Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, November 13, 2018
The Commons, Multi-Purpose Room

Present:
Barclay, Samantha
Clemmons, Lee
Davis, Jessamyn
Hughey, Jasen
Pring, Michael
Gibson, Madison
Blackledge, Phillip
Hall, Andy
Linn, David
Loudon, Jeff
Richter, Andy
Rutledge, Scott
Wocher, Melissa
Caldwell, Caroline
Cruise-Streat, Kirra
Linski, Jamie
Little, Geoff
Porter, Beth
Baquera, Felisha
Carlson, Robin
Benitone, Hastings
Cahill, Bess
Ingram, Donna
Lawrence Givens, Tiffany
Luffman, Josh
Renee Dawson, Toni

Smothers, Natalia
Stiles, David
Walker, Susan
Barrow, Terri
Biqiku, Laurel
Heaton, Ashley
Wachter, Michelle
Weisbrodt, Cathy
Sprague, Megan
Upchurch, Jodie
Meadows, Shelley
Fann, Drew
Hamilton, Brittni
Higgins, Ed
Roche, Morgan
Sanders, Sara
Fields, Craig
Mandeville, Jenny
Brown, Harold
Malveaux, Nicole
Morris, Diana
Nelson, Roberta
Malone, Amelia
Cooley, Emma
Dixon, Michele
Johnson, Denise
Majewski, Ashley
Grant, Deborah
Manlove, Sharon

Not Present:
Itkin, Alan
Maci, Christine
Wilson, Alexandria
Brooks, Kay
Korab, Emily
King, Amanda

Bonner, Stacey
Choate, Corey
Daughtdrill, Latrice
Erickson, Catherine
Taylor, Susan
Carney, Kathy
Marshall, Paul
Waits, Robert
Fox, Anita
Harbin, Rachel
Oliver, Leshuan
Perry, Alexis
Brassil, John
Wolff, Jeanette
Brown, Kenneth
Miller, Amber
Moore, LaTisha
Pickert, Donald
Poinidexter, Jeana
Jones, Christopher
Williams, Tara  Guests:  
Sims, Beth  Kopstain, Eric  
Kane, Kimberly  Erickson, Catherine  
Clark, Joanna  Glasgow, Scotty  
Sefcik, Stephanie  Carroll, Barb  
Smith, Amy  Wood, Catherine  
Flippo, Laura  Hicks, Chris  
Graham, Kashif  Dimopoulos, Kathleen  
Kamtarin, Shahpar  Ervin, Heidi  
Harvey, Gregory  Hopkins, Peggy  
Luce, Nathaniel  Jerles, Lori  
Scott, Carjamin  Lee, Brooke  
Eckert, Danielle  Linn, David  
Jones, Eric  Pachmayr, Rachel  
Ruiz, Carlos  Terrel, Tiffany  
Halman, Malina  Moore, Teea  
Robinson-Nichols, Ursula  Renuka, Christoph  
Westrom, Lynn  Bauer, Emilee  
       Garcia, Jennifer

Sent Regrets:  
Stanard, Ray  
Karls, Aletha  
Shook, Elisabeth  
McChesney, Bailey  
Steinas, Jason  
Morgan, Rachel  
Rall, Kathleen

OLD & NEW BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENTS
Jenny Mandeville, President, called meeting to order at 8:30 am
- Approval of September & October minutes
- Our next meeting on December 11 will be our annual Holiday meeting and will be potluck in theme. More information to come.
- Elf Program Collection:
  - Merchant gift cards for families in need
  - Partnership with faculty staff hardship fund & Work Life Connections - EAP
- Stay connected to USAC via Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
- Make sure to sign up to contribute to the employee hardship fund via Kroger Plus Card

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Events Committee, co-chairs Shelley Meadows & Amanda King
- Nashville Humane Holiday Drive
  - Collection Dates: Nov 19-30
  - Contacts: Felisha Baquera, Amanda King and Shelley Meadows
Membership Committee, co-chairs Tara Williams & Caroline Caldwell

- Welcome new member, Jessamyn Davis!
- Spring elections will effect odd groups only – if you know an interested colleague, inform them of the upcoming election for odd groups
- Thank you to our greeters!
- Happy birthday to November birthdays!
- Meet a USAC Member: Geoff Little, Assistant Director of Prospect Research in Research and Prospect Development

Communications Committee, co-chairs Carlos Ruiz & Carjamin Scott

- No new business to report

Rules and Administration, co-chairs Ashely Heaton & Emily Korab

- No new business to report

Staff Life, co-chairs Elisabeth Shook & Kay Brooks

- Our group is gathering and assessing health benefits from other institutions regarding retirement benefits
- Next meeting will be Tues Nov 27 at 10:00 am, 311F Kirkland Hall

Barb Carroll, HR Benefits

- 98% of the Vanderbilt community participated in open enrollment which is a terrific rate!
- Thank you to USAC for getting our message out.
- 2/3 elected the PPO while 1/3 elected the CDHP
- Retirement benefits have been discussed with University leadership and are still under consideration.
- Honored with an award of $6,000 and is graciously giving it to the Employee Hardship Fund.

