Recent postings to the Faculty Senate website at http://www.facultysenate.vcu.edu/meetings/
  - COACHE Faculty Job Satisfaction Survey results (Jan. 26th)
  - Draft minutes from the VCU General Faculty Meeting with Dr. Rao (Feb. 2nd)

**Summary of information from March 1st Faculty Senate Meeting**
Supporting documents and presentation files available online at the Faculty Senate website. http://www.facultysenate.vcu.edu/meetings/

**VCU Campaign (Martí Heil)**
- Faculty campaign runs from April 5th through May 15th, but any gift made by a VCU or VCU Health faculty or staff member or retiree made to support VCU this fiscal year will count in this year’s campaign.
- You can give support to the VCU or VCU Health entity of your choice, including:
  - Fund for VCU
  - Schools and units
  - VCU Athletics
  - VCU Libraries
  - VCU Massey Cancer Center
- You can give anonymously, if you’d like, but please participate and donate at whatever level makes you comfortable. Participation is the goal, and we want all faculty to participate! Faculty participation shows we believe in VCU’s mission and demonstrates to potential donors that VCU is one of the best possible investments for their philanthropic support.
- Please note that the comprehensive fundraising campaign launches September 22–24.
- Nursing and Education were praised for their history of giving.
- Faculty can give online through payroll deduction or via credit card, and checks may be submitted to one of the VCU affiliated foundations.

**Service Learning & Community Engagement (Cathy Howard & Lynn Pelco)**
- More information online at http://www.servicelearning.vcu.edu/
- Service learning and community engagement began at VCU in 1997 when Dr. Grace Harris was provost. A foundation for the program was to ensure that it was driven by faculty following the common guidelines created by the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. The designation criteria for service learning classes at VCU include:
  - students’ service must meet a community-identified need
  - each student must provide a minimum of 20 hours of service during the semester (may be direct and/or indirect service)
  - each student must participate in (graded or ungraded) faculty-designed reflection activities that connect the students’ service with the academic content of the class
• To see what is happening related to service learning at VCU, visit the dashboard online at http://www.community.vcu.edu/resources--toolkit/community-engagement-dashboard/

**Provost’s Report (Gail Hackett)**

- Promotion/tenure decisions are being finalized in the coming weeks.
- The search for the dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences continues, and announcements on the visitation schedules for the four finalists should come out after Spring Break.
- Work on improving diversity on campus continues as well (hiring, course content, campus atmosphere, etc.).
- The state government is looking towards 3% pay increases for faculty/staff in 2016, but VCU will likely need to find some of that money (i.e., it won’t be fully-funded by the state). Things are still looking good for 2% increases in 2017 (as previously announced).
- Next year, we’ll start looking harder at measures of student success. More information to come in the near future. [“looking at gateway courses” was mentioned several times]

**Real World Experience Requirement**

- If a unit already satisfies this requirement, nothing will be added.
- How many students are already doing something that would satisfy this requirement?
- Guidelines need to be created to set the framework for what we expect of a real world experience requirement. [must be “a high-impact educational experience”]
- Dr. Hackett introduced the new Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Deborah Noble-Triplett. Deborah will be co-chairing a task force related to the Real World Experience Requirement.
- President Rao wanted this new requirement to start in Fall 2016, but Provost Hackett informed him that it would be more realistic to begin with the entering freshman class of Fall 2017. He agreed with that plan since it gives more time to identify the resources needed to ensure that the programs to support this requirement are meaningful and successful.
- Schools and departments will need to decide how to incorporate the real world experience into their curricula (or perhaps VCU will handle it university-wide). The approach for including the requirement into the curriculum has yet to be decided.

- Concern was expressed by faculty that the new requirement was not arrived at through standard shared governance and faculty-driven curricular processes. Dr. Hackett mentioned that, as president, Dr. Rao is within his rights to provide his vision and direction for the university. We, as faculty, have the opportunity to shape how we implement his vision.

**Minutes of January 26th Meeting (Scott Street)**

- Minutes were presented and approved unanimously.
Minutes of the February 2\textsuperscript{nd} meeting of the Faculty with Dr. Rao will be presented prior to the next Faculty Senate meeting.

- **Shared Governance Philosophy (Mary Secret)**
  - Mary provided some background on how various committees of Faculty Senate and University Council have been working together for the last few years on creating a statement on shared governance at VCU. The intent of the philosophy statement is to:
    - standardize statement to facilitate clear communication about meaning of shared governance
    - for use in *Faculty Handbook* and unit by-laws
    - reinforce VCU commitment to shared governance
    - seek approval by University Council at April or May meeting
  - A copy of the Shared Governance Philosophy document is available on the Faculty Senate website along with the other materials for the March 1\textsuperscript{st} meeting.
  - Several faculty members spoke out in support of this document. Mary mentioned that the goal is to have the statement approved and then included in all unit governance documents.

- **Nomination Committee Report (June Nicholson)**
  - The nomination committee presented the following slate of nominees for 2016–2017 officers:
    - *President*: Holly Alford
    - *Vice President*: Scott Street
    - *Recording Secretary and Treasurer*: Brian Dougherty
    - *Corresponding Secretary*: Michael McVoy
    - *Monroe Park Campus Representative*: Jennifer Wayne
    - *MCV Campus Representative (shared duties)*: Lisa Brown & Nancy Jallo
  - Biographical statements for each nominee are available on the Faculty Senate website along with the other materials for the March 1\textsuperscript{st} meeting.
  - June Nicholson, chair of the committee, provided thanks to nomination committee members Mary Secret and Carmen Rodriguez.

- **Faculty Senate President’s Report (Holly Alford)**
  1. June Nicholson will be inducted in April to the Virginia Communications Hall of Fame.
  2. Human Resources Redesign:
      - We hope to have a presentation at the April 5\textsuperscript{th} meeting regarding this plan.
      - Provost Hackett added that as a Tier III institution, VCU can break away from the state systems. We’ve done so with technology and finance, but we haven’t yet for human resources. We now plan to do that to free up the ability to reclassify our staff and give us the freedom to create a new structure that can accommodate the needs of the university.
      - President Rao hired a special assistant for three years to work on this redesign project.
3. Inclusiveness Council has been meeting and is meeting weekly to actively drive changes related to diversity and inclusive initiatives.

4. The Board of Visitors has asked Faculty Senate to give a presentation on faculty success stories. The two chosen programs will be:
   a. the Standardized Patient Simulation Program (Dr. Aaron Anderson)
   b. the Virtual Interprofessional Geriatric Case Project (Dr. Peter Bolling).
Dr. Bolling and Dr. Anderson will give brief presentations on what they and their students do followed by a conversation during the BOV luncheon.