AGENDA
June 11, 2024
International Center Commons
https://urichmond.zoom.us/j/81918253581?pwd=OWM2dHk0M3MweDkyNnJaUXVIYUhBdz09
Meeting ID: 819 1825 3581
Passcode: 425819

Attendees: President Kevin Hallock, Dara Gocheski, Derek Miller, Bill Galaspie, Cassie Price, Jess Oliver, Rachel Weinberg-Rue, Cort Schneider, Erin Lowery, Miriam Blackmon, Mina Zatelli, Justin Woodson, Ashley Blount, Amanda Boyd, Julia Trachtenberg, Holly Blevins, Clare Pugsley, Frances Dickerson-King, Amy Atticks, Mary Wheaton, Ashley Kuemmerle, Wendy Sheppard, Susan McNulty, Mike LaRue, Veronica Clinton, Emily Phaup, Susan Wolski, Carole Yeatts, Shannon Jones, Mary Finley-Brook, Terry Dolson, Shannon Millisor, Sara Tandy, Alaina Schneider, Marion Dietrich, Crista Lembeck, Iria Jones, Jennifer Lo Prete, John Shines, Aaliyah McLean, Kelley Ranager, Warner West, Dywana Saunders, Liz Jones, Rich Jacobs, and others whose photos, but not names, were on the Zoom screen.

1. Call to order at 1 p.m. by USAC Chair Derek Miller
2. Guest speaker: President Kevin F. Hallock presented some highlights from the 2023-24 academic year: 1800 people work here and contribute to the success of the University, so thank you. Our Strategic Plan is a road map designed to elevate the University. Although it doesn’t include everything we want to do, it gives us some shared priorities. The Strategic Plan was created using input from staff, faculty, students, parents, and others. The Strategic Plan’s five pillars are Academic Excellence, Access and Affordability, Belonging and Community, Experiential Learning, and Well-Being. We are currently accepting feedback on a campus plan to consider how we want to use our physical space. We continue working on the Burial Ground. Workday is on track to go live January 1. We raised $16 M for financial aid alone. We just launched a philanthropic campaign (our last was in 2015, which is too long ago). Academic excellence and financial aid will be two big components of the philanthropic campaign. To contribute to academic excellence, we should grow the faculty, but not the student body. We want to keep class sizes small and promote faculty mentoring of students. We may want to add faculty in certain areas: analytics, machine learning (AI), health studies. Also need to ensure that staff are here to support faculty and students. Carole and Marcus Weinstein made a transformative gift to support the Weinstein Learning Center, which will be located in the library. It will support academic achievement for students, including effective speaking, writing, and peer tutoring. Marco Ortiz will join UR this summer as the inaugural executive director of the Weinstein Learning Center. Also joining UR this summer is Damon Yarnell as the first associate provost and executive director for Career Development. I want us to be well known for our career services. I also want us to be known as a relentlessly welcoming, inclusive community. To help us achieve this goal,
The University Staff Advisory Council represents the needs of staff to senior administration and works proactively to make the University of Richmond an employer of choice.
3. Derek Miller presented the USAC end-of-year report. USAC, an all-volunteer organization, is in its 24th year. It is important for staff to raise issues to bring to upper administration; even though change is slow, it does happen. Click on the link on the USAC meetings web page to read the full USAC end-of-year report.

4. Update on parental leave: The change to the parental leave policy mentioned earlier in this document came about because USAC spent several years advocating for it.

5. Budget report (USAC secretary/treasurer Cassie Price): As of this morning, USAC has $974.05 remaining in its budget. We owe $602 for today’s luncheon. To thank the 19 USAC representatives who served this year, we recently put $20.60 in dining dollars on their Spider Cards for a total of $391.40.

6. Committee reports:
   a. Elections (Derek Miller): We are currently soliciting nominations for four USAC seats that remain unfilled after our first round of elections. Nominations for one seat each in Athletics, Communications, Information Services, and Facilities will be accepted through 5 p.m., June 17. Please nominate someone in these divisions!
   b. Dining (Mike LaRue): Passport, Tyler’s Gill, and D-Hall are open this summer. Rich Jacobs, Director of Retail Operations, Dining Services: Flavor will open in the fall, replacing Organic Crush. It will feature nutritious, organic food and will have a lower price point than Organic Crush. Staff feedback contributed to our decision to open Flavor.
   c. Faculty Senate liaison Carole Yeatts: Derek made a great presentation to the Faculty Senate. Please speak up if you want to serve as USAC’s Faculty Senate liaison this coming year! (Carole will no longer serve as the USAC Faculty Senate liaison, as she will be serving as USAC chair.)
   d. Planning and Priorities Committee (Ashley Kuemmerle): Serving on P&PC has been a phenomenal opportunity and I have learned a lot.

7. Web submissions: Vice chair Bill Galaspie read the web submissions and the responses. Click on the link on the USAC meetings web page to read both.

8. Announcement of new USAC representatives (Derek Miller): USAC welcomes our incoming USAC representatives, who will serve a three-year term beginning July 1, 2024. They are Miriam Blackmon, Holly Blevins, Ashley Blount, Amanda Boyd, Erin Lowery, Cort Schneider, Julia Trachtenberg, Justin Woodson, and Mina Zatelli.

9. Executive team thank-you: On behalf of the USAC executive team, Derek Miller thanked everyone who served on USAC during the 2023-24 academic year.

10. Closed session

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