Minutes of the Faculty Senate

September 5, 2006
Lyons Student Lounge, MCV Campus

Present: Beck, Betzhold, Briceland, Brookman, Bukaveckas, Canfield, Churn, Goggins, Corey, Cotter, Malgorzata, Ellington, Elmore, Elsea, Essah, Farmer, Getty, Green, Grimes, Hope, Huband, Lafazani, Lewis, Lebman, Martin, Masho, McDonnough, Miller, Munro, Murphy-Judy, Perberdy, Pitts, Price, Ratz, Robnolt, Ream, Richardson, Selinger, Simons, Sirica, Spede, Spindle, Strauss, Street, Tepper, Wenger, Salyer (ALT), Kuhn (ALT).

Absent: Andrews (EXC), Black, Bradner, Cummins (EXC), Deanda, Donnell, Dupree, Fauri, Fernandez-Ward, Gordon, Gongora (EXC), Grizzard, Ingroff (EXC), Johnson, Kester, Klenke, Lampert, Mills, Nichols, Reardon (EXC), Quillan, Sherman, Szari, Taxman, Wooldridge

President Kathy Murphy-Judy called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

1. The minutes of the May meeting were approved unanimously.
2. The Senate was introduced to officers, new senators, honorary senators, and executive committee members. New senators were also welcomed.
   - President: Kathryn Murphy-Judy, School of World Studies, College of Humanities & Sciences
   - Vice President: Dianne F. Simons, School of Allied Health Professions
   - Corresponding Secretary: Michael Pitts, School of Business
   - Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Canfield, English Department, College of Humanities & Sciences
   - MCV Campus Representative: Richard Brookman, School of Medicine
   - Monroe Campus Representative: Cynthia Donnell, School of the Arts
   - Past President: Judith Lewis, School of Nursing
   - And, other honorary senators:
3. The FS website: Liz Canfield recommended that she set up a Blackboard Organization for FS (for internal work like committee work, internal communication, etc.) and then create a blog that would link to the FS website. There was some conversation about the “look” of the blog and the need to maintain a professional web presence. The proposal to create a blog, link it to the existing FS website, AND to create a Blackboard organization for internal work was unanimously approved.

4. President Murphy-Judy briefed the Senate on last year’s business:
   a. **Outstanding Business:** Last year, the subject of searches, internal candidates, and appointments were of concern to Senate. President Trani called a meeting of the University Council to discuss this matter. President Murphy-Judy outlined two main issues with this situation: 1. When are the rules followed (or not)? and 2. The need for balance between hiring external candidates (i.e. national searches) and “grooming from within the ranks.” There is a need for diversity among upper administration as well. The Equity and Diversity Committee will be doing a Climate Survey this year (2006-07).
   b. **The Grievance Panel Report** was tabled until the October meeting.
   c. **Retirement funds issue:** Mike Morgan on communication with Mr. Bennett. Senator Morgan will report on this issue during the October meeting. There is an ORP meeting 9/21.
   d. We will see the **Library report** during our October meeting.
   e. The issue of **summer salaries and retirement** remains an issue, especially with recruiting. Dr. Macrina is working on the issue with the School of Engineering where it was first raised.

5. **Holly Alford Price on safety issues:** A Committee was formed last year around safety issues. A card with important phone numbers (i.e. 828-1234) was approved. There are also presentations on the subject being given around campus, including in dorms. The emergency number is also visible now on police vans and e-services. The escort service has increased its number of vans and there is increased building security. There is an upcoming forum (date TBA) that will address faculty and student safety. One question was raised: Can we program our phones to speed-dial the emergency number (828-1234).
6. Reuban Rodriguez/Geoff Young, Dianne Simons, and Senator Briceland on Honor System Review Changes (see attached documents). To be voted upon next (October) meeting. Drs. Young and Rodriguez have met with the Council of Deans and President Trani to show them this draft, and they were in favor. We need to move forward on this issue and vote on this in October. The major changes are outlined in the document and the flow chart. The main goal is that this new system is educative, rather than merely punitive. Questions were raised by senators about educating faculty and especially students about this new system before a violation occurs. Senators also raised the point that it is important to centralize information and outreach about this new system.

7. Smoking policy (Cindy Andrews: see attached document). This was presented mainly as an FYI.

8. Senators needed for:
   a. Faculty observers for Honor Council Hearings (now Nora Alder MPC and Jeff Dupree MCV), other HC faculty, mainly alternates: Please contact President Murphy-Judy if you’re interested.
   b. Student and Financial Aid- MCV campus faculty rep (see M. Pitts)

9. University Council representatives: Murphy-Judy, Lewis, Cummins and Simons as alternate

10. FS president meeting with the Provost, upcoming Provost visit to FS: The Provost will be at our next meeting. Think of questions to ask him. An interesting note is that no new programs—i.e., those approved last year through UC-- are going through SCHEV right now. There are continuing discussions about campus climate. The question was raised as to whether there could be a “real” conversation without fear of retaliation. There was also conversation about the role of administrators and faculty in a “learner-centered university”. The achievements of the VCU 2020 plan will also be discussed during this meeting with the Provost. The issue of faculty work load was also raised (especially due to our ever-increasing class sizes and the arrival of 3500+ freshmen).

11. BOV Appointment and report from the BOV: President Murphy-Judy reported that there was nothing much new to report.

12. Thanks from ICF: The Inter-Cultural Festival sent us a thank you note and will most likely be looking to us again this year for supporting their program.
13. **Faculty Convocation:** 9/19, 3-5 p.m. in Medical Sciences Bldg, MCV Campus

14. **Faculty Senate Sub-committee for an Advocacy Day:** Sign up for this important sub-committee! This group will be working with the FS of VA and AAUP to go speak to the legislature. Contact Senators Cummins and Andrews if you’d like to volunteer for this important group. The tentative date is Jan. 11, 2007.

15. **Working with student government officers and the Staff Senate:** President Murphy-Judy is continuing to meet with staff government and student government to maintain solidarity with these groups on campus issues.

16. **Concurrent Meetings:** President Murphy-Judy and Senator Canfield are working on facilitating a teleconference for a FS meeting in the near future. December was suggested, but it depends on space availability. Questions about being recorded were raised, and it was agreed that recording meetings was not a constructive idea.

17. **Equity and Diversity Committee Climate Survey:** Issues that were raised include following IRB rules, why the surveys aren’t going to a “neutral” place, etc. Senator Canfield will raise these issues with the E/D Committee and report back to the Senate.

18. **Fall Fest:** Fall Fest is 10/13 and President Murphy-Judy is looking for volunteers to do short lectures/presentations for about 15 minutes each. Please contact her if you’re interested.

**Meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.**