

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF VISITORS
MEETING & RETREAT MINUTES
August 11, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Harry Black, Rector, called the meeting of the Virginia State University (“VSU”) Board of Visitors (“Board”) to order in Room A of the Gateway Dining Event Center at approximately 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present.

Board Members Present:

Mr. Harry Black, Rector
Mr. Huron F. Winstead, Vice Rector
Ms. Thursa Crittenden, Secretary
Ms. Pamela Currey
Dr. Darryl C. Dance
Mr. Michael Flemming
Mr. Charlie W. Hill
Dr. Alma C. Hobbs
Ms. Jennifer Hunter
Mr. Paul Koonce
Mr. Xavier Richardson
Mr. Glenn Sessoms
Mr. James Stegmaier
Mr. Wayne Turnage
Mr. Gregory Whirley

Mr. Cody Mitchell Student Representative to the Board
Dr. James Norman, Faculty Representative to the Board

Administration Present:

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President
Dr. Donald Palm, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs
Mr. Hubert Harris, Vice President of Administration
Mr. Kevin Davenport, Vice President of Finance
Dr. Letizia Gambrell-Boone, Vice President of Student Success & Engagement
Ms. Reshunda Mahone, Vice President of Institutional Advancement

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Dr. G. Dale Wesson, Vice President of Research and Economic Development
Mr. Osubi Craig, Special Assistant to the President for Strategic Initiatives and Special Projects
Ms. Pamela Tolson, Director of Communications
Mr. Rodney Hall, Executive Director, Enrollment Services
Ms. Ramona Taylor, Assistant Attorney General & University Legal Counsel (absent)
Dr. Annie C. Redd, Special Assistant to the President and Board Liaison

Other Attendees:

Rev. Delano Douglas, Director, Campus Ministries
Ms. Durba Chatterjee, Associate VP of Institutional Advancement
Dr. Tia Minnis, Associate Provost/Director, Institutional Effectiveness
Mr. Travis Edmonds, Office of Information Technology
Ms. Yourdonus James, Director of Conference Services

OPENING REMARKS

Rector Harry Black invited Rev. Delano Douglas to offer the invocation. Rector Black welcomed new Board member, Mr. Gregory A. Whirley, and the new Student Representative to the Board, Mr. Cody Mitchell.

Rector Black called for approval of the previous minutes from the April 20-21 Board meetings and the June 7th Institutional Advancement Committee meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Rector Black also called for a vote to approve a Resolution of Exemplary Service for former Board member Mr. Frederick Humphries, Jr., whose term ended June 30, 2017. The resolution was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

RECTOR'S REMARKS

None.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Abdullah presented updates on fall 2017 enrollment, faculty academic excellence, HBCU leadership awards, the University report card, as well as the SACSCOC Reaffirmation process and challenges with the budget. The President shared his priorities including the Out in

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Four Program, strengthening partnerships, providing affordable access, and enhancing the VSU Land Grant Mission. President Abdullah also shared his strategy to maximize existing resources to meet long-term and short-term campus space needs.

PRESENTATIONS

At approximately 10:00 a.m., the Board members moved into Room B of the Gateway Dining & Event Center to continue the retreat with the following presentations.

- VSU Opportunities of Excellence from Ms. Jennifer Hunter, Board Member/Chair, Institutional Advancement Committee, and Ms. Reshunda Mahone, Vice President of Institutional Advancement,
- Overview of the Accreditation Process from Dr. Belle Wheelan, President of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC),
- Update on the VSU SACSCOC Reaffirmation process from Dr. Donald Palm, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, and
- The Strategic Planning Process from Mr. Bill Donohue, President/Executive Director of GENEDGE.

The presentations continued until approximately 2:30 p.m. The board members expressed appreciation for the information and expert insights shared with them during the retreat.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Rector adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.




Harry Black, Rector



Date



Thursa D. Crittenden, Secretary



Date

