

FACULTY LIFE COMMITTEE YEAR END REPORT 2017-18

During the 2017-2018 academic year, the Faculty Life Committee consulted with members of the University's administration in response to concerns raised by Faculty members. We also met with Scott Pearson about the ongoing discussion concerning the establishment of a Faculty Commons and voiced support for that proposal.

During the fall of 2017, the FLC met with Eric Kopstain, Vice Chancellor for Administration to discuss concerns that had been raised about changes in parking spaces at the School of Nursing and the increase in cost for parking permits. From Vice Chancellor Kopstain, we learned that the cost of maintaining parking at the University is high and that plans for the campus necessitate reevaluation of land resources used for parking. We urged Vice Chancellor Kopstain to communicate with the campus community about changes in parking policy, price, and availability. A member of the Faculty Life Committee has been appointed to the Standing Committee on Traffic and Parking to better facilitate communication between the Faculty Senate and his office.

In the spring of 2018 we met with Laura Nairon, Associate Vice Chancellor for Business Services, and Kathleen Seabolt, Director of the Child and Family Center, to discuss concerns that had been raised by faculty members about the split in childcare facilities between VU and VUMC. While the split, which has resulted in VUMC using some facilities and VU using others, has been difficult for some families who use the Child and Family Center's services, we learned that the Center has made great efforts to communicate with families about the changes. We were satisfied that faculty and staff members were given adequate notice of the changes.

Finally, in the spring of 2018 we met with Faculty Senator Scott Pearson who, as chair of the FLC in 2017-2018, developed a proposal for a Faculty Commons—a center in which faculty could gather in the Disciples of Christ building on the edge of the Scarritt-Bennett campus. What the FC would consist of remains unclear. While the FLC had ideas about what should be included in a FC, we found it difficult to move ahead with plans without having a sense of the Administration's plans. While the FLC endorsed the notion of a Faculty Commons, it was unclear to us how we should proceed. Senator Lowe, the chair of this year's FLC, was invited to serve along with Senator Pearson on an advisory committee that is investigating the use of the Disciples of Christ building.