

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
9:00 A.M., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021
Gateway Dining & Event Center
(on the campus of Virginia State University)
(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)**

**DRAFT AGENDA
(as of 11.17.21)**

CALL TO ORDER Ms. Pamela A. Currey, Chair

ROLL CALL

INVOCATION (*Pastor Jasmyn Graham, Director of Campus Ministries*)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES (if any)

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS Dr. Makola M. Abdullah

CLOSED SESSION

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Division of Academic & Student Affairs Dr. Donald E. Palm, III
Executive Vice President/Provost
 - Approval Item:
 - Resolution for Approval to Sell Police Officer Firearm
 - Information Items:
 - Division of Global Leadership, Academic & Talent Development.....Dr. Daniel Roberts
Executive Director
 - Covid-19 Update Dr. Robert N. Corley
Vice Provost/Director, COVID Response Team
 - Strategic Plan Update..... Dr. Palm
 - Enrollment Management Update Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter
Asst. Vice Provost for Enrollment Management
 - Research..... Dr. Omar Faison
Assistant Vice President, Research &
Economic Development

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (continued)

- Student Success & EngagementMs. Regina Barnett-Tyler
Associate Vice President, Student Success & Engagement

- Police and Public SafetyMr. David Bragg, Associate Vice President/
for Public Safety/Chief of Police

- Presentation of Resolution Mr. Hubert D. Harris
Chief of Staff
 - Resolution for Approval to Sell Police Officer Firearm

- Athletics Update

- Technology Services..... Mr. Maurion Edwards
Chief Information Officer
 - Information Items
 - Technology Services Update and Sixty-day Evaluation

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

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

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2021**

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 (*absent*)

Other Board Members Present:

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
Mr. Hubert D. Harris, Chief of Staff
Shawri King-Casey, Senior Advisor to the President
Regina Barnett-Tyler, Associate Vice President, Student Success & Engagement
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, State Attorney General

Other Attendees:

Pastor Jasmyn Graham, Director, Campus Ministries
Dr. Dan Roberts, Executive Director, Division of Global Leadership & Academic & Talent Development
Dr. Lisa Hopson, Honors College
Tasha Owens, Internal Audit
Yourdonus James, Director, Conference Services
Deborah Jefferson, President's Office
Danette Johnson, President's Office
Malika Blume, President's Office
Star McCray, Conference Services
Victor Towns, Honors College (student)
Ahmad Lewis, Internal Audit

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

Ms. Currey invited Pastor Jasmyn Graham, Director of Campus Ministries, to offer the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Committee approved the agenda by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The Committee approved the amended minutes from the September 16, 2021 meeting by voice vote.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Makola M. Abdullah expressed appreciation to the academic and student affairs team. The enrollment increase is something that the administration is excited about.

CLOSED SESSION

The Chair convened a closed meeting at 9:22 a.m. pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) and 2.2-3711(A)(11) of the Code of Virginia for discussion or consideration of promotion and tenure, sabbatical leave, of specific university employees, and/or honorary degrees and/or special awards, specifically honorary degrees. The chair requested President Makola M. Abdullah; Dr. Donald Palm, Executive VP/Provost; and Dr. Annie C. Redd, Board Liaison, to attend the closed meeting.

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The Committee re-convened in open session at 9:30 a.m. with a roll call vote that the Committee discussed or considered only those public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion(s) by which the closed meeting was convened.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Daniel Roberts provided an overview of the newly established division: Global Leadership and Civic Engagement. The division aligns with strategic plan priority 3: Provide a transformative VSU experience that supports the holistic development of students. The division houses three (3) programs that include the: 1) Honors College; 2), Office of Global Leadership and Civic Engagement; and 3) Office of Talent Development.

Currently the Honors College has 500+ students, 350+ students with 3.5+ GPA and 250+ Service Award participants. Students have competed for prestigious scholarships to include Rhodes, Truman, Fulbright and Gilman. Two students provided the committee with their experiences in the Honors College.

The Office of Global Leadership and Civic Engagement is working to internationalize the VSU community by providing study abroad options for short term, summer and one and two semesters in duration. In addition, the division has entered into an agreement with EdAgree to assist with: 1) the global recruitment of international students; 2) increase and diversity international enrollment; and 3) recruit language qualified students. Finally, 21 students participated in the Thurgood Marshal College Fund Leadership Institute through the Office of Talent Development. Students won the Kroger Foundation and the Black and Decker talent competitions.

In addition, the committee received updates from the COVID-19 Task Force along with updates about the Strategic Plan, Enrollment Management, Enrollment Projections, Research Productivity, Student Success/Engagement, and Technology Services.

Dr. Palm provided an update on efforts to protect the campus community from COVID-19 infections and outbreaks.

