

Faculty Senate of Virginia Report
2012 – 2013
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The first Faculty Senate of Virginia meeting for this academic year was held on October 27, 2012 on the campus of Virginia State University. Aside from a short period focused on recent events at the universities represented, the entire meeting was devoted to a discussion of which bills the FSV should propose for the 2013 legislative session. The bills considered were:

- *A bill that would fund and provide a Partial Tuition Waiver for dependent children of faculty.* This bill was passed through committees and the entire Senate last General Assembly session, but was moved to be carried forward from the House Appropriations Committee when the Senate failed to pass its budget bill.
- *A bill that would provide a one-time, irrevocable option for faculty to change from an ORP to the VRS option retirement plan.* This will be the third time we have pursued this legislation. In the 2012 session, the bill was moved to be carried forward from the Compensation and Retirement Committee due to the large number of retirement related bills on the legislative docket that had yet to be decided, and which would likely affect its passage.
- *A bill that would change the role and way faculty members are appointed by Boards of Visitors and community college boards.* This is a modification of existing Virginia Code, which was passed in its current form in 2004. Given recent governance issues that have occurred at several institutions, we believe this issue needs to be revisited.
- *A bill that would place a faculty member on the board of the State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV).* This bill was filed several years ago, then dropped when an acceptable alternative to give faculty input into policy discussions on this important higher education agency. Again, recent higher education issues and a lack of direct communication between SCHEV and faculty suggest this issue needs to be revisited.
- *A bill that would provide for two faculty appointments (one four year public, one community college) to the Virginia Commission on Higher Education Board Appointments.* This bill is a new initiative based on the same perceived need for having faculty input to a very important decision that affects all universities and colleges—the appointment of members to university Boards of Visitors and the Boards of community colleges.¹

The next meeting occurred as Virginia Higher Education Advocacy Day, Thursday January 10, at MCV. Along with representatives of the AAUP and some students, the FSV met with legislators to explain the bills we were supporting and why we would like the legislature to support these bills as well. While none of these bills made it through the legislature this year, some of them made it further than they had before. I am told that this is a long term process and if we hope to get some of these bills into law, we have to keep legislators informed of faculty issues every year.

The last meeting of the FSV will be at Longwood University on Saturday, April 27th. The tentative agenda includes discussion of the Affordable Care Act, faculty governance, higher education costs, and the legislative agenda for next year.

¹ The bullet list comes directly from the minutes of the October meeting of the FSV.