Faculty Senate Leadership Meeting Minutes, March 21, 2017.
Student Commons, Alumni Board Room, 4-6 pm.
http://www.vcu.edu/maps/acmap/wm

Attendance: Jose Alcaine, Holly Alford, Susan Bodnar-Deren, Lisa Brown, Brian Daugherity, Nancy Jallo, Allen Lee, Jeff Lodge, Michael McVoy, Marilyn Miller, Kathryn Murphy-Judy, June Nicholson, Joan Pellegrini, Valerie Robnolt, Chris Saladino, Mary Secret, Scott Street, Jennifer Wayne, Erin White

4:00pm--Call to Order

Minutes February 21 Meeting

Intellectual Property Policy and Question and Answer

- Discussion topics: To begin, Madelyn distributed the AAUP Statement from 1940 on Academic Freedom (https://www(aaup.org/report/1940-statement-principles-academic-freedom-and-tenure) and stated that the University still uses this statement as do many other universities nationally. Holly asked questions regarding faculty rights and responsibilities from the Roundtable Discussions at our last Faculty Senate meeting.

- Discussion topics: Madelyn noted that expressive behavior that is inflammatory or extreme in a way that makes it difficult for students to feel respected/safe/etc., in the classroom can be a problem for faculty members to remain at VCU. However, it is the message, not the medium that can cause such an issue. Being inflammatory/disrespectful in the classroom, on social media, or in the hallway towards colleagues could also cause similar issues.

- With regards to public spaces, not all VCU spaces are public spaces. Reserved spaces can be restricted in such way that we do not need to permit open/free discussion, but as a general rule we should promote freedom of speech.

- Students have complained to local elected officials about faculty who have expressed views that conflict with student views, especially when facts presented in class are not supported by the student’s preferred “source” of information. Madelyn suggested that we seek out assurances from the Provost that VCU will support faculty in these cases, when reasonable academic freedom has been displayed.

- Madelyn mentioned that using one’s VCU email account isn’t entirely private; however, incidental personal use of one’s VCU email account, is permitted. She also mentioned that setting up a personal email account for personal communications is a good practice that we should all implement.

- Finally, Madelyn highlighted the relationship between faculty intellectual property, federal and state law, and university policy. She also discussed proposed revisions to VCU's IP policies that she’s been developing while at VCU, including coverage of students and others at the university. The
proposed changes have been reviewed by the administration and will soon be opened up for public comment and input.

5:15pm--Grievance Committee Report  Marilyn Miller
• Discussion topics: Marilyn went over the history of the VCU grievance policy, and then introduced proposed revisions developed this spring. She distributed a handout showing the principal changes and reviewed them individually, and also took questions from senators. Marilyn also highlighted that she’s now served for five years as the grievance committee chair, and that the FSLG should begin to consider bringing new members into this committee to learn the complexities of the grievance process.

5:55pm--Student Evaluation Discussion  FSLG
• Discussion topics: The role of student evaluations in faculty annual reports and the P&T process was introduced, and it was determined that in the interest of time, this issue will be discussed during the next full Senate meeting.

5:30pm—President’s Report  Holly Alford
a. April 7th meeting: Holly announced that this meeting will include a discussion about the most recent resolution, and a presentation by Frank Macrina.

b. Policies for review: Holly announced that changes to the grievance policy will be coming before the Senate in the near future.

c. Academic freedom versus freedom of speech: Holly announced that she is in discussion with the Provost about how to publicly address these issues, via a series of forums and also events that would be open to students.

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