

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019**

*The Full Board Meeting was held on the 2nd floor of the Gateway Dining Events Center
Salon A, on the campus of Virginia State University*

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Huron Winstead, Rector, called the meeting of the Virginia State University (VSU) Board of Visitors (Board) to order in Salon A of the Gateway Dining and Events Center at approximately 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present.

Board Members Present:

Mr. Huron F. Winstead, Rector
Mr. Charlie W. Hill, Vice Rector
Ms. Thursa Crittenden, Secretary
Dr. Valerie Brown (*arrived 10:41 a.m.*)
Ms. Pamela A. Currey
Dr. Daryl C. Dance
Mr. Michael Flemming
Mr. Raul Herrera
Ms. Jennifer Hunter
Mr. Paul Koonce
Mr. Xavier Richardson (*arrived 9:43 a.m.*)
Mr. Glenn Sessoms
Mr. James J.L. Stegmaier
Mr. Wayne Turnage (*absent*)
Mr. Gregory Whirley
Dr. Zoe Spencer, Faculty Representative to the Board
Mr. Joshua Hines, Student Representative to the Board

Administration Present:

Dr. Makola Abdullah, President
Dr. Donald Palm, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs
Hubert Harris, Vice President for Administration
Reshunda Mahone, Vice President for Institutional Advancement
Dr. G. Dale Wesson, Vice President for Research and Economic Development
Dr. Jame'l Hodges, Associate Vice President for Student Success and Engagement
Rodney Hall, Assistant Vice President, Enrollment Management
Pamela Turner, Director of Communications
Sheila Alves, Chief Audit Executive, Internal Audit
Eldon Burton, Director of Government Relations
Dr. Annie C. Redd, Special Assistant to the President/Board Liaison

Legal Counsel Present:

Ramona Taylor, University Legal Counsel
Bonnie N. Holmes, Legal Assistant, University Legal Counsel

Other Attendees:

Dr. Maxine Sample, Vice President, Faculty Senate (*representing the Faculty Representative*)
Paula McCapes, President, Staff Senate
Travis Edmonds, Information Technology
Yourdonus James, Office of Conference Services
Joyce E. Henderson, VSU Real Estate Foundation
Malika Blume, Internal Audit
Dr. Hari Sharma, Professor/Chair, Accounting and Finance, RFL College of Business
Tara Cioavarella, student

OPENING REMARKS

Rector Winstead invited Mr. Rodney Hall to give the invocation.

RECTOR'S REMARKS

None.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Abdullah shared campus highlights since the last Board meeting and recognized VSU excellence--Dr. Hari Sharima and Dr. Nishaun Battle (faculty), and Tara Cioavarella (student), Dr. Jame'l Hodges (staff) along with recent accomplishments of Trojan athletic teams--men and women's cross country, football, and volley ball. The President announced that VSU recently signed (1) the Tech Talent Investment Program Memorandum of Understanding with the state and (2) transfer articulation agreement--Statesman/Trojan Alliance--with Richard Bland College of William & Mary. The President also shared news of his recent appointments as (1) Chair of the 1890 Presidents of the Association of Public & Land Grant Universities and (2) board member of the Child Fund International.

COMMITTEE SESSIONS

The Rector recessed the meeting of the Full Board to allow for committee meetings with the Board functioning as a committee of the whole.

Facilities, Finance and Audit Committee

(Committee Members Present: Flemming, Hill, Koonce, Stegmaier, Whirley, Winstead)

Mr. Michael Flemming, Committee Chair, convened the Facilities, Finance, and Audit Committee.

Information Technology Services

Dr. Mike Powell, Chief Information Officer, presented a summary of his review of VSU technology services during his first 100 days. Dr. Powell addressed vacant positions, classroom technology, succession planning, outsourcing, staffing needs, working with the user community

to identify an optimal approach for filling gaps, reviewing operations to ensure funds are being spent wisely, reviewing the project request and approval process, providing proper support services to staff, implementing a proven help desk system, training for classroom technology, and deploying a robust, flexible, and secure network infrastructure.

Internal Audit

Ms. Alves presented an update on hotlines and special investigations, including a breakdown of substantiated and unsubstantiated cases. Ms. Alves presented additional information such as updates on the hiring status of an IT auditor, controls and process improvements, and due dates for corrective action plans.

Division of Finance

Mr. Davenport presented a draft resolution to utilize up to \$500,000 in unfunded scholarships for a maximum award to 100 in-state recipients and 200 out-of-state recipients. He indicated that the University has used the state's unfunded scholarship process for a number of years and that \$500,000 for unfunded scholarships is already included and approved in the FY 2019-20 budget.

Mr. Davenport reviewed the Budget to Actual and Actual to Actual financial statements for the quarter ending September 30, 2019. He indicated the University met all its key revenue drivers in the budget such as enrollment, number of full-time students and number of students in the residence halls. He also reviewed the additional general funds and student financial assistance received from the State during the previous short session.

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

(Committee Members Present: Currey, Dance, Hill, Richardson, Spencer, Whirley, Winstead)

Ms. Pamela Currey, Committee Chair, convened the Academic and Student Affairs Committee.

Division of Administration

Chief David Bragg presented an update on Police and Public Safety which included 2019 Homecoming activities, 2018-2019 Clery Act data comparison, as well as new police equipment and computer aided dispatch upgrades. Data comparison shows that there is an overall drop in the number of 2019 campus offenses from 2018 campus offenses at the same time of year (October 31st).

