

## MINUTES

Thursday, February 7, 2019

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

VCU Student Commons, Virginia Rooms

A meeting of the University Council was held on Thursday, February 7, 2019, at 3 p.m. at the VCU Student Commons.

The following members and alternates were present:

**Officers:** Gail Hackett, Meredith Weiss

**Administration:** Matt Conrad, Andrew Daire, Joe DiPiro, Tomikia LeGrande, and Constance Relihan

**Faculty:** Holly Alford, Alisa Brink, Brian Brown, Miriam George, Mary Lou Hall, Les Harrison, Courtney Holmes, Sterling Hundley, Nancy Jallo, Andrea Kohashi, John Leonard, Katie Logan, Abigale Matulewicz, Thomas Mayhew, Donna McClish, Meera Mehtaji, Victoria Menzies, Edward Millner, Nitai Mukhopadhyay, Archana Pathek, Joan Pellegrini, Scott Ramsey, Scott Street, Niraj Verma, Brian Verrelli, Christine Wynd, and Kristin Zimmerman

**Postdoctoral Scholars:**

**Classified staff:** Valarie Carter, Nick Fetzer, Connie Peyton, Ashley Staton, Eileen Truax, and Felita Tucker-Battle

**Students:** Mekdes Charles and Jad Elahmad

**Ex-Officio:** Craig Brookins, Gypsy Denzine, Alex Henson, and Deborah Noble-Triplett.

**Guests:** Linda Birtley, Susan Carkeek, Allison Jones, James Keck, Tom Klug, Jana McQuaid, D'Arcy Mays, Jan Nelson, Sue Robb, Reuban Rodriguez, Veronica Shuford, Nancy Stutts, Chris Whyte, and Nasibeh Zohrabi

### 1. President's Report

On behalf of President Rao, Gail Hackett provided a brief report that included the following highlights:

- State of the University (speech can be found on the President's blog)
- Health Innovation Consortium (a three year initiative that will support new innovations in healthcare; faculty, students and VCU Health will partner with Richmond entrepreneurs to develop solutions to longtime and emerging issues in healthcare)

- Title IX (we continue to monitor DOE actions and potential impact on our university community)
- Construction Update: College of Health Professions nearing completion (brings all 11 departments under one roof); Adult Outpatient Facility (largest capital project in VCU Health's history with completion date of summer 2020)
- GRTC reminder (partnership continues; bus passes were mailed out)
- MIR update (have reached \$689.5 million; 52 endowed chairs and professorships; 78 new endowed faculty support and research funds; and 282 new endowed scholarships and student support funds)
- Commencement location (University-wide ceremony will take place May 11, 2019, at the Greater Richmond Convention Center)

## **2. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the University Council meeting on December 6, 2018 were approved.

## **3. Committee Reports**

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and University Policy Committee, Deborah Noble-Triplett discussed the following proposals:

- Proposal to create a new graduate certificate in Applied Statistics. A general discussion followed focusing on non-tenure eligible faculty members not being certified to teach classes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal with the following vote: 20 in favor; 7 opposed, and 5 abstentions).
- Proposal to create a new graduate certificate in Cybersecurity Policy and Management. A general discussion followed. A motion was made and seconded to approve this proposal.
- Proposal to change the CIP code for the M.A. in Economics. A general discussion followed. A motion was made and seconded, with one abstention, to approve this proposal.

It was noted that the three aforementioned proposals will be moved forward for review and approval by the VCU Board of Visitors.

Jad Elahmad provided a Student Government Association Report, focusing on upcoming activities. A general discussion followed.

Scott Street provided a Faculty Senate Report, focusing on activities, to include: 1) January 10, 2019 Higher Education Advocacy Day, which included faculty and students across the commonwealth; and 2) February 12, 2019 Annual University-Wide General Faculty Meeting, which will include President Rao (scheduled for

February 12, 2019, 4-5:30 pm, in the Larrick Center's Court End Ballroom on the MCV Campus). Mr. Street also read part of the faculty senate's Resolution in Recognition of Rector Phoebe Hall. A general discussion followed.

Nick Fetzer provided a Staff Senate Report. He discussed highlights, to include: 1) Ramtree efforts; 2) website update; 3) March 4-8, 2019 Employee Appreciation Week; and 4) March 2020 professional development conference.

**4. Other Matters**

Tom Klug provided a University Relations Overview. A general discussion followed.

**5. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.