



## **Final Report 2019-2020**

**Committee:** Strategic Planning and Academic Freedom (SPAF)

**Chair:** Shane Hutson

**Members:** Carolyn Audet, Debra Friedman, Graham Hemingway, David Lewis, Mark Magnuson, Courtney Pitts

**EC Liaison:** Holly Algood

**Committee Description:** To be concerned with long-term strategic planning and governance issues of the university. To be concerned with policy regarding professional ethics, conscience, and academic freedom under Article II, Section 3e of the Senate Constitution.

### **Charge 1 - Generate guidelines to improve communication between senate and faculty.**

- Slide deck and guidelines for use were outlined in the 2017-2018 year-end report.
- Are we ready to disseminate and move forward with that plan?

#### **Slide Deck**

The current slide deck consists of 14 slides. The deck will be shortened, reformatted, and edited as discussed during the meeting.

Updates to the slide deck will include:

- What is the Faculty Senate? What does it do? Who are my Senators? What can Senators do? What is the role of shared governance? Do I want to serve on the Senate?
- The EC will record a short video. SPAF will keep the recording up-to-date.
- Visual anchors and fewer words will be used for many of the bullet points.
- At some point, what the Senate cannot do will be communicated positively.
- Voting eligibility is defined by each school or college.
- The representation and voting eligibility slide will be deleted.
- The Faculty Senate composition will be updated.
- The general assembly refers to other faculty who attend the meetings.
- Another place will be found for the sentence, "Faculty of each school elect its representatives to serve a three-year term."
- Faculty Senate meetings are open to all faculty members.
- The schedule location link will be removed from the deck.
- Names of the EC will be updated.
- DEI Committee will be updated.
- The Office location of the Senate will be updated.



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- Grievances Committee will be clarified to – “Individual faculty concerns”...
- The Office location of the Senate will be updated.
- The website homepage will be updated with the Newsroom highlighted.
- The *Engage* graphic will be updated.
- Past accomplishments will be updated to highlight fewer with more details for each. (DEI resolution, Faculty Manual updates, effects of VU/VUMC split).
- Focus on how shared governance works for getting things done.
- A high-level priorities list will require communication with the EC each year.

**Charge 2** - Explore the current state, future plans, and faculty experience regarding the burgeoning number of online education initiatives happening across campus.

- Work with Provost office to determine if development of a VU Principles and Best Practices document could be a vehicle for many recommendations outlined in the ‘17-‘18 year- end report.
- Organize a town hall led by the Associate Provost for Digital Learning targeting faculty leading online courses. Key points to include faculty workload, faculty compensation, student workload, appropriate course/degree launch planning.

Online education was thought to be a key topic that needs future discussion. SPAF will look back at what emerged this semester to see what could be used as a foundation. The Provost’s office has established an Online Education Commission. SPAF will connect and work with them.

**Charge 3 - Plan a forum to examine National Security Policies/Attitudes’ impact on Higher Education at Elite Research Institutions.**

- Consider who on and off campus might do research in this area.
- Consider linking to a Chancellor’s Lecture Series speaker.

The Trachtenberg article was disseminated to the SPAF committee. James Stavridis, a high-ranking Naval officer and Robert Gates, who is now serving in an academic leadership role, were suggested as speakers for the Chancellor Lecture Series.

**NEW Charge 4 - An ICE Agent visited campus to meet with a student.** There is a need for coordination with the deans' offices and the Office of General Counsel in case this happens again. EC Liaison Holly Algood will follow up to see what progress has been made to put a policy in place.