Pursuant to the Staff Senate’s obligations set forth in the VCU Staff Senate constitution, article 4, section C, the Shared Governance Committee has evaluated assignments of membership and will make a motion to amend the Constitution and Bylaws in fulfillment of that obligation.

We propose a method to equitably and efficiently represent classified staff and University Academic Professionals (UAP), especially the almost 800 UAPs who were previously represented in the Faculty Senate. This motion to amend will accomplish three things, if carried.

- Staff Senators will be elected for three year terms by eligible VCU employees within a ‘meta-unit.’ Meta-units have been developed by the university’s Office of Planning and Decision Support, and represent all employees more accurately than school, unit, department, or MBU. An example of the meta-units can be found in Appendix A.

- It will simplify many operational functions by separating the Bylaws and constitution into two documents and moving many functions from the constitution to the Bylaws. In many cases this language was duplicated, and occasionally contrasted. New Bylaws include election implementation details; a mathematical description of how senators are drawn from meta-units, technical details on the electoral system (ranked-choice voting), and allows for the Bylaws to be amended by a simple majority vote of the senate.

- We will be required to review and update the Constitution more regularly, and have simplified the process for proposing amendments, although approval from the University President is still required for Staff Senate constitutional amendments to pass.

Note: Approved by Dr. Michael Rao on October 15, 2019.