VCU Honors Program Director, Tim Hulsey, was introduced and he described his goal of reinvigorating the Honors Program and specific goals toward that end, such as stipends for Honors faculty and the creation of an honors “core”.

10. University Librarian John Ulmschneider gave a “state of the library” update that will be published on the library web site. In a nutshell, Ulmschneider described large improvements in funding, but still some distance to go before reaching goals expressed in the 2001 Five Year Plan seen at http://www.library.vcu.edu/admin/fac_senate_1001.pdf

Ulmschneider thanked the Faculty Senate for being strong advocates for library funding and noted the faculty’s importance in the library getting a $1.4 million budget increase for the coming year. Sixty per cent of this increase will go to collections and 40 per cent to improved hours and services. He noted however, that VCU remains second to last among state-supported universities in Virginia in the percentage of E & G funds
devoted to the library—his goal is to reach the median level among such institutions in E & G support in the next 5 years.

**Senator Wes Poynor** noted the dilemma of journal pricing and encouraged faculty to consider publishing their research in Open Access journals—and also that Promotion and Tenure committees should respect such publications in considering a faculty member’s research.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

**Dan Ream, Secretary**

*Posted by Neil W. Henry  
September 3, 2004*