Faculty Senate Leadership Meeting Minutes, February 21, 2017.
Larrick Center, Jackson Ward room, 4:15-6pm. [http://www.vcu.edu/maps/acmap/wm](http://www.vcu.edu/maps/acmap/wm)

**Attendance:** Holly Alford, Kristy Artello, Brian Daugherity, Stephanie Goldberg, Michael McVoy, June Nicholson, Joan Pellegrini, Valerie Robnolt, Mary Secret, Scott Street, Jennifer Wayne, Erin White

4:15pm--Call to Order

Holly Alford

Minutes, January 17 Faculty Senate meeting

- Approved unanimously.

**President's Visit/Madelyn Wessel's help**

Holly Alford

- Discussion topics: President Rao’s meeting with faculty showed that many faculty don’t understand what we can and cannot do with respect to freedom of speech. There were also questions about the use of ‘hashtags,’ social media, and related technology. Madelyn has been asked to meet with faculty to clarify faculty roles and responsibilities. The leadership group discussed what some of the issues and uncertainties are. A task force will be created to shape this discussion and consider future related activities/discussions.

**Faculty Resolution**

Mary Secret

- Discussion topics: Dr. Secret announced that the Diversity and Inclusion Resolution will be voted on for approval at the February 28th Faculty Senate meeting.

**Nominations, and BOV Report**

June Nicholson

- Discussion topics: Dr. Nicholson announced that the slate of Faculty Senate officers for next year is nearly complete/confirmed. The slate, along with bios, will be distributed before the February 28th meeting. It was suggested that we have two people share the responsibilities of Monroe Park Campus Representative, as we’ve had for the MCV Campus Representative.

- Discussion topics: Dr. Nicholson asked for items for the upcoming Board of Visitors meeting from Faculty Senators or Faculty Senate committees. Dr. Robnolt asked that the faculty who are highlighted or presented to the board represent various academic disciplines rather than the same schools or units repeatedly. Dr. Nicholson asked for input on faculty members who could present their scholarship to the BOV.

5:20pm--President’s Report

Holly Alford
a. **Meeting with Student Government Association:** SGA adopted a resolution asking faculty to give Early Alert grades for all students and all courses. But the VCU administration is working on another system that will help to inform students of their progress.

b. **Academic Professional meeting:** Holly reported that the administration has now developed a definition of the “Academic Professional” category for the upcoming Human Resources redesign, and that this will now be presented more broadly for additional feedback. Faculty Senate will revise its bylaws in the future, based on the adopted definition.

c. **February 28th meeting:** Enoch will attend to update us on the CTLE. Gail Hackett will also provide an update. Discussion ensured over what our roundtable topic will be.

d. **BIC Facilitation/Diversity Policy:** A Building Inclusive Communities program was conducted last week, and it was a great success for all involved. A number of key guiding principles from the program would be beneficial for use in our classrooms. Holly will check with the contracted company to see if this is permitted use of that content.

**Vice President’s Report**  
Scott Street

- Discussion topics: Search for the new Executive Director of Online@VCU is progressing well. Airport interviews and initial referencing are complete, and campus visits should occur the two weeks after spring break.
- Discussion topics: There has been a delay in the online store for ordering Faculty Senate branded clothing, but this is good news. The company is creating a sustainable web store so that we can turn it on at the beginning of each year/semester (basically whenever we want to sell clothing again), and faculty can pay for their own items and have their orders shipped directly to them. We should see something by mid-March.

**Committee Reports**  
Scott Street

a. **Academic and Professional Status:** Kristine Artello presented a draft resolution from her committee to urge administrators to cease the use of end of course evaluations as a method for evaluating faculty performance. Discussion on edits ensued, and it was proposed that wording be adjusted to convey that course evaluations should not be the sole or even main method employed for evaluating faculty performance. Also suggested was to add references regarding studies that show the biases and ineffectiveness of course evaluations. The resolution will be revised and presented to the Faculty Senate at a future meeting.