**D R A F T**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, September 7, 2023**

**4:30 – 5:30 p.m.**

A meeting of the University Council was held on Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. in the VCU Cabell Library, conference room 303 and via Zoom.

The following members and alternates were present:

**Officers:** President Michael Rao, Fotis Sotiropoulos, Meredith Weiss and Scott Street

**Administration:** Scott Breuninger, Hernan Bucheli, Lyndon Cooper, Jay Davenport, Jean Giddens, Karol Gray, Aaron Hart, Grant Heston, Catherine Ingrassia, and Alison Miller

**Faculty:** Stephen Alcorn,Chrisa Arcan, Julie Arendt,Brian Brown,Sarah JaneBrubaker,Paul Bukaveckas, Beth Bukoski, Amita Chin, Carrie Connolly, Alexis Crawford, Katherine Dabney, Kostadin Damevski, Rob DiRenzo, Lindsay Evans, Hope Ginsberg, Jacob Goffnett, Sarah Golding, Nancy Husson, Kanako Iwanaga, Cassie DeSena Jacobs, Amie Knapp, Jair Lecky, Milos Manic, Shillpa Naavaal, Bettina Peacemaker, Peter Pidcoe, VaCora Rainey, Roxanne Spindle, Maria Rivera, Valerie Robnolt, Michael Rosenberg, Roxanne Spindle, Christy Tyndall, Stacy Wahl, Larry Williams, Jeff Wilson, and Kim Zicafoose.

**Postdoctoral Scholar:** Eda Koseli

**Classified Staff**: Valarie Carter, Holly Dean, Brogan King, Hannah Steighner, and Katina Velentzas

**Students**: Lana Birdwell, Emerson Hernandez, Zachary Hodgen, Pratyush Narayen, Sincere Sade-Reading

**Ex-Officio and Guests**: Andrew Arroyo, Lisa Balance, Karen Helderman, Irene Herold, Jeff Kraus, Charles Klink, John Ryan, Mangala Subramaniam, Chineme Onukwughara, and Carletta Wilson.

1. **President’s Report**

President Rao welcomed Council members to the first UC meeting of the academic year. He thanked faculty, staff and students for their hard work and noted today’s meeting will focus on reinforcing UC’s role in shared governance. A general discussion followed.

1. **Minutes**

The minutes of the May 4, 2023 were approved.

1. **Constituent Reports**

Sincere Slade-Reading provided an SGA Report. She discussed issues, to include the increase of the student activity fee, and the immediate closing of facilities at the Larrick Student Center (prior to the student feedback and limited town hall meetings). A general discussion followed.

Maria Rivera provided a Faculty Senate Report. She noted that, since the last university council meeting, the Faculty Senate statement on supporting faculty during budget restriction periods was submitted to the Board of Visitors at their May meeting. Also in May, the faculty senate resolution to support and maintain focus in hearing faculty was presented to President Rao, the Provost, and BOV. During the summer, the faculty Senate was well represented on various committees including five senators serving on the repositioning task force. Faculty Senate leadership was also involved with some of the administrative position searches. This week, Faculty Senate had the first meeting of the academic year in which CFO Karol Gray and David Allen provided an overview of the university budget. One of our goals of the Faculty Senate is for all the senators to gain a better knowledge of how the university budget works. During this year, the Senate also had the opportunity to listen and to provide feedback on the proposed restructuring and approval process of the University Undergraduate curriculum committee. Finally, Faculty Senate fully supports the implementation of the Racial Literacy requirement in the fall of 2024 semester and is ready to work with the Provost’s Office in facilitating the process. A general discussion followed.

Brogan King provided a Staff Senate Report. She noted that, similar to the faculty and student representatives, staff senate is a representative body that strives to listen, to raise awareness, and share information amongst the very broad staff community. She believes it is important to recognize that the staff community is incredibly diverse in experience, roles, and background. Staff Senate’s first meetings of this year will focus on ensuring that they are strategic in the work that they do. There are six subcommittees, to include: 1) Accessibility and Inclusion and 2) Awards and Recognition (focusing on Staff Awards of Excellence); 3) Career Development Committee (which hosts the Career Development Conference in the spring in collaboration with human resources); 4) Employee Appreciation; 5) Shared Governance; and 6) VCU Health System. These committees will focus on strategic planning, finding better ways to communicate things back to our staff community, and broadly trying to fill some of the vacant leadership roles that have occurred due to transitions in recent months. A general discussion followed.

1. **University Council Overview**

Jamie Stillman discussed University Council logistics in detail (i.e. meeting notices, roster, attendance, and committee assignments). A general discussion followed.

Scott Street discussed bylaws and committees. A general discussion followed and the amended proposal included: 1) typo of “4” and 2) will include one undergraduate student on the Academic Affairs Committee. He noted that last year UC members recommended that the Academic Affairs and University Policy Committee be split into two committees – one for academic affairs and one for university policy. A general discussion followed. A motion was made and approved to split the UCAAUP into two committees with a vote of: 92% “yes”, 5% “no”, 3% “abstained”.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.