

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
9:00 A.M.; THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023
Gateway Dining & Event Center
(on the campus of Virginia State University)
(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)
DRAFT AGENDA**

CALL TO ORDER Ms. Pamela A. Currey, Chair

ROLL CALL

INVOCATION (*Pastor Seth Gooden, Director of Campus Ministries*)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES (if any)

- February 9, 2023 Committee Meeting

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS Dr. Makola M. Abdullah

CLOSED SESSION (if any)

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Division of Academic & Student AffairsDr. Donald E. Palm III
Executive Vice President/Provost

- Approval Item:

- Resolution for Approval of Honorary Doctorate Degrees
- Approval of Candidates for Promotion and Tenure
- Approval of Candidates for Faculty/Professor Emeritus Status
- Resolution for Approval of the Graduate Certificate in Ed Administration and Supervision
- Resolution for Approval of the Master of Business Administration Program
- Resolution for Approval of the BS Degree in Mechanical Engineering
- Resolution for Approval of the MS Degree in Data Analytics Engineering

- Information Items:

- Overview, College of Engineering.....Dr. Dawit Haile
Dean, College of Engineering & Technology
- Enrollment Management & Fall Housing ReportDr. Alexis Brooks-Walter
Vice President, Enrollment Management
- New Programs Proposal Approval.....Dr. Tia Minnis
Vice Provost for Academic Success, Planning & IE
- Student Success & Engagement..... Mrs. Regina Barnett-Tyler
Assoc. Vice Provost, Student Success & Engagement
- Public Safety and Police Report/Updates..... David Bragg
Assoc. Vice President/Chief, VSU Police & Public Safety
- Draft Freedom of Speech Policy Statement..... Shawri King-Casey
Vice President, Institutional Integrity & Compliance

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

All ending meeting times are approximate. Meetings may begin after the posted start time at the pleasure of the Board. The Board reserves the right to change its schedule as necessary.

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Pamela Currey, Chair, called the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held in the Gateway Dining & Event Center located on the campus of Virginia State University.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present.

Committee Members Present:

Ms. Pam Currey, Chair
Dr. Christine Darden (*absent*)
Mr. Thomas Cosgrove
Dr. Leonard Haynes, III
Mr. Edward Owens
Dr. Valerie Brown, (Rector, ex-officio)

Dr. Leonard Githinji, Faculty Representative
Ms. Yania Campbell, Student Representative (*absent*)

Other Members Present:

Dr. Robert Denton, Jr.
Mr. Jon Moore
Mr. Glenn Sessoms

Administration Present:

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President
Dr. Donald Palm, Provost/Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs
Tonya Hall, Vice President for External Relations
Kevin Davenport, Senior Vice President for Finance & Administration/Chief Financial Officer
Shawri King-Casey, Vice President for Institutional Integrity & Compliance
Dr. Annie C. Redd, Chief of Staff/Director, Board Operations & Relations
Dr. Tia Minnis, Vice Provost for Academic Success, Planning & Institutional Effectiveness
Dr. Robert Corley, Vice Provost for Academic and Student Affairs
Dr. Gwendolyn Dandridge, Asst. Vice President/Director of Communications
Maurion Edwards, CIO/Technology Services
Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Vice President for Enrollment Management
Dr. Tracy Barley, Provost Office
Chief David Bragg, Asst. Vice President/Chief, VSU Police and Public Safety

Other Attendees:

Yourdonus James, Office of Conference Services
Rodney Hall, President's Office
Danette Johnson, President's Office
Debbie Jefferson, President's Office
Tina Cabrera, President's Office
Kendra White, Office of Compliance/Policy Analyst
Eldon Burton, IA

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Franklin Antonio, Technology Services
Derrick Jennings, Technology Services
Tiffany Gullins, Institutional Advancement
Kendrick Mason, Institutional Advancement
Joyce Wilkins, Provost Office
Joyce Henderson, VSU Real Estate Foundation
Adrian Petway, Finance
Valerie Abbott Jones, VSU Foundation

