February 19, 2015

Dear Members and Friends of the Virginia State University Community:

To formally launch the search for a permanent President of Virginia State University ("VSU"), the Board of Visitors, at its January 16, 2015 board meeting, selected members of the Presidential Search Committee (listed below) and selected an executive search firm to assist us in conducting a rigorous and professional search process.

On March 11 and 12, 2015, a team from the national executive search firm Isaacson, Miller will arrive on campus to conduct a series of informational interviews and listening sessions to launch the search for the new President of VSU. At the conclusion of these interviews and sessions, the search consultants will meet with the Presidential Search Committee to formally begin a search process that will extend over the next several months.

These two days in March will be a critical period during which time the search consultants will seek your thoughts and input on the challenges, opportunities, and responsibilities of the new President of VSU. The information gleaned from these meetings will allow the consultants to craft a compelling case for the university and the presidency. They will take this case to the marketplace of possible institutional leaders to identify, cultivate, and bring before the search committee the strongest possible candidates to lead VSU in the years ahead. Your engagement and candor are crucial to describing the primary challenges and compelling opportunities at this important moment in VSU’s history.

The schedule of interviews and sessions for students, faculty, staff, alums, and community members will be posted well in advance of these meetings, and you will be sent memos from Isaacson, Miller asking you to think in more specific terms about the university and presidency. Please be on the lookout for these announcements in the days ahead. On behalf of the Board of Visitors, we are appreciative of your interest and engagement in this important endeavor, and we will look forward to seeing you and hearing your thoughts in a few weeks.

Best regards,

Harry Black
Rector and Chair of the Presidential Search Committee

Members of the Presidential Search Committee:

Hyisheem Calier, Students
Dr. Omar Faison, Faculty
Frank Jones, VSU Foundation
Jennifer Hunter, Board of Visitors
Huron Winstead, Board of Visitors

Dr. Robert Denton, Board of Visitors
Franklin Johnson, Jr., Alumni/Alumnae
Frederick Humphries, Board of Visitors
Willie Randall, Board of Visitors
Harry Black, Board of Visitors

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