

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
9:00 A.M.; THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2022
Gateway Dining & Event Center
(on the campus of Virginia State University)
(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)

DRAFT AGENDA
(as of 1/27/22)

CALL TO ORDER Ms. Pamela A. Currey, Chair

ROLL CALL

INVOCATION

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES (if any)

- Minutes from the November 17, 2021 meeting

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS Dr. Makola M. Abdullah

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- **Approval Items: None**

- **Information Items:**

- VSU Hospitality Management Program Dr. Berkita Bradford
Chair, Hospitality Management
- COVID-19 Update..... Dr. Robert Corley
Associate Vice Provost, Academic Affairs/Director, COVID Response
- VSU Public Safety and Police Report..... David Bragg
Associate Vice President/Chief, VSU Police & Public Safety
- Enrollment Management Report..... Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter
Associate Vice Provost, Enrollment Management
- Innovation and Strategic Initiatives Dr. Kawachi Clemons
Associate Vice Provost, Innovation and Strategic Initiatives

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 3, 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
Mr. Glenn Sessoms (*electronic communication*)
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
Tanya Simmons, Associate Vice President/Director, Human Resources
Adrian Petway, Associate Vice President, Budget/Finance
Dr. Annie C. Redd, Special Assistant to the President and Board Liaison
Maurion Edwards, Technology Services/CIO
Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Enrollment Management
Chief David Bragg, VSU Police and Public Safety
Franklin Johnson, Jr., Institutional Advancement

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Legal Counsel Present:

Cynthia Norwood, Senior State Attorney General

Other Attendees:

Rev. Delano Douglas, Academic Center for Excellence
Yourdonus James, Conference Services
Travis Edmonds, Technology Services
Derrick Jennings, Technology Services
Malika Blume, Office of the President
Debbie Jefferson, Office of the President
Danette Johnson, Office of the President
LaTrece Walden, Office of Admissions
Michelle Smith, VSU Police and Public Safety
Brenda Webb, VSU Police and Public Safety
Frankie Weiss, VSU Police and Public Safety
Preston Spicely, VSU Police and Public Safety
Odius Gerren, VSU Police and Public Safety
Carl Murray, VSU Police and Public Safety
Walter Butler, VSU Police and Public Safety
Francis Stevens, VSU Police and Public Safety
Theodore Anderson, VSU Police and Public Safety
Nicole Jackson, VSU Police and Public Safety
Tasha Owens, Department of Internal Audit
Rena Edwards, Student Success & Engagement
Berkita Bradford, Hospitality Management
Tonya Hall, Vice President for Institutional Advancement
Kendra White, Office of Compliance

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.
- Mr. Glenn Sessoms, located in Cordova, TN because of personal reasons due to a conflict.

INVOCATION

Chair Currey invited Rev. Douglas to offer the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Committee approved the agenda by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The Committee approved from the November 18, 2021 meeting by voice vote.

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PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Abdullah thanked Dr. Palm and his team including Dr. Ciobanu, faculty representative, and Kameron Gray, Student representative, for their leadership and coming up with the right plans to come back to campus this semester. The President also thanked the entire faculty and staff for their patience and understanding as we still operate in the midst of Covid-19. He stated that it has been a challenge as everyone thought we were almost finished with the pandemic. The President also acknowledged Dr. Berkita Bradford, Department Chair, who will present information about the Hospitality Management Program to the Committee.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Bradford highlighted the Department of Hospitality Management (College of Agriculture) goals that drive the department to strive for academic excellence and to ensure that students have the skills set and work ethic that it will take for them to be successful in a long-term career in the hospitality management industry. Highlights included over 90% placement rate, internships with the leading hospitality companies, and a requirement for two internships for each student. Dr. Bradford shared that department faculty engages students through experiences in food preparation, restaurant management, field trips, lecture series, small group discussions, and networking with individuals in the industry. The future of the department includes online degree programs and recruitment of non-traditional students. Dr. Bradford highlighted faculty engagement opportunities and several hospitality management alumni. Discussion followed wherein Dr. Bradford responded to comments from board members regarding the online option, initiatives related to food insecurity, and facilitating hotel contacts for the program. Dr. Bradford stated there are about 50 full-time students in the program, and she is proud that the students are stronger academically and more focused.

