Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
March 3, 2009 4:00 PM  
Lyons Building Student Lounge, MCV Campus

Present: Abrams, Alford, Andrews, Betzhold, Briceland, Bukaveckas, Burch, Byrd, Canfield, Cary, Cho, Corey, Cummins, Dodd-McCue, Donnell, Driscoll, Ellis, Elmore, Fauri, Fowler, Gill, Green, Grimes, Huff, Jacobs, Lafazani, Lewis, McCreary, Mital, Munro, Murphy, Murphy-Judy, Naleppa, Nguyen (by ALT), Nicholson, Palmer, Park, Piciche, Ream, Rhodes, Rybarczyk, Secret, Seibert, Sterling (by ALT), Street, Strong, Szari, Tepper, Walker

Absent: Ben-Ezra, Camden, Chadha, Coggins, Coogle, Dukat, Falcucci, Gongora, Huband, Lee, Marshall, Norman, Ortiz, Peberdy, Regni, Reid, Rowe, Schreffler, Sirica, Sweeney, Wallin, Williams, Zhao

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

I. Concerning Virginia’s Caring University Scholarship Campaign, a presentation from the Staff Senate was conducted by Marquita Aguilar, chair of that body’s Activities Committee. She provided information about the effort to raise money for scholarships that the Staff Senate is engaged in. Last year 13 students received scholarships ranging between $500 and $1,500 that helped them stay in school. A Walk-a-thon is being sponsored for Thursday, April 9, 2009 from noon to 2:30 p.m. Entry materials were distributed.
II. The minutes of the February 3, 2009 meeting were approved as presented.

III. President Dan Ream gave the nominating Committee Report for 2009/10 Officers. The Nominating Committee is composed of Dan Ream, and former Presidents Kathy Murphy-Judy and Robert Andrews. The election will take place at the April meeting.

   Nominations:
   President, Linda Corey
   Vice President, Micah McCreary
   Recording Secretary, Liz Canfield
   Corresponding Secretary, Cindy Donnell
   MCV Campus Representative, Bonny Bukaveckas
   MPC Campus Representative, David Fauri

   Nominations from the floor were called for. Placed in nomination were:
   Corresponding Secretary, Pat Cummins

IV. In his report, Faculty Senate Dan Ream remarked that the Presidential Search Committee has come together in selecting the final candidates and that this seemed to help in the final stages of the recruitment in attracting Dr. Rao. Dan indicated he has expressed his and faculty perspective on preferring an open search with open interviews, but that current recruitments are tending toward protecting confidentiality of candidates. He then recognized Karen Kapsidelis, reporter for the Richmond Times-Dispatch. He announced that Dr. Rao will meet with the Faculty Senate at a special meeting Wednesday March 4 at 2:00 p.m. at the Salon Rooms of the Student Center. Later on Wednesday and on Thursday Dr. Rao will have open meetings to meet faculty.

Following this, the virtues of the “VCU Gold” program were pointed out, including preferential treatment in getting appointments within two weeks with MCV physicians for VCU employees. A brochure was available at each Senator’s place. Valarie Robnolt then reported on the plans to contract out
student e-mail, with both Microsoft and Google submitting bids. Finally, the position of Chair of the University Grievance Committee is open as Wes Pryor is leaving the position. Interested persons may contact Dan Ream concerning nomination.

V. Dr. Scott Street, Chair of the Credentials and Rules Committee of the Senate presented a report on our review of Bylaws and Standing Rules documents. He indicated that the Bylaws show only minor items for revision and that it would be better to wait until more major changes are needed as any change requires a vote of the entire faculty, not just the Senate. Concerning Standing Rules, he reviewed recommended changes and led discussion. A copy of his report is attached. It will be voted upon at the April meeting.

VI. Vice President for Finance John Bennett and Provost Steve Gottfredson presented information on the VCU budget position. Vice President Bennett presented a presentation he had made to the Board of Visitors entitled “VCU’s Budget: Addressing Reductions in State Support.” This is a longer range interpretation, going out to 2012. State support has been decreasing. VCU is the most leanly funded state institution of higher education, given its student body size. VCU is also restricting tuition and fee increases to help students attend college. Faculty salaries are low in comparison with other state institutions. There has been growth in the student body and in retention. In addition to budget cuts, for 2010, we face new, unavoidable costs – three new buildings coming on line, and utilities increases from Dominion Power. The Stimulus Package money will help and soften cuts next year, but this is a two year deal, and we will not have supplemental money in 2012, and we will have to prepare for it. We will apply for additional research grants and additional Pell Student funds. Provost Gottfredson discussed various aspects of these factors and responded to a question about how things are in other states by citing several that face even more difficult situations.

VII. Vice President for Research Frank Macrina presented new and revised VCU Research resulting from a review and from the Report of the Report of
the VCU Task Force on Corporate-Sponsored Research. He described the process of developing these and of seeking responses and comments. The result is new policies on: 1) Corporate-Sponsored Research Agreements, 2) Institutional Conflicts of Interest in Human Subjects Research, and a group policies relating to Responsible Conduct, Intellectual Property, and Research Data Ownership/Retention/Access. Summary sheets available at the meeting are attached. Dr. Macrina took questions, comments and suggestions. Suggestions regarding further details on procedures made by the Senate Vice President, Linda Corey, were received and recognized as valuable with follow-up specifics to be e-mailed to Dr. Macrina.

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

David Fauri
Recording Secretary