

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS  
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
(Thursday, September 12, 2019)**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Pamela Currey, Committee Chair, called the meeting of the Virginia State University (“VSU”) Board of Visitors (“Board”) Academic and Student Affairs Committee to order in the Board Room in Virginia Hall on the campus of Virginia State University at 10:08 am.

**ROLL CALL**

A quorum was present.

*Committee Members Present:*

Ms. Pamela Currey  
Dr. Daryl Dance  
Mr. Charlie Hill  
Mr. Gregory Whirley  
Mr. Huron Winstead, Rector  
Mr. Joshua Hines, Student Representative  
Dr. Zoe Spencer, Faculty Representative

*Committee Members Absent:*

Mr. Wayne Turnage  
Mr. Xavier Richardson

*Administration Present:*

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President  
Dr. Donald Palm, Provost/ Sr. Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs  
Mr. Hubert Harris, Vice President of Administration  
Dr. G. Dale Wesson, Vice President, Research and Economic Development  
Mr. Rodney Hall, Asst. Vice President, Enrollment Management  
Dr. Jame’l Hodges, Associate VP, Student Success and Engagement  
Dr. Tia Minnis, Associate Vice Provost/Ex. Director, Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness  
Dr. Annie C. Redd, Special Assistant to the President and Board Liaison

*Legal Counsel Present:*

Ms. Ramona L. Taylor, University Legal Counsel Board of Visitors

*Other Attendees:*

Ms. Cynthia D. Baker, Student Success and Engagement  
Mrs. Tanya Simmons, HR Director  
Ms. Malika Blume, Internal Audit  
Ms. Sheila Alves, Internal Audit

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*Other Attendees (continued)*  
Mr. Marlo Green, Internal Audit  
Dr. Michael Powell, IT

### **AGENDA APPROVED**

The Committee approved the agenda for the September 12, 2019 Committee meeting

### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The Committee approved the minutes from the April 24, 2019 Committee meeting.

### **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

The President spoke on the US News World Report and where VSU ranked in this report. VSU is currently ranked 41<sup>st</sup> on Best Value and 5<sup>th</sup> in Best Social Mobility. The President further explained that Social Mobility was the ability to move local income from lowest 20% to highest 20%.

### **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Administration**

Mr. Hubert Harris stated he would be speaking on Athletics and Police and Safety. Mr. Harris noted that the CIAA Cross Country was holding a meet today at VSU. During Parents Weekend VSU football team would be hosting UNC. Mr. Harris noted that Coach Lonnie Blow Jr. received the HBCU Coach of the Year.

Athletics in the community included the Woo Woo Cheerleading Squad's participation in the Welcome Back to School (1<sup>st</sup> day of school) in the surrounding areas; Reading to elementary students for Dr. Seuss Day; and Mentorship rolls in the elementary, middle, and high school settings.

Mr. Harris then spoke on the VSU Police Department Community Policing initiatives which included a police internship program, homecoming planning, Rape Aggressive Defense (R.A.D.) Training, New Student Orientation, and Active Shooter Preparedness Training for faculty, staff, and students. He also stated that 2019 YTD Crime Statistics show that VSU is pacing ahead, or in other words, behind this year versus last year especially in the areas of larceny and burglary.

In response to questions as to what the University is doing to increase student awareness of being physically fit, Dr. Palm indicated that he will meet with the Director of Student Health to discuss how we become a healthy campus or recognized as a healthy campus. He has been advised of an old proposal, and he will ask to review it and determine how to get students and faculty involved.

Student Representative Joshua Hines expressed concerns about the limited facilities and space especially in Daniel Gym and the Multipurpose Center, usually reserved for athletes, along with concerns about food choices. Dr. Spencer, Faculty Representative, stated that the food in the

cafeteria has been changed to healthier foods. Dr. Hodges shared information about changes and incentives he received as a member of VSU Health/Wellness Advisory Board. President Abdullah concurred about the size and limitations of Daniel Gym. Mr. Davenport advised about dinners with the Dean of Students and Director of Thompson Hospitality that are held monthly for students to make suggestions about food choices. Mr. Harris indicated that he has one action item-- Resolution for Approval to Sell Police Officer Firearm to retired DPPS Officer.