INVOCATION

Chair Currey invited Pastor Seth Gooden to offer the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Committee approved the agenda by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The Committee approved the minutes from the February 9th meeting by voice vote.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Abdullah welcomed the board members back to the campus and thanked them for their service. He thanked Dr. Palm and his team for their diligence and hard work which will be evident in their presentations. President Abdullah introduced new SGA President for 2023-2024 – Kailyn Haye who joined the Committee meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

The Chair asked for a motion for the Committee to enter a closed meeting for the discussion or consideration of personnel matters pursuant to 2.2-3711 (A) (1), specifically relating to: promotion and tenure and discussion or consideration of information pursuant to §2.2-3711 (A) (11), specifically to: confer honorary degrees and faculty emeritus. The motion was received and properly seconded.

Upon returning to open session, the Chair asked for a motion for the Committee to certify that during its closed meeting, the Committee discussed only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and only those public business matters identified in the motion convening the Committee in closed session. The motion was received and properly seconded. The Committee voted by roll call.

The Chair requested a motion to recommend approval of the candidates for honorary degrees, promotion and tenure, and faculty emeritus to the Full Board. The motion was received and properly seconded. The Committee voted by roll call.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Palm presented Dr. Dawit Haile, Dean of the College of Engineering & Technology, to give a brief overview of the College of Engineering & Technology (CET) at Virginia State University (VSU). Dr. Haile shared information relative to the CET degree programs, student job placement, accelerated graduate programs, student successes in the doctoral programs at the University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, and examples of current industry led projects, which academically and financially support students in the CET. Discussion followed regarding the vision of the CET and the plans for continued growth in the number of students in the CET programs. The Chair thanked the Dean and his faculty for their work and

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reminded the committee members they would have an opportunity to visit the College today after the committee meeting.

Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter reported on Enrollment Recruitment, Retention, and Housing. She informed the Board of the strategic enrollment plan which VSU initiated a few months ago. She explained the “enrollment cliff” and the model used by consultants to make predictions for VSU. Discussion followed and in response to comments, Dr. Brooks-Walter indicated that VSU is aware of potential challenges such as declining enrollment, losing faculty, and time to degree approval. VSU is working through a strategic thinking process that includes consideration of challenges that may arise.

Dr. Tia Minnis presented information on the new programs and proposal review process. She shared steps in the review process that the University undergoes with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV). Dr. Minnis also presented degree programs for the Committee’s recommendation for approval; i.e., Graduate Certificate in Ed Admin & Supervision; Masters of Business Administration; BS in Mechanical Engineering; and the MS in Data Analytics Engineering.

Chair Currey asked for a motion to recommend approval of the four degree programs to the Full Board. The motion was received and properly seconded. The Committee voted by roll call vote.

Ms. Regina Barnett-Tyler gave updates on the Student Success and Engagement Division, in general, and the Generation Hope FamilyU Cohort and the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) grants, in particular. Ms. Barnett-Tyler shared her excitement that the program directors/coordinators are in place and the programs are going very well. She also expressed gratitude to Chair Currey for bringing these grant opportunities to the University’s attention.

Chief David Bragg gave public safety and police report updates on campus safety and briefly discussed recent incidents. Chief Bragg shared his appreciation for the new technology which has assisted the department to protect the campus community. The Chair thanked Chief for his work and asked that he share the Board’s thanks with his team. She also applauded the Technology Services leadership for their role in assisting the Police Department with implementation of the new technology.

President Abdullah briefly gave an update on the Governor’s request to develop a statement on free speech and thanked Dr. Githinji and the Faculty Senate for their assistance in the effort. Chair Currey stated that VSU wanted the Board to know that it is going through the process and includes Faculty Senate.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Currey called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was received, properly seconded, and the committee voted by voice vote. The Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:40 a.m.

APPROVED:



Chair



Date