

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
BOARD ANNUAL RETREAT MINUTES
FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2019

*The Board Retreat will be held on the 2nd floor of the Gateway Dining & Events Center
Salon B, on the campus of Virginia State University*

Mr. Huron Winstead, Rector, opened the Retreat with greetings at approximately 9:00 a.m. in the Salon B of the Gateway Dining & Event Center on the campus of Virginia State University. The Rector stated that four years ago, the Board agreed to move toward Board improvement. The Board accomplishes its goal through self-evaluation conducted at the end of each meeting and with an annual retreat focused on board governance.

President Makola Abdullah offered brief remarks welcoming Dr. Alvin Schexnider, Senior Consultant for Association of Governing Boards, back to VSU. Dr. Schexnider presented an overview of the workshop as an interactive exercise.

Board Members Present:

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

Administration Present:

Dr. Makola Abdullah, President
Dr. Donald Palm, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Tia Minnis, Associate Vice Provost/Director, Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness
Dr. Annie C. Redd, Special Assistant to the President/Board Liaison
Ms. Sheila Alves, Chief Audit Executive

Legal Counsel Present:

Ms. Ramona Taylor, University Legal Counsel

Other Attendees:

Dr. Maxine Sample, Vice Chair, Faculty Senate
Mr. Travis Edmonds, Information Technology
Ms. Yourdonus James, Director of Conference Services

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Dr. Schexnider led the morning session with discussion focused on the basics of board governance. The topics included anatomy of board governance, shared governance, fiduciary duties/responsibilities, higher education outlook and workforce development, key public policy issues in higher education, key issues at HBCUs, best practices, board diversity and alumni representation.

In the afternoon session, President Abdullah, Dr. Donald Palm, and Dr. Tia Minnis presented an update on the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan which aligns the University Mission, Vision, and Core Values to focus on sustaining the University’s legacy through access, leadership, and transformative excellence. The update included (a) dashboard to display how the VSU Plan aligns with the Virginia Plan for Higher Education; (b) the VSU Six Year Capital Outlay Projects Plan; (c) recruitment initiatives focused on increasing student financial support; (d) student success initiatives; and (e) new degree, online, and certificate programs. Dr. Minnis also presented templates designed for all units (divisions, departments, academic colleges) to annually assess their performance with the strategic plan priorities.

Board members participated in a case study on crisis management and examined the Board’s role in telling the VSU story. In small groups, Board members shared ideas that will lead to development of a Board action plan.

CLOSING

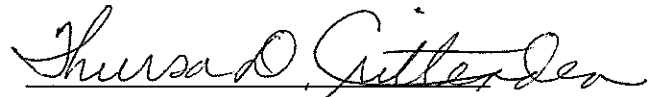
Rector Winstead thanked Dr. Schexnider for his work in furthering the goal of the VSU Board to improve its performance in governing the University. The Rector also thanked the Board members for their time and attention over the past two days. The Retreat ended at approximately 5:00 p.m.



Huron F. Winstead, Rector

9/13/19

Date



Thursa D. Crittenden, Secretary

9.13.19

Date