Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2008 4:00 PM
Student Commons Forum Room, Monroe Park Campus


Absent: Abrams, Chadha, Coggins, Coogle, Falcucci, Fowler, Gongora, Green, Lafazani, Marshak, Reid, Richardson

Note: At 3:30 PM, prior to the Senate meeting an orientation for new Senators was conducted.

President Dan Ream called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

I. All Senators Introduced themselves

II. The minutes of the May 2008 meeting were approved

III. Elected as representatives to the University Council were:
    Dan Ream, (Libraries) President
    Linda Corey, (Medicine) Vice President
    Mimi Peberdy (Medicine) Senator
David Fauri, (Social Work) Recording Secretary (alternate)

IV. Elected as representative to the Faculty Senate of Virginia were:
   Bob Andrews (Business)
   Ranged Gill (Medicine)
   Pat Cummins (Humanities & Science) (alternate)

V. Linda C. Hancock, Director, VCU Director of VCU Wellness Resource Center presented to the Senate, using “clickers,” on the services available through the Center.

VI. Faculty Senate Committee signups, coordinated by President Linda Corey took place.

VII. President Dan Ream Reported on carryover business from 2007/2008 and summer events he participated in as Senate President.

   Senate and Senate Committee actions and reports from May 2008 were reviewed by him.

   The International Education Program Report was reviewed and revisions of it are in process in the University.

   The Grievance Procedures revisions have been completed and forwarded to the University Council.

   He reported at length on the University Task Force on Research Agreements (resulting from the NY Times article on research contracts at VCU) on which he has been serving since this summer, after he contacted the Provost regarding his being contacted interview request in his role as Faculty Senate President. Town meetings are being held on both campuses, and a report from the Task Force is due October 1. The presentations and comments received to date have touched on contracts, health promotion, marketing of products and transparency.
Regarding the controversy concerning the degree awarded the former Richmond Police Chief he pointed out that his role on the Board of Visitors is non-voting and that he can not attend closed sessions. His contact with various people is that what happened seems to point to problems with the investigation techniques employed with faculty. The Faculty Senate Leadership Group met twice on the matter and a resolution addressing future protection of faculty was to follow in the meeting with an emphasis on putting standards and protections in place.

Finally, he announced the appointment of a new Ombudsperson (Dr. Frank Baskind, former Dean of Social Work). This reflects the Senate’s action last year urging that the position be filled and moved out of Ginter. The office is now in Harris Hall.

VIII. Resolution to Establish Rules and Procedures Regarding Academic Investigations (Dan Ream)

President Dan Ream presented background on the Faculty Senate leadership groups efforts to formulate a draft document for Faculty Senate review and action (attached) in relation to a process to protect faculty in the case of investigations of academic matters by the University. General discussion followed. It was pointed out that the resolution was focused on investigations of academic matters, not other forms of investigation. The intent of the work was to provide for opportunity for a discussion in School, Colleges and Departments prior to action being taken.

Moved, Seconded, Passed unanimously:

The Resolution from the Faculty Senate Leadership group be voted on in the October meeting of the Senate.
Dr. Alan Briceland (retired faculty Senator) then make a plea for his four resolutions to also be considered at the next meeting. President Dan Ream agreed to send these to the Senators when he received electronic copy. Dr. Briceland then proposed the following:

Moved, Seconded, Passed:

The Briceland resolutions be considered at the next meeting along with any other resolutions

IX. Equity & Diversity Plan (Njeri Jackson)

The Equity and Diversity Plan was the reported on by Dr. Jeri Jackson. She recognized Dr Liz Cramer of the Equity and Diversity Executive Committee and Dr. Blue Wooldridge who co-chairs the University Equity and Diversity Committee. The Plan is moving through the University approval process, including the University Council and the Board of Visitors. The Committee will continue, and their will be revisions in its membership. Dr. Wooldridge reported on the Committee, and he was thanked by President Dan Ream and applauded.

X. New Business

Dr. Pat Cummins shared information from the School of World Studies concerning relating to a change in the Directorship and review of programs in the School during September. Discussion indicated that further information would be forwarded to Senators as it became available.

The meeting adjourned at 6;25 p.m.