Currently, the campus has a COVID-19 Vaccination Compliance Rate of 89%

1. The on-campus student compliance is 96%
2. The on & off campus student compliance is 88%
3. The faculty & staff compliance is 91%

The test positivity rate is as follows:

1. Students .37% (29 positive cases out of 7,886 tested)
2. Faculty & Staff .61% (5 positive cases out of 815 tested)
3. Total Campus .39% (34 positive cases out of 8,701 tested)

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Post-Homecoming Positivity Rate

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Students | 0% (0 positive cases out of 842 tested) |
| 2. Faculty & Staff | 1.2% (1 positive case out of 84 tested) |
| 3. Total Campus | .11% (1 positive case out of 926 tested) |

Dr. Palm provided Strategic Plan Updates. To monitor the first-year success of the strategic plan, data was presented in the form of a dashboard representing approved benchmarks. The data presented demonstrated areas of progress such as the enrollment of 4,300 and a 76% retention rate. In addition, the university experienced the highest number of research proposal submitted during the FY 2020-21 at 109 for a total of \$57.6M. However, a slight drop of research expenditures from \$24.2M to \$23M was observed in 2021 compared to research expenditures in 2020.

Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter provided an update on enrollment numbers for the Spring 2022. She also reported on the very exciting 76% retention rate for the Fall of 2021. Additionally, Dr. Brooks-Walter introduced a number of enrollment, retention, and graduation initiatives to the committee. The committee members engaged in discussion regarding how those numbers were achieved and how this positive momentum could be supported going forward, noting the significant resources VSU had available this year. Members discussed the need to cultivate sustainable resources through the state and philanthropy.

Dr. Tia Minnis gave an overview of the Fall 2021 official enrollment numbers compared to SCHEV Performance Goals and the University Stretch Goals. During the Fall 2021, the university experienced a 7% increase in total student enrollment compared to the Fall of 2020. The 7% increase for the Fall 2021 enrollment prompted a revision to the Fall 2022 enrollment projections. Dr. Minnis gave a comprehensive overview of the revised Fall 2022 enrollment projections. The new Fall 2021 established stretch goal is now a total enrollment of 4, 323 students compared to the original stretch goal of an enrollment of 4,185 students.

Again, there ensued significant discussion about VSU being an outlier to state and national trends this year and the need to find ways to cultivate additional sources of revenue support for our students. This year proves the point that VSU has students who want to continue their education and, if funding is provided to allow that, will succeed at VSU. It is up to us to find ways to allow that to happen. The committee also discussed the demographic trends of the next decade and the need to cultivate the reputation of VSU as a place where students can succeed.

Dr. Omar Faison gave a summary of grant submission and grant related financial activity through the end of the first quarter of the fiscal 2022. While proposal submission in the first quarter of FY 2022 trails the same period in FY 21, the number of proposals outpaces all prior years, with 23 proposals submitted. In addition, Sponsored Programs expenditures for first quarter of 2022 is leading all prior years with (\$7.41 million). While, Indirect cost (334K) recovered for the first quarter of 2022 is also leading all prior years.

Mrs. Regina Barnett-Tyler provided a comprehensive overview of the Division of Student Success and Engagement. She provided a recap of the safe and successful 2021 Homecoming “Back on The Hill”

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and noted upcoming activities: 1) Thanksgiving Dinner on Monday November 22, 2021; 2) Christmas Tree Lighting Event on November 29, 2021; 3) Return to Campus for the Spring 2022 Semester; 4) Black History Month-February 2022.

Due to time constraints, the Chair asked Chief David Bragg to hold his report until the February 2022 meeting.

Mr. Hubert Harris presented a resolution for approval of the sale of police officer firearm to retired Lt. Charles Baskerville. The committee voted to recommend approval of the resolution to the full Board.

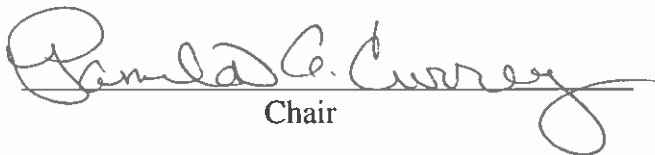
There was no Athletics report. (The VSU champion Cross-Country Team would be presented at the full Board meeting on November 19, 2021.)

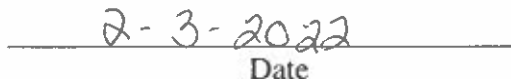
Mr. Maurion Edwards, Chief Information Officer, shared a 60-day assessment of Technology Services with the committee. Going forward, Technology Services will focus on people (services provided and services needed), process, partnering through regular meetings with Student Government leaders, Faculty Senate, and appropriate functional areas), and metrics. Mr. Edwards briefly reviewed a high-level view of the security plan for the VSU technology services.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12 p.m.

Approved:


Chair


Date