Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2008 4:00PM
1st floor Student lounge, Lyons Building, MCV Campus

Present: Alder, Andrews, BenEzra, Betzhold, Briceland, Bukaveckas, Burch, Byrd, Canfield, Cary, Cho, Corey, Dodd-McMcCue, Donnell, Driscoll, Dukat, Ellis, Fauri, Fowler, Gill, Green, Grimes, Huband, Huff, Lafazani, Lee, Lewis, Liebert, McCreary, McDonnough (for Marshak), Mital, Munro, Murphy, Murphy-Judy, Natarajan, Nguyen, Nichols, Norman, Ortiz, Palmer, Park, Peberdy, Poynor, Ramirez, Ream, Regni, Reid, Rhodes, Robnolt (for Abrams), Rowe, Secret, Stern, Street, Strong, Tepper, Wallin, Sirica, Sweeney, Trutia, Walker, Williams, Zhao

Absent: Coogle, Siebert, Alford, Richardson, Camden, Gongora, Piciche, Chadha, Coggins, Elmore, Falcucci, Sterling

I. Approval of September meeting minutes
   The September meeting minutes were approved as presented.

II. President’s Report
   President Dan Ream reported on the Presidential Search Process. He was asked to nominate 10 faculty members to the Search Committee, and 5 were selected. The faculty
A $10,000 per year fund for student textbook awards is being established by Barnes and Noble, operators of the VCU Bookstores. The Senate felt it should be administered through established University award processes such as the financial aid or student services offices.

Moved, Seconded, Passed:
The Faculty Senate thanks Barnes and Noble for providing funding for students in need of text book assistance.

The Faculty Senate of Virginia met September 13th at Thomas Nelson Community College in Hampton. President Ream, Bob Andrews, and Ranjodh Gill represented VCU. Again this year, this group and AAUP will cosponsor a legislative day during the General Assembly session.

III. Budget Comments/Questions

Provost Stephen Gottfredson visited the Senate to report on the VCU budget situation. The 3 budget levels of cuts (5%, 10%, 15%) of E&G funds were sent to the Governor’s office September 26. E&G is about 45.7% of our base budget. It would drop to 41.6% under the 15% figure. We may know in October about cuts for the rest of the current fiscal year, but for the following year we may not know until the legislature has met, in the winter or spring. We may lose $30.5 million. in the two year state budget, and these are to be permanent reductions. Tuition won’t make this up; we are not considering mid-year tuition hikes. Financial aid and library collections are held harmless in the reduction figures. There are no plans for declaring financial exigency. Our instructional mission is being protected to the extent possible. We may reduce staffing by 238 positions, 54 of them by lay offs. We are in for a very significant period of “reengineering” in delivery of instruction. Questions followed the presentation, and the responses indicated we would manage our resources for maintaining our mission, but our growth will stop and probably reverse. Growth in student enrollment will come from retention efforts.
IV. Resolutions regarding the Rodney Monroe degree investigation

Motion, Second, Passed (unopposed): To Accept the Resolution to Establish Rules and Procedures Regarding Academic Investigations presented at the September 2 Faculty Senate meeting, as amended October 8, 2008.

Amendments:
Delete both "staff" or "and staff" from the document. (that is, staff are not included in the final Resolution)

In the first bullet, insert after "witness" the words "or advisor or both" and replace "to any" with "during" and add an "s" to "interview(s)."

the right of faculty to request a witness or advisor or both (of their choice) during investigatory interviews;

Fourth bullet, delete (it was seen as covered in the first bullet)

The fifth bullet delete ""Threats against" and replace with Any reference to..." To read:

Any reference to a faculty member's tenure or future employment should not be permitted in any official VCU investigation

Next Dr. Briceland discussed his set of four resolutions which he had presented at the September 2 meeting. After considerable discussion, Dr. Briceland’s resolution was not moved for action, and Dr. Briceland after commenting decided
moved for action, and Dr. Briceland after commenting decided not to pursue his resolution of four parts.

V. Draft policies regarding student affairs

Draft policies concerning student services were presented by Chuck Klink, Associate Provost for Enrollment and Student Services. It was mandated by the state legislature that policies be in place at state higher education institutions to cover these areas, and these drafts are being worked through the University at this time with the intent of final Board of Visitor action taking place in November. The Faculty Senate heard the report, and a few questions were answered. It was understood that these are draft policies being prepared through the usual University processes in order to meet state mandates. The three draft policies are: 1) Parental Notification for Dependent Students Receiving Mental Health Treatment, 2) Release of the Educational Record of a Dependent Student, 3) Threat Assessment and Violence Prevention Policy.

VI. Corporate Research Task Force Report

Vice President for Research, Frank Macrina reported on the Report of the Task Force on Corporate-Sponsored Research. He first described the extensive process that the Task Force engaged in this summer, and he recognized the contributions of Faculty Senate President Dan Ream and Vice President Linda Corey. Forums were held on both campuses and outside consultants from Duke, Ohio State University, and Penn State University were called upon to react and advise concerning our drafted recommendations. He referred to a web site which is
available containing documents and comments. He discussed the report itself, emphasizing the recommendation for the creation of a Corporate Research Review Committee to handle issues that may arise in the future. Also mentioned was the recommendation for a follow-up task force concerning issues related to accepting research funding from industries. The report is being processed through the University now for action by the Board of Visitors.

VII. New Business

Moved, Seconded, Passed

Moved, Seconded, Passed; Resolved the Faculty Senate support the dedication on October 25 of a sculpture honoring the founding of RPI.