Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda, November 1, 2016, Student Commons Ballroom A and B, MPC, 4-6 pm.
http://www.vcu.edu/maps/acmap/wm

Present: Alcaine (EDU), Alford (ARTS), An (NUR), Anthony (HAS), Arrington (ARTS), Artello (WS), Baranoff (BUS), Bedell (StAff), Bodnar-Deren (HAS), Bosco (BUS), Brown (NUR), Coe (DEN), Crookendale (VCU-L), Cummins (HAS), Daugherity (HAS), DeAngelis (ARTS), DiazGranados (MED), Eltit (MED), Faris (ARTS), Franzak (BUS), Freyer (ARTS), Goldberg (MED), Gronert (HAS), Hawkins (StAff), Jallo (NUR), Jamerson (AHP), Kornstein (MED), Lee (BUS), Lockeman (MED), Lodge (UC), Mansfield (EDU), McVoy (MED), Nadpara (PHA), Nicholson (HAS), Ottens (MED), Patton (ARTS), Pellegrini (DEN), Price (RetFac), Rivera (HAS), Robnolt (EDU), Rodriguez (HAS), Russell (DEN), Saladino (HAS), Secret (SWK), Seinfeld (MED), Shriar (WS), Stevenson (HAS), Stout (VCU-L), Street (HAS), Sun (MED), Wajciechowski (EDU), Wayne (EGR), Wen (EGR), Westcot (UC), White (Webmaster), Xu (EDU), Zhang (EGR)

Absent: Boyes (HNR), Carroll (MED), Dawson-Cruz (HAS), Dodson (MED), Frankenhoff (MED), Fraser (SWK), Harrison (HAS), Hobgood (MED), Hsu (MED), Jensen (StAff), LaRose (MED), Miller (HAS), Ogbonna (PHA), Puri (MED), Roberson-Nay (MED), South (HAS), Wagner (AHP), Wike (SWK), York (MED), Zhou (MED)

4pm–Call to Order and Welcome (Holly Alford)

Minutes, October 4th meeting (Brian Daugherity)

Guests

Office of Faculty Affairs (Kathy Bassard)

• Dr. Bassard discussed the newly-created Office of Faculty Affairs, highlighting its mission. Dr. Bassard utilized the OFA website to highlight the Office’s four priorities (and initiatives within each): Faculty Excellence and Engagement; Strategic Leadership and Compliance; Faculty Recruitment and Retention; and Faculty Performance and Advancement. Dr. Bassard added that the new faculty initiatives, and related work, spans both VCU campuses.

Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence (Enoch Hale)

• Dr. Hale discussed the strategic planning process for the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence, highlighting the importance of faculty input and an upcoming May 2017 presentation before the VCU Board of Visitors. Dr. Hale noted that the CTLE will be seeking faculty input starting next week, so that the center will directly reflect and address faculty priorities. Dr. Hale highlighted that he is seeking input from faculty on both the MCV and Monroe Park campuses.

Faculty Recruitment and Retention (Aashir Nasim)

• Dr. Nasim discussed recruitment and retention as a priority of the Office of Faculty Affairs. Dr. Nasim noted that VCU previously did not have significant
infrastructure or resources focused on faculty recruitment and retention, but
that VCU is now moving to remedy this, and forthcoming changes (including
the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence) will assist the faculty in a
variety of ways. Faculty senators expressed concerns regarding the annual
evaluation of faculty and the promotion and tenure process, highlighting the
need for training of department chairs, and the development of clear
guidelines. Dr.s Bassard and Nasim responded with feedback and ideas.

Senate Business
Provost’s Report (Gail Hackett)
• Provost Hackett was unable to present today.

4:35pm--Senate Elections (Joan Pellegrini)
• Dr. Pellegrini proposed that the Faculty Senate select a chair for the
Nominating Committee so that the committee can develop a slate of
candidates earlier than in past years, so that proposed officers can learn
about the roles and responsibilities of the various positions. Dr. Pellegrini
proposed that June Nicholson be chosen as chair of the committee. This
nomination was formally proposed and Dr. Nicholson was selected.

