

Sept. 4, 2014

A meeting of the University Council was held on Thursday, September 4, 2014, at 3 p.m. at the University Commons Ballroom.

The following members and alternates were present:

Officers: Michael Rao, John Wiencek

Administration: Quincy Byrdsong, Michael Davis, William Decatur, Cecil Drain, Melissa Exum, Pam Lepley, Wanda Mitchell, Leigh Small, John Ulmschneider, Niraj Verma

Faculty: Holly Alford, Bob Andrews, Marium Aziz, Nita Bryan, Carrie Connolly, John Cyrus, Russell Davis, Dean DeLuke, Dave Dixon, Jennifer Elswick, Hani El-Kaderi, David Fauri, Josh Galligan, Karen Gau, Henry "Les" Harrison, Andrea Ferreira-Gonzalez, Stephanie Goldberg, Chris Jackson, Peter Kirkpatrick, Paula Kupstas, Allen Lee, Michael McVoy, Blue Wooldridge

Classified staff: Jennifer Elswick, Stacey Garnett, Katherine Poarch, Lauren Katchuk, Eleanor Sharp, Eileen Truax, Felita Tucker-Battle, Elizabeth Woodhead

Post-doc students: Adele Doperalski

Students: Mariam Azim, Carmine DiMaro, Destinee Moragne, Sagar Shah, Suraj Telhan, Will Thompson, Meghan Wilson

Guests: Chuck Clink, Sania Marcoccia, Ann Nichols-Casebolt, Kawana Pace-Harding, Sherry Sandkam, David Sarrett, Juanita Sharpe, Carter Valanik, Brian Verrelli, Chris Wagner, Madeleine Wessell

Items For Action

Minutes of a meeting held May 8, 2014: **(approved)**

President's Report:

President Rao welcomed new and returning members to the first University Council meeting of the 2014-15 academic year. Dr. John Wiencek is now interim provost following the departure of Dr. Warren for Kent State. VCU has earned several recent distinctions, including being listed as a great value college in the South because of affordability and unique learning environment, ranked a top-10 school nationally in terms of awarding PhDs to women in engineering, the freshman class is the strongest academically and most diverse in the history of the university, and VCU was named a top-10 "Hipster School." With VCU facing significant budget cuts, resources need to be reexamined to ensure the goals of Quest for Distinction are met. VCU is working to increase transparency, student financial assistance, faculty/staff compensation and physical infrastructure. The university will engage in a robust discussion about a new budget model. VCU's Title IX compliance function has been moved to the Division of Finance and Administration and more resources will be devoted to it. It will be among the strongest compliance models in America. And presidential updates to the VCU community are now being communicated via blog and social media.

For Approval (Consent Items)

New Programs/Organizational Changes:

- Proposal to Establish New M.S. and Ph.D. degree programs in Oral Health Research, proposed by Dave Sarrett and Oonagh Loughran. **(approved)**
- Proposal to Revise the Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling Curriculum From 48 to 60 Credit Hours and to Change the Name of the Degree Program from the Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling to the Master of Science in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling, proposed by Cecil Drain. **(approved)**

For Information

Orientation and council procedural issues: Dr. Wiencek

Membership caucuses: Council members met to select appointees to UC committees.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.