Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes, April 4, 2017.
Student Commons, Forum Room, MPC, 4-6pm.
http://www.vcu.edu/maps/acmap/wm

Present: Alcaine (EDU), Alford (ARTS), An (NUR), Arrington (ARTS), Artello (WS),
Baranoff (BUS), Bedell (StAff), Bodnar-Deren (HAS), Bosco (BUS), Boyes (HNR), Brown (NUR),
Coe (DEN), Crookendale (VCU-L), Daugherity (HAS), DiazGranados (MED), Faris (ARTS),
Frankenhoff (MED), Freyer (ARTS), Gronert (HAS), Harrison (HAS), Harrison (AHP, Alt. for
Jamerson), Hawkins (StAff), Hsu (MED), Jallo (NUR), Lee (BUS), Lockeman (MED), Lodge (UC),
Masuda (PHA), McVoy (MED), Nadpara (PHA), Nicholson (HAS), Ottens (MED), Patton (ARTS),
Pellegrini (DEN), Price (RetFac), Reiner (HAS, Alt. for Coston), Rivera (HAS), Robnolt (EDU),
Russell (DEN), Saladin (HAS), Samso (MED), Seinfeld (WS), Shriar (WS), Stevenson (HAS),
Stout (VCU-L), Street (HAS), Sun (MED), Wayne (EGR), Wen (EGR), Westcot (UC),
White (Webmaster), Wike (SWK), Zhang (EGR)

Absent: Carroll (MED), Dawson-Cruz (HAS), DeAngelis (ARTS), Dodson (MED), Franzak (BUS),
Fraser (SWK), Goldberg (MED), Hobgood (MED), Hogan (MED), Kidd (MED), Kornstein (MED),
LaRose (MED), Le (MED), Mansfield (EDU), Ogbonna (PHA), Puri (MED), Roberson-Nay (MED),
Wagner (AHP), Wajciechowski (EDU), Xu (EDU), York (MED), Zhou (MED)

4:03pm--Call to order and welcome (Holly Alford)

Minutes from February 28th meeting (Brian Daugherity)

Leadership Resolution for Madelyn Wessel (Holly Alford)

• President Alford introduced and read a resolution of appreciation for
Madelyn Wessel, adopted by the Faculty Senate Leadership Group, in light of
her departure from VCU. The resolution was unanimously approved by the
full senate.

Faculty Senate elections (June Nicholson/Holly Alford)

• Dr. Nicholson explained the nomination process, the process of accepting
nominations from the floor, and then presented the slate of candidates for
the 2017-2018 academic year. Afterward, President Alford asked for
nominations from the floor. There being none, the slate of candidates as
presented by the Nominating Committee was accepted unanimously by the
full senate.

4:15pm--Resolution on Student Course Evaluations  (Kristin Artello)

• Kristy explained that the committee on Academic and Professional Status has
been evaluating concerns with student course evaluations this year,
including gender and racial bias within the student evaluation process. Kristy
noted that the Provost’s Office recognizes these concerns, but that the
university’s accreditation process requires student input. Kristy suggested
that some adjustment to the evaluation process may be in order, which would also maintain student engagement in the evaluation process.
Discussion among senators ensued, with general agreement that some adjustments to the evaluation process may be needed in the near future, in conjunction with the VCU administration.

Guest

Provost’s Report

   • Provost Hackett is out sick today, and the Provost’s Office did not send a representative to deliver a report.

4:45pm--President’s Report

   a. Madelyn Wessel's answers to questions: Alford discussed Madelyn Wessel’s responses to questions from the Faculty Senate Leadership Group, including when faculty members can discuss politics in class, conduct controversial research, or teach courses that might generate controversy. Wessel also highlighted restrictions on VCU email accounts; especially that they are always subject to review. Wessel highlighted the fact that VCU as an institution is committed to remaining neutral in political affairs.

   b. Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech: Alford reminded senators that she has been working to organize a forum on academic freedom and freedom of speech. Currently Alford is working with Provost Hackett to identify relevant speakers, and trying to identify topics relevant to VCU students as well.

   c. Office of Inclusive Excellence: Alford noted that this entity will be searching for a new hire (at the level of vice president) next academic year.

   d. Appreciation reception for faculty: Alford reminded faculty of an April 28 reception for VCU faculty.

   e. Faculty Senators from Qatar: Alford announced that Faculty Senate will welcome two members from VCU-Qatar next academic year.

5:10pm—Vice President’s Report

   f. Staff Walkathon: Street mentioned this event, organized by Marquita Aguilar, will take place tomorrow, and that the event raises money for student scholarships.

   g. VCU Make It Real campaign: Street reminded faculty that this initiative is raising funds for the university, and that the VCU Development Office is trying to raise the level of faculty participation.

   h. Executive Director of Online@VCU: Street announced that videos and CVs of the top candidates for this position are available on the Provost’s website, along with other documents related to this search.

   i. Faculty Senate regalia: Street reminded faculty who haven’t picked up a Faculty Senate lanyard to see him, and he announced that Faculty Senate-branded clothing will be available for individuals to purchase online in the next few days. Street will share the website and purchase information as soon as it’s available.

   j. Human Resources redesign: Street indicated that changes to faculty status, particularly professional faculty, as part of the VCU Human Resources redesign will impact Faculty Senate, but not until the 2018-2019 academic year at the earliest. He noted that the leaders of Faculty Senate have been carefully involved in this redesign, and the status of all VCU faculty.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Brian Daugherity.