

Report of the External Academic Relations Committee—AY 2016-17

The External Academic Relations Committee held four regular meetings. Primary attention was given to discussing how EARC could best contribute to the work of the Faculty Senate of Virginia and the AAUP-VA Conference, especially concerning the annual Virginia Higher Education Advocacy Day (VHEAD).

In addition, two EARC members attended both the fall and spring FSVA meetings. One attended the fall and spring executive committee meetings of AAUP-VA.

Prior to VHEAD (1/12/17), EARC also arranged a joint meeting with our Senate Executive Committee and Sen. Chap Petersen and Del. David Bulova to discuss faculty concerns particular to GMU as well as state-wide faculty concerns that would be discussed with legislators during VHEAD.

Also, prior to VHEAD, EARC and the Senate Chair consulted with Paul Liberty, VP for Government and Community Relations; Mark Smith, Executive Director, State Government Relations; and Sabena Moretz, Manager, State Government Relations.

One EARC member, along with the Senate Chair, attended VHEAD and met with most NOVA legislators (or a staff member).

In addition to the above work, EARC also invited two leaders of Mason Dreamers to meet with us to discuss the legal situation confronting undocumented students, along with the work they have done to provide information and guidance to local school districts, students and families.

Our Committee is presently considering visiting several NOVA legislators this summer. If you would like to join us for a meeting with your senator and/or delegate, please let us know.

Committee Members: Alok Berry,* David Kravitz, David Kuebrich,* Christy Pichichero, Peter Pober,** Pierre Rodgers (CEHD-2017)

*co-chair **provost appointee