Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, 5 April 2016 4:00–6:00 PM, Monroe Park Campus, Student Commons, Forum Room
http://www.maps.vcu.edu/monroepark/univcommons/

Attendance:
Present: Alcaine (EDU, Alt. for Hargraves), Alford (ARTS), Alvarez (HAS), Anthony (HAS), Artello (WS), Bedell (StAff), Bodnar-Doren (HAS), Boyes (HNR), Brookman (SOM), Brown (NUR), Chen (EDU), Coe (DEN), Daugherity (HAS), Davis (VCU-L), DeAngelis (ARTS), Easley (ARTS), Franzak (BUS, Alt. for Baranoff), Freyer (ARTS), Ghaphery (VCU-L), Gregory (NUR, Alt. for Jallo), Gulla (EGR, Alt. for Zhang), Hsu (SOM), Im (SWK, Alt. for Conlon), Jamerson (AHP), Kaziewicz (UC), Kidd (SOM), Le (SOM), Lodge (UC), McVoy (SOM), Nicholson (HAS), Ogbonna (PHA), Ottens (SOM), Patton (ARTS), Pellegrini (DEN, Alt. for Octave), Robnolt (EDU), Rodriguez (HAS), Saladino (HAS), Samso (SOM), Seinfeld (SOM), Spindle (BUS, Alt. for Lee), Street (HAS), Wagner (AHP), Wayne (EGR), Xu (EDU)

Absent: Carroll (SOM), Dawson-Cruz (HAS), Dodson (SOM), Fraser (SWK), Harrison (HAS), Hobgood (SOM), Hylton-Gravatt (PHA), Israel (ARTS), LaRose (SOM), Lister (SOM), O’Neal (RetFac), Parsons (SOM), Puri (SOM), Ratliff (SOM), Rector (HAS), Sabik (SOM), Secret (SWK), Shriar (WS), Smith (UC), Totah (HAS), Vanderbilt (SOM), Weatherford (StAff), Wen (ENG), York (SOM), Zhou (SOM)

Procedural Items:
4:00 PM Call to Order Holly Alford
4:02 PM Minutes of February 2nd and March 1st Meetings Scott Street
Accepted as presented with no corrections.

Guest:
4:05 PM Climate Survey Kathleen Shaw
VCU Climate Survey is coming. All faculty and staff (including part-time/adjuncts) will receive the survey. There will be a separate survey for all students. The survey will take approximately 30 minutes to complete, and it is important that all of us complete this anonymous survey. More information will be available

Faculty Senate Items:
4:12 PM Shared Governance Update Holly Alford
University Council Faculty Affairs Committee will present the Shared Governance Philosophy at the next UC meeting. We hope to have an update at our May meeting.
4:15 PM    **Officer Elections Report**   June Nicholson

Elections will be postponed until May meeting due to a minor issue finalizing the slate of officers. Nominations from floor are extended as well, so please contact June Nicholson if you have further nominations (or self-nomination). Currently we have:
- President: Holly Alford
- Vice-President: Scott Street
- Recording Secretary & Treasurer: Brian Daugherity
- Corresponding Secretary: Michael McVoy
- Monroe Park Campus Representative: Jennifer Wayne
- MCV Campus Representative: Lisa Brown & Nancy Jallo (shared)

**Guest:**

4:20 PM    **Provost’s Report**   Dr. Gail Hackett

Board was impressed with presentations during Faculty Lunch at their March meeting, especially how faculty interact with students. We look forward to continuing this luncheon series at future board meetings.

College dean search is wrapping up. Dean Seipel is retiring as dean from School of the Arts. Dean Verma is also stepping down to possibly rejoin the faculty. The process to create search committees is just beginning. Acting VP for Life Sciences Len Smock is planning to retire later this year. VCU has conducted a review of VCU Life Sciences as well as an internal review (first in 15 years). Reports will be presented soon and will help with planning to future of Life Sciences and its leadership. We are starting a search for the Vice President for Student affairs soon. Also time to prepare to start process for the next strategic plan. Marsha Rappley is putting together search committee and search firm for new dean in the School of Medicine.

Deborah Noble-Triplett spoke about the President’s commitment for all students to have a real-world experience during their time at VCU. She is working on creating a steering committee to define and frame this experience. This will not be a dictate from the Provost’s office, but it will rather be a collaborative process involving faculty from all facets of VCU either on the steering committee or in numerous sub-committee task forces that could be grouped by subject matter or theme. A “soft launch” of this group will begin in the fall to see where we are with our current programs and then later put together a framework on what this will look like for entering students in fall 2017. She hopes not to change the good things that we do but rather leverage them in this process. Provost Hackett expressed her desire to accomplish this in the simplest manner possible and in a manner which doesn’t add requirements to programs but incorporates existing requirements/courses.

**Faculty Senate Items:**

4:40 PM    **President’s Report**   Holly Alford

Faculty luncheon with Board of Visitors was an excellent experience. The board members enjoyed speaking with the faculty guests. Cathy Trower (founder of COACHE Survey) had a conversation about faculty life with the Board, and the Board members were fully engaged and thankful for these opportunities to interact with and understand faculty. This presentation has been posted on the Faculty Senate website: http://www.facultysenate.vcu.edu/.
Faculty/Staff/Retiree Capital Campaign has begun. Please take a few moments and make a donation. No gift is too small because as the giving participation percentage increases, so does the giving by alumni and other external funding sources. If the faculty and staff support VCU, then others will also see it as worthwhile to support.

In mid-April, VCU will host the first Diversity and Inclusion Cafés. These facilitated small group conversations for VCU students, faculty and staff will provide a forum for our VCU community to discuss the new Diversity Plan and issues related to diversity and inclusion for all people. http://inclusive.vcu.edu/

4:55 PM Table Discussions on Academic Freedom Holly Alford & Scott Street
Questions to discuss:
1. Who does this apply to?
2. How does this work with shared governance?
3. Does this mean that we can do anything that we want to in our classrooms?

Discussions resulted in a desire to clarify that academic freedom applies to all academic faculty at VCU, and that the faculty can create constraints/guidelines that might shape the curriculum and its application, but administrators should not dictate that to the faculty. It was mentioned that faculty should be responsible for curriculum. The Provost asked us to be clear in public when we are speaking as an “expert” in our fields of study and when we are speaking as a general citizen (usually outside our fields of study)…we do not want to be seen as representatives of the academy or of VCU when we are speaking outside of our fields of study, because our words might be misconstrued as expert opinions and reflect poorly on VCU.

It was noted that most of the AAUP document was created in the 1940s and revised in the 1970s, and both were times of turmoil/change in higher education. We seem to be approaching another similar time, so we should try to stay on top of this and help shape any changes that might be coming.

5:45 PM Announcements Various Senators
Wilder School sponsoring a panel on Race & American Society, and there will be shuttles for the forum.

From Research to Rehab conference is happening next week. Sponsored by COBE and VCU Life Sciences.

Elections should be occurring soon in your schools. Please remind your schools that we’d like elections to be completed by May 15th, if at all possible. VCU Libraries was first to be done.

Holly will be out of the country starting April 7th (in Qatar) and back by 18th. Four of her students’ creations were chosen to appear on the international stage in Doha.

6:00 PM Adjournment Holly Alford