Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2009 4:00 PM
Student Commons Forum Room, MPC Campus

Present: Abrams, Alford, Andrews, Briceland, Bukaveckas, Burch, Byrd, Camden (BY ALT), Canfield (BY ALT), Cary, Cho, Coogle (BY ALT), Corey, Cummins, Dodd-McCue, Donnell, Driscoll, Dukat, Fauri, Huff, Jacobs, Lafazani, Lewis, Mital, Murphy-Judy, Ortiz, Park, Peberdy, Piciche, Poynor, Ream, Regni, Reid, Rhodes, Richardson, Rowe, Secret, Seibert, Sirica, Street, Strong, Szari, Trutia, Walker, Wallin, Williams

Absent: Ben-Ezra, Betzhold, Chadha, Coggins, Ellis, Elmore, Falcucci, Fowler, Gill, Gongora, Green, Grimes, Huband, Lee, Marshak, McCreary, Murphy, Nguyen, Nicholson, Norman, Palmer, Rybarczyk, Sterling, Stern, Sweeney, Tepper, Zhao

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM.

I. The minutes of the March meeting were approved as presented.

II. Officers were elected for 2009/10. No additional nominations came from the floor. Elected by acclamation were: President, Linda Corey; Vice President, Micah McCreary; Recording Secretary, Liz Canfield; MCV Campus Representative, Bonny Bukaveckas, MPC Campus
Representative, David Fauri. One nomination had been received from the floor at the March meeting for Corresponding Secretary, and as a result election by ballot was held to select between Patricia Cummins and Cindy Donnell. Cindy Donnell was elected as Corresponding Secretary.

Motion, moved and seconded: To destroy the election ballots. Unanimous vote to do so.

III. The revisions to the Standing Rules of the Faculty Senate were approved unanimously as presented and will be posted on the Faculty Senate web site at http://www.facultysenate.vcu.edu/

IV. The VCU Research Policies distributed at the March meeting were Revised by Vice-President Macrina according to our suggestions and approved unanimously as revised.

V. Valerie Robnolt was nominated by the Nominating Committee to succeed Wes Poyner as Grievance Committee Chairperson.

VI. Delores Taylor, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs introduced Jibran Muhammed , President of the Monroe Park Campus Student Government Association, who articulated what the SGA sees as the critical elements of the proposal its proposal to extend the add/drop from 7 to 10 days and the reasons for them.

There was considerable discussion and comment by Senators. Advising and obtaining over-rides for course entry were mentioned in the SGA report, and Senators mentioned that adding days to the process was not a reasonable way around advising problems. It was also mentioned that the number of meetings of a class during drop/add period was important as the number of days in the drop/add period was only one factor. It was pointed out that the problems may exist for only some units but not for others and that it seemed not be an issue on
the MCV campus. “Class shopping” was discussed, but it seemed there was little hard data on this, one way or the other. The President of the SGA indicated that the proposal would not go forward without Faculty Senate support.

Motion moved and seconded: *The Senate does not support the SGA proposal for extension of the add period.*

An Amendment to the Motion was made and seconded: *To add the word “drop” to the Motion.* (so it would read “add/drop”).

A Substitute Motion was moved and seconded: *The Senate does not support the SGA proposal for an extension of the add/drop period.* (Note: a substitute motion takes precedent for action over an Amendment moved to an existing Motion on the floor, according to the Parliamentarian. It requires a majority vote to “bring it to the floor” for a vote on its substance. The vote was 29 for, 4 against, no abstentions recorded, bringing it to the floor.

The following vote on the Substitute Motion was 28 for, 6 against, 3 abstaining.

An additional motion was then made.

Motion moved and seconded: The Faculty Senate asks Administration to put in place a system that controls for prerequisites. There was minimal discussion. Passed, 33 for, 4 against, 2 abstentions.

VII. Faculty Senators reported on the reactions in their units to the proposal to move to plus (+) minus (-) grading at VCU. There was minimal additional discussion to that which took place at previous meetings.

Motion moved and seconded: To adopt plus/minus grading as an option at VCU. Passed 27 for, 5 against, 1 abstention.
VIII. President Dan Ream Reported that:

1. Dr. Wes Poyner, former Faculty Senate President had announced his retirement from the faculty as of May 15.
2. VCU Fact Cards were available (and distributed at the meeting).
3. He had received an e-mail message from the University Counsel indicating that the University Office of the General Counsel is willing to offer consultation on copyright questions. President Ream shared this for information purposes.
4. The previously announced Walk-a-Thon would be from 12 to 2:30 Thursday April 9.
5. A Chronicle of Higher Education “Great Places to Work” survey will be sent to selected faculty. He asked that those receiving it please respond as information tabulated can be helpful in forming the type of University we want to have.
6. The request from the Division of Student Affairs for Faculty Senate membership is being reviewed by the Senate’s Academic and Professional Status committee and may be brought to the full Senate for discussion at our May meeting.
7. Valerie Robnolt introduced the draft resolution to support the Library’s needs as attached to the meeting packet. It will be considered at the May meeting.

IX. Rhonda Bishop, Office of Compliance, presented a Power Point display on the “EthicsPoint System for Compliance Reporting. (EthicsPoint is the vendor of this compliance software being used by the University.)

X. The SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Awards Mentoring Project was presented by Dr. Laura Moriarty, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Jeff Wing. Copies of the project materials were made available.
As the point in the meeting when item X. began there were 21 Senators present (11 being Leadership/Executive Committee members) out of some 42 present earlier in the meeting and as it was 6:30 at the conclusion of item X., there was no new business and the meeting adjourned.