Chair’s Corner

As the semester winds down and holiday celebrations begin, the next few weeks are especially busy ones. I ask that we take a moment to pause and reflect on our remarkable metamorphosis. As we head into 2016, our academic community has welcomed many new deans and an executive vice president and provost. We are a stronger UVA with a closer alignment among administration, faculty and our Board of Visitors. The future includes revitalizing research initiatives through investments in pan-university institutes, hiring new faculty and a new vice president for research. We are refining a prudent financial model and investing in infrastructure and technology to augment our scholastic productivity. Finally, we are revamping cumbersome policies and processes to increase efficiency so that we spend more time on our primary mission and less on bureaucracy.

I thank all of you who have contributed to The Cornerstone Plan or to the Faculty Senate and other University-wide committees. Your service and engagement are making this community one of academic growth and renewal. Change is not easy and our work is not done, but raise a glass in celebration of you!

I hope you find time to rest and enjoy family, friends and each other.

— Nina Solenski
Chair of the Faculty Senate

Congratulations to the UVA Marching Band for its outstanding performance in New York City at the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade!

Upcoming Faculty Senate Meetings:

Monday, December 14, 2015
3:30—5:30 p.m.
Newcomb Hall
Commonwealth Room

Tuesday, February 9, 2016
3:30—5:30 p.m.
Location TBD

Wednesday, March 16, 2016
3:30—5:30 p.m.
Location TBD

Thursday, April 21, 2016
3:30—5:30 p.m.
Location TBD

Wednesday, May 11, 2016
3:30—5:30 p.m.
Location TBD

About:
The Faculty Senate is a representative body that has the responsibility to “advise the President and the Rector and Board of Visitors concerning educational and related matters affecting the welfare of the University.”

The updates contained within this publication serve as highlights of the many activities undertaken by the Faculty Senate, but due to space limitations cannot be comprehensive. Within each committee are numerous activities not fully delineated in this newsletter.

Please email David Moltz at adm7j@virginia.edu if you would like to include a piece of news in the next newsletter.
Madison House Seeking Faculty for Community-Based Learning Projects

Interested in connecting your students to the larger Charlottesville/Albemarle community? Looking for different ways to have students meet course objectives or practically apply what they are learning? Consider working with Madison House to integrate a community-based learning experience into your course or courses. Contact Rachel Winters, Director of Community Engagement, at r winters@madisonhouse.org to share examples or initiate a community partnership.

Get to Know The Cornerstone Plan

The university’s current strategic plan, The Cornerstone Plan, was developed over the course of 16 months in 2012 and 2013. In November 2013, the Board of Visitors approved the strategic direction outlined in The Cornerstone Plan. This direction is presented in five “pillars,” and each pillar contains multiple “strategies” for implementation. Progress on implementation of each of the pillars and strategies is recorded on the Cornerstone Dashboard.

Provide Feedback on New Financial Model

The Faculty Senate Finance Committee is seeking questions, comments and concerns about the University’s new financial model, responsibility center management (RCM). Faculty should submit these to Committee chair Rob Patterson at rep2z@virginia.edu.

Donate to the Career Clothes Closet

Faculty members are invited to donate lightly used professional clothing to the new Career Clothes Closet, a joint effort of the Student Council and UVA Career Center. All donated items are available to students who either cannot afford a professional outfit for an interview or do not have time to change at home before an interview. To donate clothing, drop items off at the UVA Career Center front desk in Bryant Hall noting the items are for the Career Clothes Closet. Financial contributions to the Career Clothes Closet are also welcome via this online payment portal. For more information, contact Moses Abraham, member of Student Council’s Student Life Committee, at maa7be@virginia.edu.

Learn More about The Arts at UVA

Faculty members are invited to take advantage of the numerous arts and entertainment possibilities on Grounds—from dance and theatre to film and music and much more. The Arts at the University of Virginia website outlines the many events and exhibitions available, many with free or discounted admission for faculty. At the bottom of the homepage, readers may sign up for an email newsletter to stay up-to-date on the latest news, events & opportunities from UVA Arts.
Make Recommendations to Improve Faculty Reviews

The Faculty Recruitment, Retention, Retirement, and Welfare Committee of the Faculty Senate is investigating how to improve annual faculty review process. Faculty members who wish to help the committee in this work and/or have recommendations, comments, or complaints about the current review process should contact either Andrea Press at alp5n@virginia.edu or Sahar Akhtar at sza5m@virginia.edu.

Lynda.com Available Free to Faculty

The UVA Library has acquired an institution subscription to Lynda.com, a resource for high-quality online tutorials covering software, creative, and business skills. View a list of all of their offerings. To access, click “Log In” at the top of the Lynda.com homepage, select “Organizational Login,” and choose to log in through “www.virginia.edu” using your NetBadge ID. First-time users will be prompted to create a Lynda.com account.

Attend the Legislative Forum

Faculty members are invited to attending the University’s annual Legislative Forum on Friday, December 18 from noon until 1:00 p.m. in Garrett Hall’s Great Hall. The forum will feature legislators from the Central Virginia region who will share their viewpoints about the issues facing the 2016 General Assembly Session, including those that affect the future of higher education, the health system, and other state and local community issues.

Go Ahead, UNLEASH!

UNLEASH is a endeavor to match UVA undergraduate students with research opportunities sponsored by UVA faculty. Hence the title: Undergraduate Novel Learning Experience And Scientific Hands-on or UNLEASH. For a tutorial of how to use UNLEASH, please watch this YouTube video.

The UNLEASH service was initially focused on biomedical research opportunities. The Provost’s Office has requested that the service be expanded to all University departments and programs. Current listings are rich in opportunities from GSAS science departments and the School of Medicine.

Santiago Naranjo, support chair of the UVA chapter of United for Undergraduate Socioeconomic Diversity, speaks about the group’s efforts at the Nov. 11 Faculty Senate meeting at the Harrison Institute and Small Special Collections Library.