

Virginia State University
Thursday, September 12, 2024
Board of Visitors
Academic Affairs & Student Affairs Committee - Executive Summary

Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, VP for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management and **VP King-Casey**, VP for Compliance and Institutional Integrity, presented updates on the Student Code of Conduct and University policies. After completing a general review of the policies, Dr. Brooks-Walter and VP King-Casey recommend modifications to address disruptions of school functions; violations of federal, state, and local laws and ordinances, erection of encampments/tents; and facility usage.

Dr. Tia A. Minnis, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, shared the achievements of the academic division, including the launch of three new degree programs: a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, an MBA in Business Administration, and a Master of Science in Data Analytics. The response to these programs has been impressive, with 35 students enrolling in Mechanical Engineering and 68 in the MBA this fall. The Data Analytics program is set to begin next semester, Spring 2025, and has already attracted 57 applicants. Dr. Minnis also announced a partnership with VCU that offers a dual degree program. Students can earn a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from VSU and a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Life Science Engineering with a concentration in Chemical Engineering from VCU. Additional highlights and achievements were showcased in video presentations by each of the academic deans.

Dr. Minnis provided a summary of the university's accreditation status, including the recent achievement of Nursing accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). She also discussed the progress of the university's Fifth-Year Interim Report with SACSCOC and outlined the upcoming steps in the accreditation review process.

Dr. Minnis highlighted several new initiatives aimed at enhancing student success, such as the Degree + initiative. This initiative includes accelerated programs like 3+2 and 4+1, which allow students to earn both a bachelor's and master's degree in five years, and the Trojan2 program, which guarantees automatic admission to VSU graduate programs for VSU undergraduates. Additionally, the Multiple Degrees initiative enables students to pursue multiple majors and degrees, and the enhanced Career Experience initiative focuses on providing all students with internship opportunities.

Finally, Dr. Minnis discussed the current enrollment trends and the composition of the student body. While the final enrollment report for Fall 2024 won't be released until November, Dr. Brooks-Walter presented projections for new student enrollment and total enrollment numbers based on current registration and enrollment trends.

Dr. Brooks-Walter presented the new student enrollment projections for Fall 2024. She also highlighted some the achievement of Enrollment Management and Student Success and Engagement. She mentioned that the focus on Living Learning Communities, Community Engagement, Health and Wellness, Peer Mentors, and Student Support Programs are focused on increasing retention and student success.

Chief David Bragg reported on the crime statistics for the University. He stated that there has been little change between 2023 and 2024. Chief Bragg also discussed the shooting that occurred on campus on August 14th. He reported that neither the shooter or the victims were current VSU students. Finally, Chief Bragg described how the fast actions of the police officers on the scene allowed for a quick arrest of some of the individuals involved in the incident.

Chief Bragg reported that the University is working to completely enclose that campus while using technology and strategic placement of security personnel to deter crime.