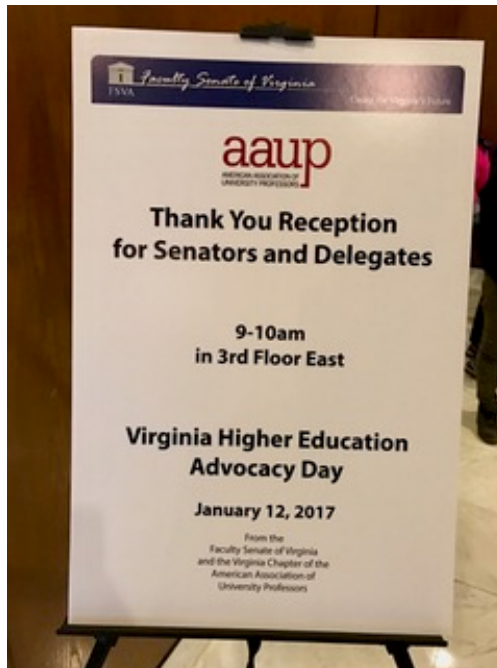


From: P. Rao (arao) arao@umw.edu
Subject: FSVA - Virginia Higher Education Advocacy Day Report
Date: January 14, 2017 at 12:39 PM

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Sign in the General Assembly Building advertising our reception for Delegates and Senators

Dear Faculty Senate of Virginia (FSVA) colleagues,

I am writing to provide a brief report on the reception that we sponsored at this week's Virginia Higher Education Advocacy Day (VHEAD), held on Thursday, January 12th. I was fortunate to receive some help from a former student who now works in Richmond who helped me secure a conference room in the General Assembly Building from 9-10am, and we ordered coffee and scones from the building caterer. Craig Vasey, from AAUP, and I were present for the hour to welcome attendees and share our position paper. We were fortunate in that we had guests from six offices join us, including four Delegates and Senators. The reception room was also where the AAUP Harris Award was presented to Delegate Kaye Kory. The Harris Award is given to the Delegate or Senator who has done the most to support higher education, and Delegate Kory is a very worthy recipient. In addition to her years of support, Delegate Kory has introduced two bills this session to support civics education in the state and to provide in-state tuition support for DACA students. For our first year I think that the reception was time and money well spent, and I would encourage us to think about how we can make this a regular event during VHEAD.





Presentation of the Harris Award to Delegate Kory

In addition to the reception, VHEAD faculty and students visited many offices to discuss our position paper with representatives and their staff. I would like to extend my thanks to Pat Cummins and her colleagues at VCU for hosting the morning meeting and lunch—we appreciate your hospitality and support for the event. I also want to thank Brian Turner, Craig Vasey, and Gerry Sherayko from AAUP for their work in planning and preparing for a successful VHEAD. It was a pleasure for FSVA to again co-sponsor this important event. And thank you to all of the faculty (and students) who joined forces to participate and support VHEAD this year. Let's build on our success this week with more phone calls and emails to our representatives! You can find the contact info for your representative on this page: <http://virginiageneralassembly.gov/house/members/members.php>

I will be sharing a short report on VHEAD with colleagues on my campus, and will include a request that they reach out to their Delegates and Senators to reinforce our call that they reject any budget cuts for higher education. Please consider doing the same for colleagues on your campus, and feel free to share this email with any colleagues in the state who are not copied here.

As we discussed at our November FSVA meeting, we will be working with our AAUP colleagues to hold our two meetings on the same campus and weekend. I will be in touch once we have more to share.

Best wishes for the semester, and I look forward to seeing you all at our Spring FSVA meeting-

Anand

P. Anand Rao, PhD

Professor of Communication
President, Faculty Senate of Virginia
Chair, University Faculty Council
Director, Speaking Intensive Program and
the Speaking Center
University of Mary Washington