**F I N A L**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, April 4, 2024**

**3:00-4:30 p.m.**

A meeting of the University Council was held on Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. in the VCU Cabell Library, conference room 303 and via Zoom.

The following members and alternates were present:

**Officers:** Fotis Sotiropoulos and Scott Street

**Administration:** Scott Breuninger, Grant Heston, Catherine Ingrassia, Marlon Levy and Alison Miller

**Faculty:** Chrisa Arcan, Julie Arendt,Lisa Brown,Paul Bukevakis, Beth Bukoski, Melissa Burton, Yana Cen, Karen Chartier, Amita Chin, Alexis Crawford, Katherine Dabney, Kostadin Damevski, Lindsay Evans, Hope Ginsberg, Nancy Husson, Kanako Iwanaga, Nancy Jallo, Amie Knapp, Bettina Peacemaker, Peter Pidcoe, VaCora Rainey, Maria Rivera, Valerie Robnolt, Michael Rosenberg, Oliver Speck, Christy Tyndall, Stacy Wahl, Larry Williams, Jeff Wilson, and Cesar Zamudio

**Classified Staff**: Delores Armstrong, Holly Dean, Jair Lecky, Corey Martin, Louise Putnam, and Maya Rogers

**Students**: Lana Birdwell, Shauy Habib, Zachary Hodgen and Sincere Slade-Reading

**Ex-Officio and Guests**: Andrew Arroyo, Faye Belgrave, Jason Block, Chelyen Davis, James Gahagan, Chelsea Gray, Irene Herold, Karen Helderman, Jeff Krauss, Pam Lepley, Samantha Marrs, and John Ryan

1. **Provost’s Report**

On behalf of President Rao, Provost Sotiropoulos welcomed Council members to the seventh UC meeting of the academic year. He noted that the BOV and VCU Health BOD held their first meetings of the year two weeks ago. Other items he shared on behalf of President Rao included:

* Overall applications and out-of-state applications are up.
* Our record fundraising- last year has led to a ranking of 21st among all public universities.
* Our SACSCOC accreditation review went so well that in the exit interview, they told us we received zero recommendations – something Dr. Rao has never had the pleasure of experiencing in his 30 years as a university president.
* VCU Health continues to see a tremendous turnaround in our finances.
  + S&P has affirmed its double AA rating and also upgraded our outlook to stable.
  + Moody’s affirmed VCU Health’s Aa3 credit rating with a stable outlook.
  + Both ratings reflect VCU Health’s ongoing strengths and strong financial profile – combined with being one of Virginia’s leading academic medical centers and the largest safety net healthcare system.
* Our School of Public Health has received the necessary approvals to achieve accreditation.
  + Helps recruit highly talented faculty, grow graduate enrollment, develop undergraduate programs and contribute to the public health workforce.
  + This was a goal Dr. Rao set when he arrived at VCU, pushing it forward in 2020. We will graduate our first students in May.

This week we announced results of our academic repositioning task force. Many thanks to the 52 faculty and staff who worked hard to create 100 ideas, then fine-tune them into five recommendations:

* Restructure College of Humanities and Sciences
* Creation of a new college for advancing interdisciplinary, experiential and entrepreneurial studies (final name TBD)
* Convergence Labs @VCU: expanding virtual consortia
* VCU Health Sciences Pathways
* Building on VCU’s community engagement work

The Provost noted that the next step is for his team, in consultation with VCU senior leadership, to work with impacted units and respective governance organizations on implementation.

1. **Minutes**

The minutes of the February 29, 2024 were approved.

1. **Committee Reports**

The Academic Affairs and University Policy Committees presented the following Organizational and programmatic changes, and new and revised policy proposals:

**Academic Affairs Committee**

No report from the committee

**University Policy Committee**

**Substantive Revision: Development and Alumni Relations Activities**—Samantha Marrs, Senior AVP for Campaign Administration, discussed the substantive revision and responded to questions. With 83% “yes” votes, 6% “no” votes and 11% abstentions, a motion was made and seconded to accept and move the revision forward for review and approval by the VCU Board of Visitors.

**Faculty Affairs Committee**

Valerie Robholt provided a faculty affairs committee update. She noted that an amendment to the bylaws (Article VIII.Section 4) will be presented at the next UC meeting.

**Staff Affairs Committee**

Maya Rogers provided a staff affairs committee update.

**Student Affairs Committee**

James Gahagan provided a student affairs committee update on behalf of Aaron Hart.

1. **Constituent Reports**

Sincere Slade-Reading provided an SGA Report, and a general discussion followed.

Maria Rivera provided a Faculty Senate Report, and a general discussion followed.

Maya Rogers provided a Staff Senate Report, and a general discussion followed.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m.