

Questions from 2/21/13 Meeting:

3. From the recent Faculty Excellence Initiative it is apparent that VSU faculty are ready to transition from a teaching college to a real regional university where faculty have adequate time to pursue professional development. For example, many departments at Georgia Southern are on a 9 hour load. The last president Schloss promised that departments would be able to use the super section model to free up more time for their faculty professional development. Is it possible that VSU grant autonomy at the department level for faculty to work together to pursue professional development by allowing departments to set their own teaching loads so long as it meets the needs of our students?
4. Several years ago there was a strategic initiative to establish a research foundation at VSU. Is this still a strategic initiative?
5. Most of the universities provide travel funds for students to attend professional meetings from student fees managed by their associations. VSU has both an SGA and GSA, but yet there are no funding pools available for them to apply for travel awards. Is VSU committed to provide support for our students to engage in meaningful experiences with their faculty mentors through travel funds?
6. Several colleagues offer bonus grades for completed SOIs. Dr. Gravitt said this was unethical yet it is still done. Can we have a clearly stated policy university wide and can the university offer drawings for prizes if they are submitted? This needs to be clarified.
7. Many faculty, staff and students on campus would benefit from having on-campus child care facilities. Can we explore (re-)opening such a center?
9. Why can't students get birth control pills at the Student Health Center?
10. I attended the grand opening of Ashley Hall. The President gave a nice speech about the rebuilding project, and traveled back in time to President Ronald M. Zaccari, then on to President Levy. He never mentioned President Schloss, the man who found the money, and supervised most of the rebuilding project. Why was there no mention of President Schloss?
11. Sexism is a problem on this campus. Women are excluded from higher administration positions, often times are talked over, ignored, and treated with less respect and regard than their male colleagues. Sexual harassment and bullying of female faculty, staff, and students is also an issue. Female faculty, staff, and students have been ridiculed, yelled at, been made the brunt of jokes, and have had to deal with unwanted overt sexual comments and advances. I am a junior faculty in a department where this type of behavior is ongoing (by my male colleagues and male department head). Several women in my department have elected to leave (without jobs) because of the way they have been treated by the department head (sexism rather than sexual inappropriate behaviors). This information has been reported to Maggie and the Dean but "nothing" has been done. When is the administration going to take these issues seriously and provide effective mandatory training and

punitive consequences to ensure women do not have to work in such a sexist and hostile work environment?

12. Why are final grades due at 9am on Monday? Why can't final grades be submitted by noon on Monday? It would help faculty who administer essay exams and Friday night exams.
14. Which VSU administrators have received raises, and how much, in the 5-year period during which faculty have received none?
15. There is talk (and in some cases practice) of capping summer teaching at one course per faculty. If this is true, how would this square with the ongoing decades of promise that faculty on the TRS retirement plan would be allowed to teach two or more courses in the summers leading up to their retirement to help create a decent base of pay?
16. There is talk that the minimum number of students for a summer course will become a function of faculty pay (the higher your salary, the greater number of students you will need); and that salary itself may be a function of the number of students enrolled. Would not either of these changes:
  - a. create a rift among the faculty in a given department (is this the intent)?
  - b. Ignore the fact that senior faculty were once junior faculty, and spent many years earning relatively little for the revenue generated for the university?
17. Who specifically is proposing these changes and when will we hear details of these plans?
18. Has anyone considered that faculty on 10 month contracts have to make year-long financial plans, and to inform us of significant changes in summer teaching this late is irresponsible?
21. Whatever happened to former President Zaccari's Presidential Lecture Series? President Zaccari set up an endowment and launched a lecture series whereby 3 lecturers would come to campus every year to enlighten both the on and off campus community—those people in our area who love knowledge and who love to learn. This program was highly beneficial and promoted collective morale as professors demonstrated and shared these events with their students...each lecture was a high point in the academic calendar. We had superb speakers and there was a collective buzz for days and days afterward. Please, can you bring these educational events back to this intellectual wasteland?
22. What, if any, budget cuts are anticipated?
25. Can the "right turn only" sign/rule and also the barricade bars/sticks be removed from the intersection of Georgia Avenue and N. Oak St. intersection? Motorists do not obey it and continue to go straight or veer right from Georgia Avenue to Georgia Avenue traveling west over N. Oak Street. There seems to be no use for the "right turn only" sign nor the barricade bars/sticks
27. Since the Graduate Dean and Dean of Research position is vacant could this be split into two positions? The Dean of the Graduate School? And, the Dean of Research? These are two very important positions for VSU as we move forward.

28. What you doing about promoting “legitimate diversity” on faculty, staff, and administration levels? For instance, more than half of the student population at VSU consists of women, yet there are no female role models for them in high administrative positions. Over 30% of the student body consists of African Americans yet there are few faculty of color (and no African Americans in mid-to high administrative positions).

Questions submitted for 3/28/13 meeting:

1. Why does VSU not participate in the AAUP annual salary survey? I am curious because it is a great tool for analyzing salaries over time and for comparing with other institutions-especially again, over time.
2. Do you know if the market analysis/salary study will consider years in rank? The difference between a recently promoted full professor and one with 10-15 years in rank is significant I would imagine. No? Last time we had an equity adjustment they did not do this and I remember some of my colleagues with many years in rank were rather disappointed (if not disgruntled).