Meeting Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Lyons Dental Building, Student Lounge

Agenda

Code of Ethics | Business Practices Code of Conduct | Faculty Handbook Revision 04/22/05

I. Minutes
II. President's report

Minutes


Absent: Anderson, Canfield, Cooper, Deanda, Dent (excused), Ellington, Ghosh, Gower, Harvie, Hutchinson, Iurno, Olds, Pyles, Robnolt, Tait, Taylor, Welleford.

At 3:30 PM there was a celebration honoring retiring faculty member and long-term
Senate leader Alan Briceland. Congratulatory words were spoken by Provost Gottfredson and Dean Holsworth, and their congratulations and thanks were followed by those of current Senate President Judith Lewis, Senate Vice President Kathryn Murphy-Judy, Past President Robert Andrews, and earlier Senate presidents and other current and past Senate leaders.

President Judy Lewis called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

1. Minutes of the April 2005 Senate meeting were approved.

2. President Judy Lewis reported on the following informational items and events:

   Upon the resignation of Vice President for Research Dr. Marsha Torr, Dr. Frank Macrina was appointed as interim vice president.

Dr. Lewis gave a detailed report on the retreat of the Board of Visitors in which she was the faculty’s participant. (1) There were discussions of the budget and of tuition increases to be proposed at the May Board of Visitors meeting. (2) Faculty salaries were planned at 4.5%, and there was an allowance for supplements to be provided by individual deans. This would bring us to the 31st percentile of salaries offered by our peer institutions, and the goal remains to have our salaries at the 60th percentile. The 60th percentile would require an additional $12 million. (3) Library increases were also recommended. More detail on the status of library funding will be provided later in this meeting by library direct John Ulmschneider. (4) At the retreat, Dean Holsworth talked about three categories of faculty – those who arrived before Dr. Trani’s arrival, those who were hired during the Trani era and who were a part of his initiatives, and those who will be here after Dr. Trani retires. Just as we have a building plan for 2020,
people need to understand where they fit in the strategic plan that will take us through the remaining Trani years and beyond. (5) The former president of NYU was given as an example of a president who turned an institution around. (6) There was discussion of charter schools legislation in which there would be 3 levels of participation in 12 areas of flexibility. While the flexibility areas are fiscal (e.g., buildings, financial issues), the 12 performance measures are academic. (7) The Strategic Plan was presented by Vice Presidents Gottfredson and Retchin, and the plan is now on our web site. The time line for the strategic plan involves a new draft to be ready in November of this year, with final approval by the Board of Visitors in February 2006.

3. The following Senators were proposed as possible Senate representatives to the Board of Visitors in 2005-06: President Elect Kathryn Murphy-Judy, outgoing President Judith Lewis and Past President Robert Andrews, and Senate officers Dianne Simons, and Dan Ream. The Senate approved the proposed names by voice vote.

4. There was further discussion on the proposed Code of Ethics / Business Practices Code of Conduct. There was one editorial change proposed by the Senate Executive Committee at its recent meeting. In addition, Senator Liz Cramer expressed concern that specific policies are not tied to the document. The possible uses of the document and its applications are not clear. After a general agreement that vigilance was needed by future Senators, the proposal was passed.

5. The Faculty Handbook, which had been discussed at earlier meetings, was also presented. A motion to forward it to the Faculty Affairs Council of University Council passed.

6. Director of Libraries John Ulmschneider reported on the status of VCU Libraries. He thanked the Senate for its past support and noted that it had made a difference in improving library funding. He distributed a copy of a handout that outlined the budgets for personnel, library materials, and
operating expenses. He also gave comparisons with the budgets and standing of our library relative to other libraries nationally.

7. Senator Gary Sarkozi reported on Project ARIES. It is a new information system that combines what until now has been delivered through the Human Resource System (HRS), the Financial Resource System (FRS), and the Student Resource System (SRS). A $15 million budget was allocated to develop the new system, but major challenges remain. In July 2006 HRS and FRS should be incorporated into the new system, and in Fall 2006 the SRS component should be operational. Some grant funding is also included in the new system. In response to questions from Senators, Senator Sarkozi noted that security issues are being addressed that will keep records secure. Senator Simons also noted that UATEC (the University Academic Technology Committee) is also addressing security issues.

8. President Lewis recognized all the senators who are concluding their Senate service this year.

9. The course management system and student portfolios will go through pilot testing this summer. Senator Dianne Simons and Vice Provost Phyllis Self reported on upcoming Blackboard training.

10. Vice President and President Elect Kathryn Murphy-Judy thanked outgoing President Judith Lewis for her outstanding service to the Faculty Senate over the past two years.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM