

## Minutes for the Faculty Senate Meeting

August 19, 2022, 3:00-5:00 pm

- I. Call to order/ Roll Call- **Prof. N. Epps**
- II. Approval of Agenda- **Dr. L. Githinji- Approved**  
Dr. J Edwards requested to have the secretary added to the ratification list, and made a motion for Agenda to be approved
- III. **Brief Remarks: FS Senate Chair Dr. L. Githinji- Delivered**
- IV. **Issues to be addressed by the administration**
  - a. **Timeline and implementation details of Pay Equity**
  - b. **Update on Chairs Credentials Policy, Expectation for Continued Employment, and Faculty Evaluations**
  - c. **Strategies to remove VSU from AAUP Censure**
  - d. **Title IX and Mental Health Counseling Statements on Course Syllabus**
  - e. **Plan to roll out the electronic system for A21s**
  - f. **Administration’s response to strategic planning committee recommendations for 2022-2023**
  - g. **Updates on COVID-19 isolation guideline**
- V. **Updates by SGA and Staff Senate**
  - a. **SGA Updates- Ms. Yania Campbell**
  - b. **SS Updates- Ms. Fran Thomas**
- VI. **Ratification of the FS Secretary and New Standing Committee Chairs- Dr. J. Edwards**
  - a. CAIC- Dr. C. Barringer- Brown
  - b. FPC- Dr. T. Taghavi
  - c. AEC- Dr. P. Lynch
  - d. SPS- Dr. R. Dandridge
  - e. JCSL- Dr. B Robertson
  - f. PEC- Sr. R. Siddiqui
  - g. TC- Dr. Mihaly
  - h. NEC- Dr. J. Edwards
  - i. FS Secretary Prof. N. Epps
- VII. **Other Updates:**
  - a. **Faculty Senates of VA Updates – Dr. Aurelia Donald**
  - b. **UC updates- Dr. Caroline Hasenyager**
- VIII. **Old Business**
- IX. **New Business**
- X. **Adjournment**

## **President Abdulla-**

**Pay Equity Plan:** stated that there are changes that need to be made. The 5% increase is already happening. There is some other data required before the plan can be completed. This is something that should be done within a couple of months or at least within this year, with help of Ms. Tanya Simmons.

**Asking FS's feedback:** During opening conference, he spoke of things that may be broken in academia. When people seek more money, they look to move to admin. This is not just a VSU issue. Look at some radical ways of engaging Master teachers at VSU who teach Gen Ed courses; which tend to be large classes, paid administrative level salaries. The challenge he sees is developing an evaluation process to identify what it means to be a master (great) teacher.

**Question:** What are you doing to improve the academic infrastructure that will allow us to move to a research level institution? **Response:** That is something we are discussing at the Presidential Board of Advisor level. There is a separate committee for research infrastructure to see what can be done to improve level 3s to become level 2s and level 2s to become level 1s. Dr. Abdulla is personally interested in this process to see how we can get funded for this process because we have been underfunded; to move our facilities to another level. The level of resources that we need are different from the resources we have on campus.

**Questions:** Are we looking at master researchers too, to go along with mater teachers? **Response:** Yes. But because higher ed teaching has become devalued, the focus will be placed upon teaching our students and identifying those master teachers. Once this is developed, it could be duplicated in other areas.

## **Dr. Palm-**

**Update on Chairs Credentials Policy, Expectation for Continued Employment, and Faculty Evaluations-** He has informed FS Chair that the Procedure and Policy have been approved. He will write a letter to FS to use in regards to getting the information into the Faculty Handbook.

**Strategies to remove VSU from AAUP Censure-** He's excited to work with this committee. There has been a lot of progress made since VSU was censured. Progress was made prior to Covid and the next step is a sight visit with AAUP. Requesting to work with this committee to see what the next steps will be.

**Title IX and Mental Health Counseling Statements on Course Syllabus-** This statement was meant to be helpful and more transparent with students. **Question:** Can we place the statement in our BB course shell and not in the syllabus? **Response:** As long as it is placed where students can see the information, that is okay.

**Plan to roll out the electronic system for A21s -** No timeline in place. In addition to the A21 and the bottleneck issues, HR, IT and procurement have a plan in place to handle HR issues as a whole.

Over the summer, HR processed 150-160 employee entries with regards to new faculty and adjunct being onboarded. An update will be provided when we find out a program for the A21 process.

**Tanya Simmons-** Most of the A21s have come to this office with "single pay" selected. Depending on when the A21 is received and the payroll date, it is best to select "semi-monthly."

### **Dr. Corley**

**Updates on COVID-19 isolation guideline-** Information shared from the Greater Happens Here page. You will be able to find the current CDC guidelines pertaining to Covid-19. i.e., Isolation, Quarantine, and Exposure. Students who test positive on campus will need to miss class for the first 5 days. Notifications will be received from ACE. For students who test positive off campus, there is an email provided so student can inform the Health center of their results. Once ACE has been notified and sent out notifications, accommodations will have to be made for the student. Faculty and staff are to follow the same guidelines for isolation, quarantine, and exposure. Be sure to inform your supervisor in case class must be virtual

### **Ms. Yania Campbell**

**SGA Updates-** This past month, SGA was able to advocate for free laundry and free parking. SGA will be inaugurated on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Administration has been able to implement a Student Concern form.

### **Ms. Fran Thomas**

**SS Updates-** SS was a full working part of the opening conference this year. This was the first year SS was completely responsible for welcoming and sign-up of faculty and staff They continue to have a monthly election for staff of the month. June employee of the month was Ms. Felicia Bishop. July employee of the month will be announced at the end of August. Looking forward the first fall meeting, there will be a reinstatement of the monthly newsletter. They have begun to plan for their 2nd Annual Staff Gala where they recognize each monthly staff employee and announce employee of the year. Congratulate Mrs. Dorothy Yancey, from the Provost office, for being selected at the first employee of the year.

**Dr. J Edwards** – asking for participation of each committee.

**Vote the slate up or down-** announced the committee chairs and secretary:

- CAIC- Dr. C. Barringer-Brown
- FPC – Dr. T. Taghavi
- AEC – Dr. P. Lynch
- SPC – Dr. R. Dandridge
- JCSL – Dr. B. Robertson
- PEC – Dr. R. Siddiqui
- TC – Dr. D. Mihaly
- NEC – Dr. J. Edwards
- Secretary – Prof. N. Epps

**Dr. Aurelia Donald: Faculty Senates of VA Updates** – No updates

**Professor Jackson: UC updates-** First official meeting will be Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 am

**Old Business: Questions:** When will the FS Secretary and NEC Chair have email access? Response:

The links have been provided for this request. Be sure to complete the links for the IT team and your supervisor.

At the time of this meeting the IT link was not working.

**New Business: Professor T. Jackson-** The evaluation for opening conference is within the Greater Happens Here announcements.

**Questions:** Why is there no fee for student parking

**Meeting adjourned @ 4:15 pm.**