Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, 29 September 2015 4:00–6:00 PM, MCV Campus, Larrick Center, Court End Ballroom
http://www.maps.vcu.edu/mcv/larrickcenter/index.html

Attendance:
Present: Alcaine (EDU, Alt. for Chen), Alford (ARTS), Alvarez (HAS), Anthony (HAS), Artello (WS), Baranoff (BUS), Bedell (Staff), Bodnar-Doren (HAS), Boyes (HON), Brookman (SOM), Brooks (DEN), Brown (NUR), Conlon (SWK), Daugherity (HAS), Dragoeescu (SOM, Alt. for LaRose), Duffy (EDU, Alt. for Xu), Easley (ARTS), Fraser (SWK), Freyer (ARTS), Ghaphery (VCU-L), Hargraves (EDU), Harrison (HAS), Hobgood (SOM), Hsu (SOM), Hylton-Gravatt (PHA), Jamerson (AHP), Kidd (SOM), Lee (BUS), Lister (SOM), Lodge (UC), McVoy (SOM), Nicholson (HAS), Octave (DEN), Ogbonna (PHA), Ottens (SOM), Pellegrini (DEN), Ratliff (SOM), Robnolt (EDU), Rodriguez (HAS), Sabik (SOM), Samso (SOM), Secret (SWK), Seinfeld (SOM), Shriar (WS), Smith (UC), Spindle (BUS), Street (HAS), Totah (HAS), Wagner (AHP), Wayne (EGR), Weatherford (StAff), Wen (ENG), Westcot (UC, Alt. for Kaziewicz), White (Webmaster), Work (VCU-L, Alt. for Davis), York (SOM), Zhang (EGR)

Absent: Carroll (SOM), Coe (DEN), Crislip (HAS), DeAngelis (ARTS), Dodson (SOM), Israel (ARTS), Jallo (NUR), Jensen (StAff), Le (SOM), O’Neal (RetFac), Parsons (SOM), Patton (ARTS), Puri (SOM), Rector (HAS), Saladino (HAS), Smith (BUS), Vanderbilt (SOM), Zhou (SOM)

Procedural Items:
4:00 PM Call to Order Holly Alford

4:02 PM Minutes of September 1st meeting Scott Street
Approved as presented by unanimous vote

Guests:
4:05 PM Division of Inclusive Excellence Dr. Wanda Mitchell
Dr. Mitchell gave a presentation about the Division for Inclusive Excellence (see Faculty Senate website: facultysenate.vcu.edu). She also described recent education and training initiative programs as well as community partnerships, including the first Annual Diversity & Inclusion Symposium. This past year, Dr. Mitchell established a 24-member Council for Inclusive Excellence and Equity to develop the Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan of Action and monitor, review, and assess VCU’s diversity, equity, and inclusive excellence initiatives based on the outcome measures identified in the Strategic Plan. Council will begin meeting in October 2015, and their work will be aligned with the Quest for Distinction and the Great Place Initiative as well as several well-respected national programs/documents. The Plan is expected to be completed by the end of this academic year and ready for implementation in Fall 2016.
Honor System

Dr. Reuban Rodriguez & Dr. Justin Moses

Justin Moses was introduced as the new Associate Vice Provost for Student Conduct & Policy Development. Student conduct and integrity as well as Title IX considerations now are overseen by Dr. Moses.

Dr. Rodriguez discussed the two-year process of revising the Honor Policy and then discussed the new policy (currently an interim policy, pending final approval). One key aspect is that if a student self-reports an honor violation, then the consequences may be ameliorated (although not guaranteed). Also, a student can admit guilt when charged, so that the process can be shortened to just the sanction process.

The two-year time period for honor charges to be filed was explained to permit for rare situations such as a pattern of cheating being discovered over the course of several semesters.

Dr. Allen Lee asked for a link that could be used to provide feedback about the new honor policy: http://www.policy.vcu.edu/sites/default/files/Honor%20System%20Interim_0.pdf

What plagiarism and cheating look like in our disciplines needs to be well-defined, and Dr. Rodriguez requested input from faculty across the university on this. Please contact him directly if you would like to provide input.

Board of Visitors report

June Nicholson

Dr. Nicholson discussed with the Board of Visitors shared governance and the Senate’s recent efforts. She also discussed work towards fair faculty evaluations, and she also mentioned that she welcomed Dr. Marsha Rappley. Dr. Nicholson wanted it to be known that the Faculty Representative to the Board is a non-voting member. For further information, please read the report on the Faculty Senate website.

