AGENDA
March 2007 Meeting of Faculty Senate

Present: Andrews, Sterling, Betzhold, Black, Brookman, Bukaveckas, Burch, Canfield, Corey, Cotter, Cummins, Donnell, Dupree, Dukat, Elmore, Elsea, Essah, Fauri, Getty, Gordon, Grimes, Huband, Johnson, Kester, Klenke, Lafazani, Lewis, Lebman, Martin, Masho, McDonough, Mills, Munro, Murphy-Judy, Perberdy, Pitts, Reardon, Robnolt, Quillan, Ream, Secret, Selinger, Simons, Sirica, Straus, Street, Tepper, Wenger, Szari, Zhou, Bostic, Salyer, Poynor, Johnson (R.), Cooper

Absent: Beck, Bradner, Briceland, Churn, Coggins (EXC), Ellington, Fernandez-Ward, Gongora, Green, Grizzard, Hope, Ingroff, Miller (EXC), Nichols, Philipsen, Price, Ratz (EXC), Richardson, Schreffler, Sherman, Smith, Spede, Spindle, Taxman, Wooldridge

- Approval of February minutes
- Reapportionment: (Senator Simons)—Office of Institutional Effectiveness is the new spot for finding info about appointments etc. in order to reapportion the Senate. There are no changes from last year (the numbers will remain the same from each unit). Electronic copy of the report is forthcoming.
- Slate of candidates from Nominating committee (Nominating Committee was Senators Cummins, Corey, Andrews, and Donnell):
  - President: Dan Ream, Vice President: Margaret Grimes, MPC Rep: Lou Szari, MCV Campus Rep: Cindy Munroe, Recording Secretary: David Corey, Corresponding Secretary: Liz Canfield
  - There were no additional nominations from the floor at this point, but people have the option to nominate from the floor again at April’s meeting.

- The Executive committee of the AAUP-VCU chapter is in favor of formalizing its relationship with the VCU Senate. We suggest that the VCU Senate change its bylaws so that the AAUP-chapter president or delegate permanently serve on the VCU Senate Executive Committee and attend Senate meetings as honorary senator. Senator Lewis presented on this AAUP/Senate issue, among others. She explained that AAUP is the “academic freedom watchdog.” Last week they held a nice reception at the Scott House, which included a discussion about current events that affect faculty (the possibility of political affiliation being public w/ hiring, among other issues that are very pressing). Weekend of April 22nd: Conference. More details to follow. New faculty reception next fall.
  - The Policies and Procedures subcommittee will look into the suggestion that the AAUP-chapter president sits on the VCU Senate Executive Committee.

- Discussion of recommending a 50% work reduction for the FS president (increasing
need to represent FS across campus and, more so, increasing need to watch as VCU continues to grow): Question: Is there official academic release time? President Murphy-Judy replied that it’s up to the unit where the President comes from, and she wasn’t given release time. Senator Lewis had similar issues with getting release time, due to the shortage in nursing. The understanding is that the resources for the release time would come from the Provost, not the individual units.

Discussion: This could go to the Policies and Procedures committee to come up w/ a motion, while President Murphy-Judy will speak with the Provost. We need to do this a.s.a.p. in order to have this done by May so it can affect the Senate President for 07-08. Motion: Faculty Senate will support President Murphy-Judy to work out the details with the Provost and Sheldon Retchin about this issue of work reduction for Faculty Senate President.

Scott Street to present Banner's Faculty/Advising tools. James Thomas, the project director, would also like to attend and assist Scott. As the Faculty Senate representative on the Banner Advisory Committee, Scott spoke with James, and both agree that Faculty Senate would be a good place to demonstrate the new tools as well as to provide answers to questions/concerns about the transition (especially since Banner will be used for Fall 2007 advising/registration later this semester).

Question: Why is VCU replacing our computer systems now? Due to expenses, primarily.

Question: Why Banner? Banner was available on a State contract, offering a significant discount and avoiding the cost of an RFP. The vendor, Sungard VCT, has provided VCU w/ a migration program to move to Banner that has worked at other Virginia institutions. The implementation cost for Banner was significantly less than an alternate ERP such as PeopleSoft. Also, Banner comes “run-able” out of the box. Banner is used at hundreds of institutions (incl. VA Tech, ODU, Mary Washington, GMU, etc.). VCU is covered by the directive to consolidate hardware and software platforms issued by the State of VA through VITA. Given the above, Banner is the best solution for VCU.

Question: How will the Community College system work with our system (b/c the CC system is using PeopleSoft)? The CC system already had the human resources to support it. The curriculum and course structure will have more of an impact than the what system we use.

Question: Why did Longwood get it then, if the main concern was budgetary? The majority of their budget went toward human resources (Oracle).

Question: When will the project be completed? Admissions and Financial Aid are currently live for Fall 2007. (We have over 14,000 applications). Registration goes live on March 26th. Summer registration is still in the Legacy system. Student Accounting will go live in May. Academic History will go live in October. Degree Audit (CAPP—Curriculum and Program Planning) will go live in November.


Question: Is everyone going to be required to have a strong eID and password to use Banner? Students have been required to have a strong eID and password since July 06. Faculty do not, yet, but this is forthcoming (eventually, faculty will). BTW, a strong password is one that is difficult (is required to have numbers, special characters, can’t end in a number). Here is a URL that explains strong passwords:
Question: I’m hearing a lot of negative things about Banner Finance and HR. Will Student be better? Banner has two ways of interfacing with the system

Question: When will I have access to Self Service for Faculty? When the Course Maintenance Form has been received and processed in the Registrar’s office and you are added to the course as the instructor.