**Academic Affairs and Student Affairs**

Mr. Rodney Hall gave an update on the fall 2019 enrollment as of September 10, 2019 and provided the following data.

**Fall 2019 Undergraduate Admissions Report.**

	Fall 17	Fall 18	Fall 19
Submitted Apps			19,568
Admits			7,411
Engaged			2007
Deposits			1131
Validated			1045

**Transfers**

	Fall 17	Fall 18	Fall 19
Submitted Apps			1113
Admits			399
Engaged			312
Deposits			236
Validated			218

Mr. Hall advised that the academic profile of students is about even, with SAT Median of 2.87, and 2.9 of GPA. Discussion followed about the academic profiles and quality of students. President Abdullah stated that VSU was moving away from standardized testing. Dr. Palm advised that first time freshmen were assessed in Math @ orientation and analysis of math scores from this summer math assessments were conducted.

Dr. Palm advised that 4,252 validated as of yesterday compared to last year 4,257 and that the Division of Finance budgeted for 4,363. Students pending validation are allowed to attend class. Mr. Davenport advised that VSU should be on point budget wise. Discussion followed regarding the projection model, validation of students, and changes in financial aid award policies in 2014. Dr. Palm also spoke on validation in regards to on campus housing, and he presented year to date comparison data regarding occupancy in residence halls and the University Apartments at Ettrick (UAE) as follows:

**VSU Residents Validated**

September 11, 2018	2478	% Occupied	88%
September 10, 2019	2586	% Occupied	92%

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VSU and UAE Residents Validated

September 11, 2018	2823	% Occupied	88%
September 10, 2018	2912	% Occupied	91%

Dr. Hodges shared some notable and recent achievements by VSU student leaders in the Student Government Association and the Royal Court. Joshua Hines, 2019-2020 SGA President, conducted research on Chinese Hamster Ovarian (CHO) cells at Delaware State University for 10 weeks with the goal to lower cost of bio pharmaceuticals. Samuel Sarkodie, 2019-2020 SGA Vice President SGA, was elected as the International Collegiate Member at Large, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Fredricks Sanders, the 29th Mr. VSU and Dayana Lee, the 91<sup>st</sup> Miss VSU, along with other members of the VSU Royal Court attended the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual HBCU Kings & Queens Conference in New Orleans, LA. Miss VSU place in the top five in the Queens Competition.

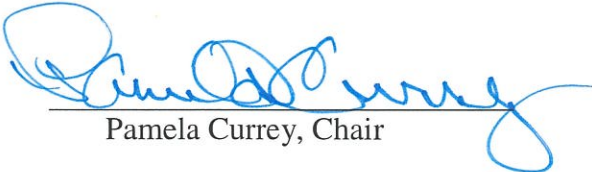
Mr. Casey Perry, Director of Student Activities, and Dr. Kelvin Rachell, Dean of Students, conducted Student and Greek Leadership Retreat in August 2019 with over 200 students in attendance. The Welcome Week activities, Annual *Out in 4* photoshoot, and the Class of 2023 Freshman Induction Ceremony were all attended and successful. Student Representative Joshua Hines also chimed in that Criminal Assault was down 14%.

Dr. Palm presented the six-year graduation rate data for the fall 2010 to 2014 cohorts. The grid also included data for students that graduated in 4 years or less and for students that graduated in 5 years or less. This data showed that the graduation rates for those groups were increasing. Dr. Palm also spoke on the elements in the (Academic) Six Year Plan for 2020-2026, which will require Board approval prior to submission to the State Council for Higher Education of Virginia. The Plan includes recruitment, student success, new degrees and online programs, Agricultural Education, and certificate programs.

Dr. Palm reviewed the Climate Survey Timeline. Discussion followed regarding the goal and focus of the survey, length of the timeline and the process of selecting a vendor, linking the climate survey to the Strategic Plan and the Six-Year Plan, and the role of the Board. Dr. Palm indicated that he had two action items for Board approval—the Resolution for Approval of the (Academic) Six-Year Plan, 2020-2026 and a candidate for tenure, which will be presented in closed session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting of the Committee at 1:03 pm.

  
Pamela Currey, Chair

11-13-19  
Date