

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
12:30 P.M. THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022
Gateway Dining & Event Center
(on the campus of Virginia State University)
(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)**

DRAFT AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER Ms. Pamela Currey, Chair

ROLL CALL

INVOCATION (*Pastor Graham*)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES (if any)

- Minutes from the February 3, 2022 meeting

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS Dr. Makola M. Abdullah

CLOSED SESSION(S)

- Discussion or Consideration of Honorary Degrees or Special Awards

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Division of Academic & Student Affairs Dr. Donald Palm
 - Approval Items:
 - Candidates Recommended for Promotion & Tenure
 - Nominees Recommended for Honorary Doctorate Degrees
 - Nominee for Faculty Emeritus
 - Nominee for Distinguished Professor
 - Information Items
 - COVID-19 Update Dr. Robert Corley
Vice Provost for Academic & Student Affairs
 - VSU Public Safety and Police Report David Bragg
Associate Vice President/Chief
 - Enrollment Management Report Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter
Associate Vice Provost, Enrollment Management
 - Department of Athletics Update Ms. Peggy Davis
Associate Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics

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- Information Items (continued)
 - Innovation and Strategic Initiatives Dr. Kawachi Clemons
Vice Provost, Academic, Innovation & Strategic Initiatives
 - Student Success & Engagement Mrs. Regina Barnett-Tyler
Associate Vice Provost, Student Success & Engagement
 - Sponsored Programs and Research Dr. Omar Faison
Assistant Vice Provost, Research & Economic Development

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

***All start times for committees are approximate. Meetings may begin after the posted approximate start time as committee members are ready to proceed. The Board reserves the right to change its schedule as needed.*

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
April 21, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Pamela Currey, Chair, called the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting to order at approximately 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. Pamela Currey, Chair
Dr. Christine Darden
Mr. Charlie Hill (*electronic communication*)
Mr. Edward Owens
Mr. Xavier Richardson (*absent*)
Mr. Glenn Sessoms
Dr. Valerie Brown, Rector (*ex-officio*)
Dr. Ceslav Ciobanu, Faculty Representative
Mr. Kameron Gray, Student Representative

Other Board Members Present:

None

Administration Present:

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President
Dr. Donald Palm, Provost/Sr. Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs
Dr. Tia Minnis, Vice Provost for Academic Success, Planning & Institutional Effectiveness
Mr. Kevin Davenport, Vice President for Finance & Administration/Chief Financial Officer
Shawri King-Casey, Senior Advisor to the President
Dr. Gwendolyn Dandridge, Associate Vice President/Director of Communications
Dr. Annie C. Redd, Special Assistant to the President and Board Liaison
Maurion Edwards, CIO/Technology Services
Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Enrollment Management
Chief David Bragg, VSU Police and Public Safety

Legal Counsel Present:

Mike Melis, Senior State Attorney General

Other Attendees:

Dr. Leonard Githinji (incoming President, Faculty Senate)
Dr. Robert Corley, Office

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Kendra White, Office of Compliance
Eldon Burton, Government Relations
A.C. Fowlkes, Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging
Mike Reinholtz, APA
Dr. Kawachi Clemons, Office of Academic Affairs
Dr. Cynthia Ellison, The Health and Wellness Center
Peggy Davis, Department of Athletics
Jasmyn Graham, Campus Ministries
Malika Blume, Office of the President
Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Enrollment Management
Derrick Jennings, Technology Services
Travis Edmonds, Technology Services
Adrian Petway, Office of Budget & Finance
Tasha Owens, Department of Internal Audit
Debbie Jefferson, Office of the President
Danette Johnson, Office of the President

The following Board members participated by electronic means using Cisco WebEx.

- Mr. Charlie Hill, located in Hampton, VA, because of personal reasons due to a conflict.

INVOCATION

Chair Currey invited Pastor Graham to offer the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Committee approved the agenda by roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The Committee approved minutes from the February 3, 2022 meeting with a revision by roll call vote. The revision required insertion of the word “break” after the word “December” on page 3.

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.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CLOSED SESSION

Dr. Donald Palm presented several action items: the consideration of candidates recommended for promotion and tenure, and nominees recommended for honorary doctorates, faculty emeritus, and

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distinguished professor. Chair Currey called for a closed session for the discussion or consideration of honorary degrees or special awards pursuant to VA Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (11), specifically relating to: discussion and consideration of honorary degrees, faculty emeritus awards, distinguished professor awards, and other awards. A motion was made and properly seconded.

The Chair read the certification statement that during its closed meeting, the Board 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 Board in closed session. A motion was made and properly seconded. A roll call vote was conducted as required.

Dr. Robert Corley presented a status report on the current spring 2022 test positivity rate relative to students, employees, and the total campus. He also shared an update on the Trojan Health and Wellness Model which is endorsed by the American College Health Association and focuses on individual and community factors that shape wellness. The University has recently added staff to the Student Health Center, Student Accessibility Office, and the University Counseling Center.

Chief David Bragg, VSU Police Department, presented the campus crime report year to date for 2022. The Chief shared information about the campus safety and community support services that will be initiated by the VSU Police Department. These services include hiring of a mental health professional to work evening hours, addition of several volunteer police chaplains for spiritual counseling and support, and addition of a campus Fire Marshall position. Chief Bragg highlighted upcoming trainings that the VSU Police Leadership participated in as professional development, and he presented training that will be conducted by the VSU Police on campus for faculty and staff.

Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter presented an update on the enrollment projections for fall 2022 along with the communication plan used with students at every stage of the recruitment process. VSU has awarded over 1200 scholarships to Presidential, Provost, and STEM scholars. The Transfer Center has facilitated agreements with the Virginia Community College System, Richard Bland College, and an agreement with Brightpoint Community College is in progress. The Transfer Center has developed initiatives that will provide tools for a successful academic and social transition to VSU.

Dr. Brooks-Walter provided updates on the VCAN program for 2021-2022 and the anticipated admissions for next year 2022-2023. She also shared the program components of the Trojan Summer Bridge, which will be held during summer 2022. This program is limited to Virginia residents that have a GPA below 2.5, so those with GPAs between 2.2-2.5 will be the target group. Dr. Brooks-Walter shared statistics on the number of students engaged by the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE). She then outlined the outreach activities that ACE staff use to engage and retain freshmen and sophomore students.

Ms. Peggy Davis reported that the University is adding three new sports: Men's and Women's LaCrosse and Women's Soccer. The addition of these teams not only adds to the enrollment but also increases revenue through tuition and scholarships to the institution. Ms. Davis pointed out that VSU is celebrating the 50th anniversary of Title IX in adding these opportunities for women to participate in athletics. We are also providing access and opportunity by increasing our minority and non-minority populations on campus; i.e., Hispanic, Latino, Caucasian, and European American. VSU is also

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demonstrating a continual expansion of opportunities for women, which is a significant component of Title IX.

Dr. Kawachi Clemons presented updates on the University's academics, innovation and strategic initiatives.

- The Academic Innovation Center for Teaching & Learning will be housed in the former campus Post Office. The Center will be equipped with latest instructional technology to support faculty and create more inclusive classrooms and discover new strategies for engaging students; experiment with technologies; contribute to the scholarship for teaching and learning; and partner with students to generate new knowledge.
- The VSU Innovation Awards Program will promote and reward innovation and be opened to all faculty, staff and students. All proposals require student collaboration.
- VSU Statistics and Data Analytics Consulting and Training Center will foster and embrace an environment of interdisciplinary collaboration and advance research and scholarly activities at VSU.
- Establishing a Transformative State of the Art Forensic Lab at VSU to provide excellent training for VSU students, but also liaise this institution with major criminal justice agencies and other investigative bodies.
- Trojan Alliance – partnership with community colleges and technical and professional schools aimed at increasing transfer enrollment and degree completion.
- Roanoke Higher Education Center (RHEC) – partnership with RHEC to increase transfer enrollment and degree completion.
- Off campus and remote locations –
 - Fort Lee, VA
 - Partnership with Northern Virginia Regional Commission
 - Southern VA Higher Education Center (South Boston)
 - Dinwiddie Airport – Aviation Science
- Advanced Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Cluster – VSU was part of a \$100M U.S. Economic development administration grant. As part of the grant, VSU proposed \$8M for lab infrastructure and a VSU-VCU academic pathway in pharmaceutical engineering.
- Institutes and Centers:
 - James Arthur Baldwin Africologic Institute (JABAI)
 - The John Mercer Langston Institute for African American Political Leadership
 - Center for Policing Leadership and Social Justice
 - Public Health Institute
 - Center for Creative and Entertainment
- Executive in Residence: Amir Windom, Music and Entertainment Industry Executive
- Partnership with Virginia Tech to provide opportunities for VSU students to pursue graduate degrees not offered by VSU. Currently, three VSU graduates are pursuing graduate degrees in Engineering & Computer Science at Virginia Tech.

A board member expressed appreciation and congratulated Dr. Palm and Dr. Clemons for an outstanding presentation of all the initiatives taking place at VSU.

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Dr. Palm reported on the research and sponsored programs activity through February 28, 2022 on behalf of Dr. Omar Faison. Dr. Palm presented an overview of the number of proposals submitted, the programs' expenditures, and indirect costs recovered for the third quarter of the current fiscal year. The indirect costs represent the cost of doing business and getting the money back in the University. The indirect costs are currently \$632K, and up from last year at \$595K. The faculty has created more research opportunities which has generated positive outcomes for sponsored research programs. Dr. Palm also reported on the opportunities and initiatives promoted for our undergraduate and graduate students to present their research. He announced that the VSU Public Health Institute would host its first Public Health Forum on April 28th.

Ms. Regina Barnett-Tyler stated that student engagement is concerned with the interaction between the time effort and other relevant resources invested by both students and their institutions intended to optimize the student experience and enhance the learning outcomes and development of students and performance. She presented highlights from the year filled with student successes and engagement opportunities which included accomplishments of student leaders, events and activities held on campus, and community service projects. She also spoke about the Trojan support services provided to students either by the university or through partnerships with the Petersburg Dept. of Social Services. The support services included 3 clothes closets, food pantry, and child care assistance.

Ms. Barnett-Tyler noted that two area grocery chains, Kroger and Food Lion, provided food through two major grants. Chair Currey thanked Dr. Palm and the entire division for the work they do and all they that they achieve for the students.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date