4:40pm--VCU Homecoming (Jose Alcaine)
• Dr. Alcaine discussed the VCU Homecoming schedule, which includes a
variety of events during the week of November 6-13. Dr. Alcaine introduced
Amy Greenback, who highlighted events that faculty might be particularly
interested in attending. To share on social media, use #vcuhomecoming2016

December Board of Visitors Meeting (June Nicholson and Holly Alford)
• Dr.s Nicholson and Alford discussed the upcoming BOV presentation,
scheduled for December 8. Dr. Nicholson noted that several faculty will play
integral roles, including Dr. David Coogan, head of the Open Minds program
in the Richmond City Justice Center, and Dr. K.C. Ogbonna, of the Pharmacist
Collaborative Care and Outreach program.

Higher Education Advocacy Day (Pat Cummins and Carmen Rodriguez)
• Dr. Cummins highlighted this year’s advocacy day, January 12, 2017, on the
4th floor of the Theater Row building on Broad Street, starting at 8:30am. The
Virginia AAUP, the Faculty Senate of Virginia, and the VCU Faculty Senate will
jointly participate. Likely priorities will be state funding for higher education,
tuition for faculty children, and salaries. Dr. Cummins highlighted that
additional information will be forthcoming.

President’s Report (Holly Alford)
• President Alford discussed the celebration of faculty who were promoted
and/or awarded tenure last year, held in Cabell Library recently.
• President Alford mentioned that the Council on Inclusive Excellence met
today, and that recent feedback on VCU’s strategic plan was well received.
• President Alford announced that several faculty will take part in the steering
committee that will work to develop VCU’s new strategic plan.
President Alford noted that Kathleen Shaw will attend the December Faculty Senate meeting to discuss statistics related to VCU faculty.

5:10pm--Student Disability Services (Ian Kunkes and Amy Miller)

- Mr. Kunkes and Mrs. Miller explained VCU’s efforts to update disability support services and plans for the future. Both also sought feedback from faculty and from Faculty Senate.

Round table discussion, Disability Support Services (faculty senators)
- Faculty senators discussed Disability Support Services in order to provide feedback to Mr. Kunkes and Mrs. Miller. Feedback included:
  - DSS should meet with various VCU schools/units in order to recognize that different units have different requirements for their students, and that general DSS standards will not work for all of VCU’s units. Mrs. Miller responded that her office at MCV works closely with medical units to ensure that student disabilities are recognized and addressed, but that academic standards are also upheld.
  - DSS should require a feedback form for students to complete to ensure they are satisfied with their services.
  - Senators asked whether severe disabilities have ever impeded student success in certain fields, to the extent that the student was informed that he/she should consider a different program or career path. Mrs. Miller responded in the affirmative, and Mr. Kunkes added that DSS will never assist students in subverting the requirements of a unit or academic program.
  - Senators suggested that DSS clarify how it can help/assist faculty more effectively. Related to this, it was suggested that DSS explain to faculty which resources it makes available to students.
  - Mr. Kunkes announced that, starting in January, DSS will be known as the Center for Accessibility and Student Success, to remove any stigma that might be associated with Disability Support Services.
  - A senator asked why there are two offices for student disabilities, one on the MPC and another at MCV. Mr. Kunkes noted that the offices are essentially the same and their policies are the same, but that they serve different student populations, with often different needs.
  - One table asked how faculty are supposed to provide the remedies granted to students by DSS when the faculty have no control over classroom space, have limited resources to administer tests to students on their own, etc. Mr. Kunkes responded by asking them to work with DSS closely to determine if the remedies are too burdensome or if DSS can offer additional resources to assist.
  - One table suggested that DSS extend its hours beyond 5pm to assist with testing and other accommodations that are offered. Another suggestion was to ensure that the accommodations are reasonable for faculty as well as students.

5:50pm--VCU Policy Library (Scott Street)
- Dr. Street highlighted the VCU Policy Library at policy.vcu.edu, including new policies and those open to public comment.
Dr. Street also noted that Faculty Senate will soon seek information about which college and university committees faculty senators are serving on, as representatives of Faculty Senate.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Brian Daugherity.