Message from the Chair:

Drafting of Drifting on the Winds of Change?

Watching a red-tailed hawk glide through the air with ease and grace is one of the many joys of living near the Blue Ridge Mountains. The hawk instinctively soars on the thermals, smoothly traversing vast spaces of mountainous or meadowed terrain. It silently glides, focusing on finding that tiny field mouse far below. It does this by using the smallest amount of energy; its drafting is efficient and occurs with purpose. In contrast, but equally intriguing to watch are jellyfish, masses of blobs floating on the ocean currents for miles. They aimlessly drift at the whim of the cold swirling currents. Only by chance does a meal enter into their stinging tentacles. Their drifting is haphazard and sometimes perilous, as when they’re found washed up on the sand, only to be poked by a curious passerby.

UVA has undergone tremendous change over the last 5 years — from the naming of new deans to a new provost to the retiring of experienced administrators, faculty, and staff. In the majority of our schools, we have implemented a new evolving financial model and focused on organizational excellence by streamlining human resources, travel, and research procedures and policies. We are on a trajectory to hire a number of new faculty members in a deliberate effort to replace retiring faculty members and to replace or augment our research focused faculty members. And amidst these internal institutional strategic reforms, external sobering events have led to cultural changes. These events have brought us together as a community and made us look inward for answers as to what are our basic values and who are we today in the context of our history and of our future as a public institution.

As faculty, how are we adapting to change? Are we drafting with purpose or drifting with wariness within shifting currents of change? Have we decided on an efficient course to our destination, or are we drifting not quite sure where we will end up and not trusting the changes that are creating the future. My hope is that, as faculty, we can embrace and navigate this change, trusting that it is gainful growth, and that we ourselves can create the future through engagement with the administration and the Board of Visitors.

Our growing pains and angst may, at times, be exhibited by increasing discussions and healthy tensions in attempts to answer fundamental questions such as: What constitutes faculty governance? What does a truly representative Faculty Senate look like? And how do we support one another by increasing value for all faculty? This is a dynamic and essential evolution that I hope continues well into the future and is indicative of growth.

My further hope is that we continue to fashion the change and engage in defining not only our individual destiny, but also our broader more complex destiny as one of the foremost public institutions in the next century. As an integral part of the change, we can find those “thermals” to glide on, whether it be serving on a Faculty Senate Committee, running for the Senate, actively partaking in culture discussions, or working together to form solutions for injustices or other important concerns. A community of tripartite trust — faculty, administration, and Board of Visitors — provides the foundation for fostering a collaborative environment and promoting successful scholarship, open discourse to ensure academic freedom, and better intellectual exchange to maximize our collective achievements whether in teaching, research, or clinical endeavors. Through our efforts as faculty members, individually and collectively, we can make the most of change at the University and ensure that our institution soars to new heights.

Nina Solenski
Chair of the Faculty Senate
New Commuting Option Available for Forest Lakes/Hollymead

JAUNT is now operating the “29Express” service. The service is free for the first two months! There are 2 morning departures from the Forest Lakes/Hollymead area between 7AM and 8:45AM and 2 afternoon departures from the Hospital and Central/West Grounds between 4:40PM and 6:15PM. Because the service is operating as an express and the times and stops are limited, the service may not be a fit for everyone, but for those who can use it, the service will provide an option to driving and parking every day. Guaranteed ride homes provided by Rideshare and occasional parking permits available from UVA Parking & Transportation might make the 29Express service a viable option to driving alone.

Additional information can be found at the 29Express web site:

Reducing Administrative Burden: New version of ResearchUVA now available

Through a collaborative effort between the Office of Sponsored Programs and the Office of Organizational Excellence, a newly enhanced version of ResearchUVA is now available to researchers and research administrators across Grounds. The primary enhancement in this version is the electronic tracking of in-process proposal and award-related transactions within OSP and schools – offering real-time access with status and contact visibility.

Faculty and research administrators alike are excited that ResearchUVA and its successive enhancements will contribute significantly to reducing their administrative burden at the University.

Visit ResearchUVA for more information.

Senators Attend First-Generation College Student Event

Faculty Senators Jeffrey Corwin, Wendy Novicoff, Nina Solenski, and Michiko Wilson were those who attended a gathering of first-generation college students and faculty members with a similar background. To learn more about first-generation college graduates on the faculty at UVA, please visit this Provost’s Office webpage and read this story about the event in UVA Today.

Faculty Mentors Sought for Undergraduate Researchers

The Center for Undergraduate Excellence (CUE) is currently seeking faculty mentors for the Undergraduate Student Opportunities in Academic Research, or USOAR program. USOAR seeks to match undergraduate students with a paid research position funded by the Federal Work Study program and the CUE. Interested faculty members can read more here and should complete a position description form by Monday, May 23rd. Please contact Brian Cullaty at brc7q@virginia.edu for questions related to the program.
New Senators for 2016-2017

Congratulations to these newly elected Faculty Senators, who will begin four-year terms on July 1, 2016. (Note: Those marked with asterisks have been re-elected by their schools.)

Darden School of Business:
- Martin Davidson*

School of Architecture:
- Karen Van Lengen

Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy:
- Paul Martin

College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences:
- Katia Dianina*
- John Dillery*
- Maxim P. Engers
- Bob Geraci*
- Christian Gromoll*
- Katya Makarova
- Michael Menaker
- Charlotte Patterson*
- James Savage*

School of Engineering and Applied Science:
- Lisa Messeri

School of Medicine:
- Brian Belyea
- Donna Chen* (three-year term)
- Joel W. Hockensmith
- Susan Kirk*

Curry School of Education:
- Brian Pusser

Senate Honors Former Chair Edmund Kitch

At its March meeting, the Faculty Senate honored former chair Edmund Kitch for his service with the presentation of a clock. Kitch served as chair from 2008-09. More recently, Kitch has served as chair of the Faculty Senate By-Laws Task Force, which has been working to suggest revisions to the Senate’s Constitution and By-Laws.

Get to Know the University Academy of Teaching

“As president of the University Academy of Teaching, I was pleased to attend and present at the March meeting of the Faculty Senate, and later meet with the Research, Teaching, and Scholarship Committee. The Academy, in addition to recognizing teachers with distinguished records of achievement and contribution, also seeks to raise the profile of teaching at the University. That means engaging proactively in initiatives that advance teaching and the role it plays in enriching academic life. We look forward to working in concert with the Senate on such initiatives.” – Kirk Martini

Senator Appears in New Documentary

Starving the Beast, a documentary about declining state support for higher education, premiered last month at the SXSW Festival in Austin, Texas. The film includes a segment discussing the resignation and reinstatement of UVA President Teresa Sullivan, and features former Faculty Senate Chair George Cohen as well as Media Studies professor Siva Vaidhyanathan.

The documentary examines incidents at a number of other prominent state institutions of higher education, including the University of Texas, the University of North Carolina, the University of Wisconsin, Louisiana State University, and Iowa State University. The producer of the film, Bill Bowsky, is the developer of the Violet Crowne Theater on the Downtown Mall.

Visit the film’s website for the trailer and information about upcoming screenings.