Chair Currey requested to recognize members of the VSU Police and Public Safety Department for their service to the University in light of the recent tragedy at Bridgewater College. Chief Bragg and several members of the VSU police and security officers were present. Chief Bragg expressed appreciation to the board for the recognition and to all members of the department for the sacrifices they make to carry out their jobs. Chief Bragg presented the campus crime report (year to date) 2021, discussed the crime that occurred at University Apartments at Ettrick (UAE) in December 2021, and shared the department's plan for improved campus and UAE safety.

Chief Bragg also shared department plans which included recruitment and retention of officers and professional training officers recently completed. Chief also shared good news about meeting with members of the Federal Bureau of Investigation leadership wherein the President, Provost, and he had an opportunity to share the vision to help our students go into federal law enforcement. Chief Bragg ended with saying that the officers are doing everything they can to make sure our campus is safe all the time. President Abdullah expressed appreciation to the Chief and staff for their work for keeping the campus safe, especially during the December. The Chair asked Chief to take regards back to the entire department.

Heate.

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Dr. Robert Corley presented an update from the campus COVID-19 Campus Response Team. Due to the cooperation of the administration, faculty, and students, we ended the year with less than 1% positivity rate. At VSU, we have been able to create a culture of compliance as we are near 90% compliance rate. Dr. Corley's update informed the board about the current campus test positivity rate, how the response team is managing expectations with reference to learning modalities, employee work schedules, dining services, and indoor athletic events. Because VSU has created a culture of compliance and campus safety regarding COVID-19, the recent changes in the Governor's new directive has had little impact on the campus. The University maintains its mask requirement for everyone, strongly recommends vaccination and boosters for students and employees, and requires entry and surveillance testing for all.

Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter presented enrollment data on validated number of students (those cleared for the Spring 2022. As of this date, we are still validating students that are arriving on campus due to delays in starting in-person classes as well as weather delays. The Fall 2022 admissions report presented comparative data for fall 2020, fall 2021, and fall 2022. The number of applications is up compared to the last 2 years because of successful upgrades of the recruiting system to a cloud-based system. The new system allows for more automation of the admissions process and provides a seamless communication system with prospective students.

Dr. Brooks-Walter presented updates on the Trojan summer bridge for high school students, transfer student program, open houses, and the new virtual tour. The Virginia College Access Network (VCAN) scholars' program has become a phenomenal tool to offer educational opportunities for a variety of students, traditional students as well as non-traditional students. VCAN allows us to diversify in ethnicity as well as in stages of life.

Dr. Palm indicated that Dr. Clemons who was scheduled to present is away due to death in his family. Dr. Clemons presentation is included in the board materials in Diligent.

Mr. Maurion Edwards presented an update on Technology Services that included assessments, PPPM updates, implementations, and methods to address student experience concerns. Mr. Edwards reviewed the technology services assessment which will be conducted by outside vendors in two parts—operationally and strategically. The operational assessment will focus on enhancing the student and faculty experience in terms of response and setup. The strategic assessment will focus on identifying gaps that will be needed for Level 2 and beyond.

The update on PPPM (people, process, partnering, and metrics) included

- New personnel: Project Management Office Director, Academic Technologist, HR Business Analyst, End User Support, Network Support, Security
- Processes: working on internal IT processes; meetings on updating onboarding/off-boarding
- Partnering with campus departments: Contract Compliance, Procurement, HR, Research, Faculty
- Metrics: added additional support to support peaks; now tracking volume of types of requests to address; compiling data to help IT staff visualize demand and gaps in service

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Technology Services successfully implemented several updates and software programs such as 1) ServiceNow Mobile App for employees and students to submit tickets for service, 2) Recruitment Software as a Service (SAAS) for Admissions/Enrollment, 3) Banner Optimization, 4) banner Personal ID Master, and 5) Capital Outlay Project Commencement. As part of the above-mentioned assessment to the above-mentioned assessment, Technology Services has established communication with the Student Government Association to provide regular updates and engaged partners such as VITA and Verizon for redundant connectivity options.

Dr. Palm presented an update on the Climate Survey that should be completed by February 11, 2022. The completion date was extended because of reports that all faculty were not receiving the survey so we wanted to ensure that all had the opportunity to participate in the survey. Dr. Palm also announced that Mr. VSU Isaiah Matthews-Braxton was named as the 18th Mr. HBCU in a national competition.

The Chair thanked all in attendance and adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:00 a.m.


Chair



Date