Faculty Senate Leadership Group Minutes, September 20, 2016.
MCV – Larrick Center, Church Hill Room, VCU Health Sciences, 4-6p

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

Call to order
Holly Alford

Guests

Center for Teaching and Learning
Enoch Hale (20 mins)
- Discussion topics: History of Center for Teaching Excellence and ALTLab; moving forward with Center for Teaching & Learning including a new charter and new solidifying relationships within the administration; hopes to present to Faculty Senate this fall and then continue forward to the Board of Visitors; initial efforts involve a new mentoring initiative; future status of Faculty Learning Communities

Senate Meeting Agenda

Minutes from August meeting
Brian Daugherity (3 mins)

Grievance Policy Report
Marilyn Miller (10 mins)
- Discussion topics: Marilyn Miller was not present.

Bylaws Template and Shared Governance
Mary Secret (15 mins)
- Discussion topics: Mary Secret reported that the Center for Inclusive Excellence will soon be seeking feedback from Faculty Senate on its Strategic Plan on Diversity and Inclusive Excellence. The leadership group suggested that the CIE submit its recommendations to Faculty Senate by October 1 in order to discuss the plan at the next Faculty Senate meeting. Mary Secret added that she is chairing the Faculty Senate Faculty Affairs committee and that she is developing a template on shared governance that she will share shortly.

BOV Meeting
June Nicholson (10 mins)
- Discussion topics: June Nicholson was not present. Holly Alford also attended the BOV meeting and reported that data related to underrepresented faculty was presented to the BOV (which asked for statistics from comparative institutions). A presentation on faculty promotion and tenure also took place, and discussion related to faculty raises also occurred (in which President Rao continue to press for faculty raises this year).
Committee Updates

- Discussion topics: Scott Street reported that he is finalizing the committees now and plans to share them in the near future. Scott Street also submitted the Faculty Senate names for University Council.

a. Academic and Professional Status        Kristin Artello (15 mins)

- Discussion topics: the development of annual review guidelines and shared governance guidance will be priorities once this committee is formalized. Kristin Artello also raised a concern related to a student in her program, and the leadership group discussed what VCU divisions are most appropriate and relevant to help address distressed student concerns. It was decided to address the issue of at-risk students directly with the Division of Student Affairs, and to highlight the need for more accessible information from the division.

President’s Report        Holly Alford (20 mins)

a. Office of Inclusive Excellence: President Rao has decided to conduct a series of forums about the OIE and its goals; will be open to the university as a whole, and the initial forums will fuel later forums, all of which will focus on the initiatives and goals of OIE

b. Senate Forum: this idea is for Faculty Senate to sponsor a forum related to academic freedom and freedom of speech; would be with the support of the Provost’s Office

Talks and Faculty Branding        Holly Alford (10 mins)

a. Visits to BEA, SGA, and Equality VCU: Holly Alford and the executive committee have been meeting with various campus groups to help explain the work of Faculty Senate; will continue to do so in the coming months

New Business        Scott Street

- Discussion topics: Scott Street announced the VCU Office of Trademarks and Licensing fair, tomorrow mid-day, and expressed interest in obtaining some Faculty Senate paraphernalia; Reuban Rodriguez asked Scott to mention to Faculty Senate that he is seeking someone to serve on a committee related to VCU’s relationships with its surrounding neighborhoods/communities, and Michael McVoy volunteered; Lisa Brown raised a concern about a student in her program who is attempting to complete a course in which she obtained an incomplete, and the leadership group offered suggestions forremedying the situation