

LEGISLATIVE REPORT #5
AAUP/FSVA/VCU FACULTY SENATE
FEBRUARY 19, 2020

Dear colleagues,

There are seventeen days left in the 2020 session of the General Assembly. Final compromises are being worked out on bills that remain in contention. This report gets shorter as fewer bills remain before the General Assembly.

As before, **green** font means a bill has been approved at some level, **red** font means the measure has been defeated.

BILLS WE SUPPORT

HB 30 and **SB 30**: These are the biennial budget bills.

Faculty Salary proposals: The budget subcommittees released their reports on February 16.

Senate proposal: The Report of the Subcommittee on Higher Education, Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee calls for a 3% bonus in FY 2021, and a 3% increase to base pay in FY 2022. Adjunct faculty would receive the same 3% bonus and 3% increase.

House proposal: The Report of House Appropriations Subcommittee on Compensation and General Government calls for a 1% increase to base pay plus a 1% bonus effective June 10, 2020 (FY21), and 3% increase to base pay effective June 10, 2021 (FY22).

In all cases these are salary pools that the institutions can adjust to allow for merit pay.

FIRST VICTORY! **HB 510** (Delegate Bulova) and **SB 140** (Senator Stuart) which remove the exemption from FOIA disclosure for anonymity by a donor if the donation imposes terms or conditions related to academic decision-making. **HB 510** was **passed** by the Senate 37-3, and **SB 140** **passed** in the House 99-0-1. The versions are identical and should now go to the Governor to sign into law.

HB 1529 (Delegate Bulova) to require that public universities and colleges, upon accepting a donation with terms and conditions attached, provide written acceptance of that donation, and the written acceptance would be subject to Freedom of Information (FOIA) requests. The bill was **passed** by the House 82-15-1 and is before the Senate Committee on Education and Health subcommittee on Higher Education.

HB 582 (Delegate Guzman) would remove the prohibition in Virginia statute on public sector collective bargaining. **HB 582** was **passed** by the House 54-45 and is before the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor. The VA-AAUP is preparing a document in support of passage to be sent to member of the Senate Committee.

HB 1663 (Delegate Sickles) and **SB 868** (Senator Ebbin) would provide protections from discrimination in public accommodations, including for sexual orientation and gender identity. **HB 1663** **passed** in the House 59-35 and is now before the Senate Committee on General Laws, and **SB 868** was **reported** by the House Committee on General Laws, 13-9.

SB 935 (Senator Boysko) and **HB 1547** (Delegate Lopez) to provide eligibility for in-state tuition to Virginia residents, regardless of their citizenship or immigration status. **HB 1547**

passed in the House 56-44 and is now before the Senate Committee on Education and Health. **SB 935** was **reported** by the House Committee on Education, 14-8, and rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

HB 36 (Delegates Hurst and Roem) would provide First Amendment protections to student journalists and protect student media advisors from administration punishments for their reasonable and appropriate actions to protect student journalists' First Amendment conduct. **HB 36** was **passed** by the House 86-14 and is before the Senate Committee of Education and Health.

BILLS OF INTEREST (we track these but do not usually take a position)

HB 395 (Delegate Ward) would increase the minimum wage to \$15/hour by July 1, 2024, including student workers except those “participating in a bona fide educational program.” The bill proposes a cost-of-living increase mechanism after 2024. The bill was **passed** by the House, 55-45. A substitute bill was **reported** by the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor (12-2) and is before the full Senate. The substitute would increase the minimum more slowly over the next several years to \$11.50/hour by July 1, 2023, and creates a complicated formula for regions in the state where subsequent increases would vary.

HB 715 Delegate Reid (R) would allow public comment time at Boards of Visitors meetings where tuition and fees increases are to be considered. We support the concept of public comment time at Boards of Visitors meetings not just restricted to tuition and fees increases. **HB 715** was **passed** by the House 99-0, and is before the Senate Committee on Education and Health subcommittee on Higher Education.