Safety

Chief John Venuti

VCU Police are visiting campus groups and schools to discuss safety and prevention activities. Chief Venuti showed us a brief video about VCU Police and its impact on and around campus (see link to video on Faculty Senate website).

He also noted several accomplishments of VCU Police:
- Reduction of incidents of force from 75 in 2014 to 14 in 2015
- Complaints on employees reduced by over 50%
- Body-worn video cameras implemented to raise level of transparency within VCU community
- All officers going through implicit bias training in October 2015 (arranged well-before Virginia Attorney General required it for law-enforcement officers).
- New links on website (https://police.vcu.edu/) for reporting bias-crimes and hate-crimes directly to Chief Venuti (go to the “I want to…” section at bottom of page).

The VCU Police Dept. is constantly evaluating opportunities to increase/improve security across campus, but much of the current implementations are unfunded.
A question was asked about the apparent increase in violent crimes around campus. It was noted that an increase in reports of violent incidents around campus is not an indicator of an increase in violence but rather an increase in transparency about what is happening around the edge of the core campus.

Michael McVoy mentioned that VCU Police’s increase of party monitoring has led to the decision of the Fan Area residents to discontinue their self-patrolling program…VCU Police evidently has it handled.

5:00 PM          Office of Provost  Dr. Michael Davis
Dr. Davis provided thanks to the VCU faculty and community from the Provost for all of the wonderful work in making the UCI Bike Race go so smoothly.

Thursday, October 1st, is the end of the 30-day comment period for the consensual relations policy.

Open town hall from 10:30 – 12:00 on H&S dean search in Commons on Thursday, October 1st. Also, two candidates are visiting this week for the Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs…open forums are Wednesday, September 30th and Thursday, October 1st.

Faculty Senate Items:

5:05 PM          Vote for UC representation  Holly Alford
June Nicholson and Scott Street were approved unanimously to serve as Faculty Senate representatives to the University Council. Carmen Rodriguez and Jennifer Wayne were selected as Faculty Senate alternates to the University Council.

Brian Daugherity was approved unanimously to serve on the New Budget Model Steering Committee.

5:10 PM          President’s Report  Holly Alford
Faculty representation is needed for the Honor System. Training is available. Please let Holly know if you are interested.

Also, the University Academic and Administrative Information Technology Steering Committee has requested a replacement from Faculty Senate for Bob Andrews who retired this past summer. Contact Holly if you are interested.

Erin White requests that all senators and alternate senators subscribe to the website update notification system (submit email address at link on bottom-right of main page of website). Also, before each meeting, please check the Faculty Senate website (facultysenate.vcu.edu) for information that will be provided for the meeting. This will help keep meetings to a reasonable time (as opposed to having the information distributed/presented during meetings).

Provost Hackett should be presenting the Faculty Status Report at the November 3rd meeting.
Holly will appoint an ad hoc committee to review the Grievance Policy and recommend any necessary revisions/additions.

The Credentials and Rules committee plans to complete revision of the Bylaws of the Faculty in 2016.

School bylaws will be posted on the Provost’s website.

Discussions with the Provost regarding shared governance are ongoing, and a location for reporting on evaluation of shared governance is still being investigated. Mary Secret and Allen Lee discussed that there certainly needs to be a mechanism and metric system for reporting on and assessing shared governance. Valerie Robnolt commented that there is tremendous disparity among the schools with regards to bylaws, and there should be some review and perhaps efforts to achieve parity.

Holly mentioned that Faculty Senate is an advisory body, but its involvement with university committees, searches, etc. has been improved such that we have a seat on nearly all of these groups. Faculty Senate will not address “personal” issues; however, if any issues are brought to the Faculty Senate that could have a broad-reaching impact, then Holly will ask the appropriate Faculty Senate committee to review and report on the issue to the Leadership Group and possibly the full Faculty Senate (if appropriate). Holly also discussed the role of the Leadership Group to filter through information before it comes to the full Faculty Senate as well as to filter through information from the Senators to the administration to ensure a consistent message.

5:30 PM       Committee Responsibilities       Mary Secret

Mary introduced the chairs of the various standing committees of the Faculty Senate as well as charged the few committees without chairs to elect a chair from among their membership. She reminded all committee chairs that they are members of the Leadership Group.

Mary then explained that all Senators were seated together this day with other Senators from their schools so that they can discuss who will disseminate information to the faculty members of their schools. (see “bullet points” sent out after each meeting).

Jose Alcaine noted that November 8–14 will be the new (single) Homecoming celebration for entire university (both campuses).

Committees will meet briefly following adjournment.

5:45 PM       Adjournment       Holly Alford