Question: What else can we expect to happen? Implementation of the interactive real-time interface to Blackboard will start this Sept. and be available for Spring 08. More info will be made available to us as we progress through this implementation. The best source of help is the Benner Information Center: http://www.banner.vcu.edu/support.html

A Banner network will be set up, made up of people from each unit to keep us posted.

Question: What are the major bugs in the system and do you know how to fix them? There are no open issues w/ the provider. WAD: Working As Designed. So, there are no known issues w/ Banner. The “presenting problem” was with summer/winter pay and withholding from such checks. This affects certain faculty (i.e. Senator Pitts) and he was told that there was no way to fix that yet. HR was very helpful with trying to fix this, and were duly frustrated.

Question: Why can’t we get info about both VCU payroll AND MCV physicians? That will end up being in the Reporting Center as opposed as directly out of Banner. The report will soon be there (not there yet). The new Reporting Center will be up soon w/ new software that fits well w/ Banner.

Question: Will Banner show pre-req’s for courses, or prevent students from registering for courses if they don’t have the pre-req’s? Not yet, it’s a policy issue. Something like that will not be ready in 2 weeks, but will be rolling out as we go. Now they’re doing an accumulated credit total as a gate-keeping device, but are working on a more “granulated” system. “We’re trying to do this in a cautious way.”

Question: Will we be able to go “both ways” between Banner and the Blackboard Gradebook? Not now, but that’s ideal. Eventually, this will eliminate grade reports to be sent in.

Question: Will there be training sessions? Yes. Most of the training will occur late summer/early fall. It works really well with Firefox, by the way.

Banner FAQ page: http://www.banner.vcu.edu/faq.html

When we normally get the rosters at the beginning of the semester, will there be a reminder to check Banner for course rosters? This is another policy question. Hasn’t been discussed yet. We will be able to print out the rolls.

- Donna Brodd on the new Ombudsperson for Faculty and Staff through the Provost’s Office: The Provost saw a need for faculty to speak to someone in a confidential manner. Her role is confidential (does not speak to anyone else w/out permission or if it’s common knowledge) and she takes this very seriously. The Provost will not know about individual problems/issues unless she has permission to say something. She is NOT the person to speak to w/ grievances. She is not trained w/ mediation either. Therefore, this is an INFORMAL service. This is independent of channels (she can talk to anyone). It is neutral. She’s working to be fair to everyone. She’s a good listener and can offer suggestions and talk over options. She can bring complaints to people so “the right person knows about it.” She cannot repeat anything that you say, and cannot testify in any grievance situation. But, she does keep records (really basic
cannot testify in any grievance situation. But, she does keep records (really basic records on gender, race, rank, etc.), she also has notes in password-protected files that she purges regularly. She can’t guarantee that one will have a “happy ending” if they come to see her. She cannot be your agent. She can’t force a solution (i.e. force your supervisor to do something). She can’t change the policies, but can make recommendations at the end of the year if the problem is bigger than one person. She’s seeing far more faculty than staff, and more folks from the MPC than the MCV campus. She’d like to see more people. She can come to your dept. and speak to faculty and staff, can make a presentation. Contact info: drbrodd@vcu.edu and 828-6683. Web page is forthcoming. We’ll have brochures at the April meeting. Her informal mediation has nothing to do w/ the formal grievance process.

- Walkathon: April 5, my challenge
- Faculty Senate Booth at Employee Benefits and Wellness Fair (Dianne Simons)
- From VP John Bennett : changes to the ORP group, more faculty (2 members); also need member to Compliance Commission and Student Fee committee
- From Trani question about sick leave roll over to time toward retirement. Only happened twice, no longer possible under either retirement system.
- Legislative update: Dr. Trani gave the salary and other increases; no guns on campus; intellectual diversity in faculty not passed. See the FSVA website for more information: [http://fsva.asp.radford.edu/legislative_issues.html](http://fsva.asp.radford.edu/legislative_issues.html)
- BOV: VCU Center on Human Needs, Proposal for Intl. program on Addiction Studies, Med School Faculty appt. and compensation policy (urge close scrutiny by SOM for upcoming changes) and report on new hires, textbook policy (we heard about that last meeting), staff representation on BOV, Student Computer Initiative (laptops), Level III Mgmt agreement (part of restructuring act of 2005), Center for Clinical and Translation Research, progress on the Strategic Plan (see more below UC on University College)
- UC: update on University College: at UC there was an update on the University College, where concerns were expressed. Issues about communication. Issues w/ “top down” approach (or perception thereof). Jon Steingass and Joe Marolla came to Faculty Senate twice to discuss this.
- Concerns about University College (ongoing conversation—should there be a Discussion Board forum about this?)
- Proposal to get work reduction of 50% for FS president (see above).
- Resource Center: petition
- Privacy issues
- Climate Survey results : after focus groups should be out after Spring Break
- Daylight savings fiasco [http://www.ts.vcu.edu/dst](http://www.ts.vcu.edu/dst)
- April: Laura Moriarty will come in. FS should look at the Compliance and Ethics information. Ms. Hoyle cannot come to Senate until our May meeting just before this policy is presented to the BOV. I will make sure that the Academic Subcommittee of UC looks carefully at this, but faculty input would be good. I’ll have the PowerPoint on our website as soon as it is available from Ms. Hoyle’s office.
- Best wishes for a restful and/or productive, if nothing else, stress-free Spring Break.
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