Division of Academic and Student Affairs

Dr. Palm presented resolutions for approval of the Master of Science in Data Analytics Engineering and the Master of Social Work degree programs. Dr. Palm stated that the University had recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commonwealth of Virginia to participate in the Tech Talent Pipeline Investment Program. The Commonwealth initiated the program to create 25,000-35,000 new computer science graduates over the next 20 years. The award over the next 20 years is expected to total \$7.3 million. Dr. Dawit Haile, Dean, College of Engineering and Technology, presented information regarding the college's plan to offer tuition-free program for computer science and computer engineering majors.

Mr. Rodney Hall presented fall enrollment data for the past three years for freshmen and transfer students. Mr. Hall also presented the current recruitment/enrollment data for the spring 2020 and fall 2020 semesters. Dr. Jame'l Hodges, Associate Vice President for Student Engagement, gave a recap of Homecoming 2019, student engagement/educational programming, and upcoming events.

Dr. Palm discussed the six-year graduation rate highlighting the 43% rate for the fall 2014 cohort that graduated in 5 years or less and the rate of 32% for the fall 2015 cohort that graduate in 4 years or less. Data shows that the fall 2015 rate was an increase from 28% for the fall 2014 cohort that graduated in 4 years or less.

The Academic Affairs Division is in the process of soliciting requests for proposal for the Campus Climate survey with the purpose of providing a comprehensive survey to gather the perspectives of stakeholders on the institution's climate. The aim of the faculty/staff compensation study salary administration plan is to provide information regarding internal equity and an action plan for the University to be competitive in the marketplace in attracting and retaining qualified employees.

Special Introductions

Rector Winstead introduced several VSU students who were recipients of the Winstead Tuition Assistance Scholars to the Board.

Institutional Advancement Committee

(Committee Members Present: Crittenden, Currey, Dance, Flemming, Koonce, Richardson, Sessoms, Winstead)

Ms. Jennifer Hunter, Committee Chair, convened the Institutional Advancement (IA) Committee. Dr. Wesson presented an update on the fiscal year 2019 and 2020 year to date expenditures and indirect cost from the Office of Sponsored Research and Programs (OSRP). He shared research initiatives that the OSRP uses to generate proposals such as grantsmanship workshops, faculty/staff chat-n-chews, return of 10% indirect costs to principle investigators, and publication of a research calendar highlighting faculty/staff and their research projects.

Eldon Burton, Director of Government Relations, shared information from the federal level and the state level. On the federal level, VSU is working with legislators on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA). A major concern is that Title III funding expired on September 30th. These funds are critical for minority serving institutions; for instance, VSU is in jeopardy of losing \$1.2 million annually. Other members of Congress have introduced bills to replace the Title III funds. Mr. Burton shared the impact of the 2019 Virginia elections in the Virginia General Assembly. One major and positive impact is that the Black Caucus has grown in numbers and several members hold offices as committee chair.

Ms. Reshunda Mahone, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, shared updates from the October 31st IA committee meeting, as well as outcomes and requests related to campaign

planning. The discussion focused on the topic of campaign readiness—i.e., investment priorities and funding needed for VSU to launch its capital campaign. Discussion followed regarding funding sources and recommendations for gift fees and endowment fund fees. The committee agreed to recommend a gift fee of 4% to the Board for approval. In light of concerns that funds which may be used for a capital campaign would negatively impact funds used for student financial assistance. The administration will bring a recommendation at the February 2020 meeting.

Personnel and Compensation Committee

(Committee Members Present: Sessoms, Crittenden, Hunter, Stegmaier, Winstead)

Mr. Glenn Sessoms, Committee Chair, convened the Personnel and Compensation Committee. Ms. Tanya Simmons, Director, Office of Human Resources, introduced Mr. Gary Martin as the new associate director of Human Resources. Ms. Simmons presented the Workforce Planning & Development Report for the next fiscal year action plan. Agencies are required to create an action plan with items that address agency risk factors and highlight actionable steps to mitigate the identified risks. The action items in the VSU plan include talent acquisition, employee engagement, technology and organizational inefficiencies, and workforce development. The Human Resources updates included staffing, Human Resources survey, and mandatory New Supervisor's Training, November 19-21, 2019.

CLOSED SESSION

The committee convened a closed session at 3:26 p.m. pursuant to 2.2-3711(A)(1), (2), and (8) of the Code of Virginia for discussion and consideration of personnel and disciplinary matters, and consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring provision of legal advice. More specifically, the discussions will relate to allegations, current and ongoing internal investigations, and student and staff disciplinary actions related to 2018 and 2019 hazing incidents.

The motion called for President Makola Abdullah; Dr. Donald Palm, Provost; Hubert Harris, VP for Administration; Chief David Bragg; Dr. Jame'l Hodges, Associate VP for Student Affairs; Ramona L. Taylor, University Legal Counsel; Ms. Sheila Alves, Chief Audit Executive; and Dr. Annie C. Redd, Board Liaison, to attend the closed meeting because (1) their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary; and or their presence would aid the Board in its consideration of this matter.

The committee re-convened in opened session at 4:36 p.m. with a roll call of Board members to certify that the Committee discussed or considered only those public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened.

There being no further business, the Rector adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:46 p.m.



Huron F. Winstead, Rector

2/7/20

Date



Thursa D. Crittenden

2.7.20

Date