Alan Itkin, Dean MLAS Program; Assistant Dean, Master of Liberal Arts and Science

- Program structure: 10 courses over two to three and a half years, including one core course (intensive instruction in writing and research) and one capstone seminar
- Students take one or two classes a term
- Classes taught by full-time VU faculty
- Classes offered in the evening one day a week
- Classes in fall, spring, and summer
- Classes are taught by fully established faculty professors
- Program Benefits;
  o Attain an advanced degree from a top-15 University
- Flexible part-time schedule
- Study with highly accomplished VU scholars and teachers
- Craft curriculum to suit your interests
- Be part of a community of curious minded, intellectually engaged adults
- Produce a capstone project that combines your interests with your MLAS studies
- Low costs for VVU employees
- Can be used to progress career
- Tuition is set at $2,952 per three-hour class
- VU employees get a 70% discount on one class per term which would equate to $885 per class, if only 1 class is taken each term
- Review of Fall 2018 classes
- Changes to course offerings
  - More diverse course offerings, including classes in sciences (no math required!)
  - More courses offered from 11 each year to 14-15
  - Partnerships with outside institutions and community members
- Application process – apply online at www.apply.vanderbilt.edu
- Application requires:
  - All undergraduate transcripts
  - Three letters of recommendation
  - Resume
  - Statement of Purpose
  - In-person interview with Dr. Itkin will be scheduled after application materials have been submitted
  - No hard, firm application deadline but by end of holiday break is recommended
- Spring Open House: Wednesday January 9, 6-7 pm, Cohen Memorial Hall
  - 6:00 – 6:30
- Director: Dr. Alan Itkin, 311E Kirkland Hall, phone: 615-875-9189, email: mlas@vanderbilt.edu

Vanessa Beasley, Associate Provost and Dean of Residential Faculty

- Residential Colleges: A Vision for the Future
- Residential College Timeline
  - Commons open Aug 2008
  - Warren & Moore Colleges open Aug 2014
  - RC-A begin Dec 2017
  - E. Bronson Ingram College open Aug 2018
  - Plan for RC-B begins
  - RC-A completed | Plan for RC-C begins
- Plan for RC-B completed
- Plan for RC-C completed

- Takes a little more than 2 years to create each building
- Three broad goals:
  - Community Building
  - Faculty Engagement
  - Connections to Campus Resources

- Each residential colleges system is strategically random and begins an ability to learn from other people who may be different
- Residential colleges allows you to engage in faculty members in a different way and get to know them as people
- Vanderbilt is resource rich and letting our students know who to talk to and where to go is important
- We purposefully slow down our residential colleges as a means to slow down. Think about our residential colleges as a “third space” – a place to get away from the classroom or individual dorm room.
- Faculty heads of house serve as faculty mentor, role model, and guide who shapes the living and learning community of the house.
- Push the importance of getting them to know all different levels of staff
- Welcome Sarah Igo, Associate Professor of History and Director of American Studies
- Rev. James M. Lawson, Jr., distinguished visiting professor – personally experienced the civil rights movement
- Beverly Daniel Tatum, President Emerita, Spelman College – Crawford Lecture – Talked about inclusion among women and people
- The Wond’ry – pop-up events, on-site office hours, workshop, invited speakers
- Residential College Experience: learning outcomes of the first year students: Intellect, Personal well-being, community, cultural awareness, self-discovery – each of these areas will change and develop in each students as they progress in their education

- What’s ahead:
  - Provost working group on second year experience
  - Applying principles beyond the RC’s
  - Visiting fellows and Chancellor U
  - Graduate and professional student engagement
  - New signature events
- It takes a lot of people from all over campus to make this happen.

Questions;
- Have you heard if the students have had a better experience with faculty, etc. since the Commons opened?
• Post-Commons, students report as having a higher level confidence regarding interactions to faculty outside of the classroom? Also, faculty has advised that they have changed their teaching methods because they are more aware of students’ activities.

• Where do the students in Towers go when it gets demolished?
  o We will be granting more students the ability to have VU Real Estate partnership housing, off-campus housing, and there is a plan to make sure there is no economic hardship among our students.

• What are your thoughts on the additional scooters on campus?
  o VUJ has interest to reduce cars and our carbon footprint. However, as a result, there is an increase in motorized scooters from other companies and other means of transportation. Discussions with accessibility and the desire to make everyone safe is very important.

• Is there anything weird, unusual, unexpected that has happened to you?
  o About 2-3 times a year, somebody will knock on my door who is very distraught. We all have our responsibility to report any incident that could put somebody in danger.

CLOSING REMARKS
Jenny Mandeville, President

- Next meeting will be Tuesday, December 11th at the Commons Center, multi-purpose room and will be a potluck. Please look for more information within the next few weeks.

Meeting was adjoined at 9:58 am