Leadership Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, August 16, 2-7 PM, Student Commons Alumni Room, MPC  
http://www.vcu.edu/maps/acmap/wm

Attendance: Holly Alford, Kristy Artello, Susan Bodnar-Deren, Lisa Brown, Brian Daugherity, Nancy Jallo, Michael McVoy, Marilyn Miller, June Nicholson, Joan Pellegrini, Valerie Robnolt, Mary Secret, Scott Street, Jennifer Wayne, Erin White

2pm -- Meeting called to order (Holly Alford)  
2:10 -- Introductions

Guests
2:15 -- Talk and Discussion with President and Provost (Dr. Mike Rao and Dr. Gail Hackett)

- President Rao discussed QUEST, work to reduce the student debt for attending VCU, and progress and challenges facing the university; asked for input identifying 3-4 top priorities for VCU
- Discussion topics: underrepresented faculty and academic advisors (including MCV); diversity among the student body, including graduate programs; classroom sensitivity with regard to diversity, university resources to address this, and training regarding academic freedom and First Amendment freedoms; Office of Inclusive Excellence; VCU resources for research, including dealing with IRB; current and future job searches for VCU administrators; lack of support for service activities that faculty undertake; faculty raises; experiential learning component at VCU (Real World Experience Task Force); the definition of faculty (A&P vs T&R); revision of the bylaws (relationship between annual reviews and promotion and tenure standards; training of dean’s and administrators on teaching activities); online learning at VCU (search for new director of online learning, high-demand programs to put online, how to provide additional support to online instructors, and VCU’s message)

Senate Meeting Agenda

Minutes from May meeting (Brian Daugherity/Scott Street)
4:15 -- Bylaws Template and Shared Governance (Mary Secret)
- Discussion topics: Faculty Senate committee and senators to lead this effort; who will be our best contacts in the administration; how the Faculty Affairs group at University Council can help

4:40 -- BOV (June Nicholson)
- Discussion topics: maintaining Faculty Senate’s visibility and presence before the BOV; report on the May BOV meeting; upcoming BOV meeting in September

5:15 -- Committee Updates (Scott Street)
- Discussion topics: brief committee reports; chairs for Faculty Senate committees for the coming year

5:30 -- Grievance Policy Report (Scott Street)
- Discussion topics: peer institutions have been defined and committee is investigating their best practices

5:30 -- Presidents Report (Holly Alford)
  a. Summer work: met with administrators this summer regarding ideas/initiatives for this coming year, as well as current issues related to police violence
  b. Office of Inclusive Excellence: changes that occurred this summer, future plans, and current status of the diversity plan
  c. Goals last year: Shared governance statement has been approved and adopted by the university. Meetings were restructured to accomplish more discussion and less being talked at. We also assisted with the advancement of the new university diversity plan.
  d. Goals this year: We will continue to fight for a more diverse faculty. We will continue working for the application of the shared governance

 Talks to the Faculty/Brandining (Holly Alford)
- Discussion topics: Holly presented the draft slides that will be presented to units this fall. Those present suggested revisions that will be incorporated into the final document.

New Business (Scott Street)
- Discussion topics: One suggestion for roundtable discussion topics is the expectations of nine-month faculty involvement in university meetings and/or activities during the summer. Another might be to discuss how to promote stronger relationships among faculty across campus. We plan to ask the senators for ideas at the September meeting.