Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda  
November 4, 2008 4:00PM  
Student Commons Theater, Monroe Park Campus  

**Present:** Abrams, Alford, Andrews, Ben-Ezra, Betzhold, Briceland, Burch, Byrd, Camden, Cary, Cho, Cummins, Dodd-McCue, Donnell, Driscoll, Dukat, Elmore, Ellis, Fauri, Gill, Green, Grimes, Huff, Jacobs, Lafazani, Lee, Lewis, McCreary, Mital, Munro, Murphy, Murphy-Judy, Nguyen, Nicholson, Ortiz, Palmer, Peberdy, Park, Piciche, Regni, Reid, Rhodes, Richardson, Rybarczyk, Stern, Street, Strong, Sweeney, Szari, Tepper, Trutia, Walker, Wallin, Williams,  

**Absent:** Bukaveckas, Canfield, Chadha, Coggins, Coogle, Corey, Gongora, Falcucci, Fowler, Huband, Marshak, Rowe, Schreffler, Secret, Siebert, Sterling, Zhao,  

*Due to Election Day, effort was made to conclude as early as possible*

I. A discussion was held with several members of the VCU President Search Committee Members (former Rector Ed Bersoff (Chair), Board of Visitors member Stuart Siegel, and faculty members Michael Edmond (School of Medicine), Cathy Howard (Humanities & Sciences), Roz Hobson (School of Engineering), Dan Ream (VCU Libraries), staff member Delores Collier (School of Nursing), George Burke (past President of the MCV Alumni Association) and Patricia Wilkerson (President, VCU Foundation Board).  

Faculty Senate President Ream asked Senators to comment on, “What VCU needs in its new President.” Comments included:  

1. Ability to work with the legislature regarding funding;
2. A comment was made to suggest saying in ads, “two campuses;”
3. Impeccable academic credentials; the opposite view was also expressed when President Ream asked for other perspectives;
4. An appreciation of liberal arts;
5. Someone who pays attention to following rules;
6. Someone with a view of an academic enterprise;
7. Someone who can unify;
8. Someone from the outside;
9. Someone who understands faculty needs and mentoring of young faculty and motivating them;
10. Someone who appreciates research;
11. A commitment to shared governance;
12. A vision for VCU in our economic environment;
13. President Ream asked who would be the ideal president if VCU could choose from any current university president?
   Replies focused on vision, executive ability, understanding academia;
15. Sustaining new programs that have come into being recently.

The chair of the Search Committee, Ed Bersoff, commented in conclusion that academic excellence in a candidate has come through as important, but that also important is a vision of VCU giving opportunity for education through the openness of the University.
II. The new FW grade proposal was presented by Susan Kadir, VCU Financial Aid Director. It was prepared to meet Federal requirements regarding financial aid for students who stop coming to class, but do not withdraw from class(es). It would give faculty the option of assigning a FW grade for students who stop coming to class, but do not withdraw or complete a class. It would be computed in grade point averages as an F is computed. There have been 21 and 12 cases that this would apply to in the past two semesters. Extensive discussion raised a number of questions; many focused on expectations regarding responsible student behavior. The use of the FW would help the University avoid having to repay loans to the Federal government and pursue actions against students for reimbursement. No action was taken as this was a discussion for information, and it was indicated that comments would be taken into consideration as the procedures were reviewed.

III. Changes in Graduation Requirement statements and procedures were presented by Vice-Provost Laura Moriarty. The purpose was to include in procedures a protocol for signing off on degree requirements having been met. This would cover students, advisors and administrators. Included is procedure for revoking of academic degrees for “just cause.” The Academic Regulation Appeal Committee could receive additional information during appeals, if that need comes up, and if there is actual new factual information in the case. Members of the Senate indicated understanding the need for the new statements. At the same time, some members of the Senate expressed serious concern about this matter coming at such a late date from
administration to the Senate, after it had been through other University bodies, saying it could have received more consideration rather than being seen as a last minute rush. It was requested that in the future, similar matters come to the Senate when going to other University bodies.

**Action:** Moved, seconded passed unanimously:

To endorse the new statement of Graduation Requirements and Procedures Regarding the Granting of Degrees and Meeting Degree Requirements

IV. Personal Information Security Task Force activities were reported on by Associate Vice President for Health Sciences, David Sarrett. President Trani had asked for a Task Force on Personal Information Security at VCU. The Task Force has been working on policy and consulting with units within VCU and VCUHS. Examples of policies and the Task Force work were shared. It will be issuing reports and will be available to units on a continuous basis, not having a termination date. It serves as a source of information and of assistance and maintains a web site for this purpose at http://www.ts.vcu.edu/security/ismanagement.html.

V. The Minutes of the October meeting of the Faculty Senate were approved as presented.

VI. It was determined that the presidents report would be forwarded to members of the Senate by e-mail due to the number of visitors and presentations and the lateness of the hour.
VII. There was no new business.