

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS & STUDENT AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

9:00 AM; THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024

Gateway Dining & Events Center
(on the campus of Virginia State University)
(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER.....Dr. Leonard Haynes, III, Chair

ROLL CALL

INVOCATION (*Pastor Seth Ahmad-McQueen Director of Campus Ministries*)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES (if any)

- November 16, 2023, Committee Meeting

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS.....Dr. Makola M. Abdullah

CLOSED SESSION (if any)

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- First Year Student Success and Retention Initiatives.....Ms. Joyce Ellenwood
Director, Academic Center for Excellence
- Student Success Beyond the First Year and Degree Completion.....Dr. Tia Minnis
Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Student Affairs and Enrollment. Alexis Brooks-Walter
VP, Student Affairs & Enrollment Management
 - Spring Enrollment Update
 - Fire and Life Safety
- 6 –Year Plan Discussion
 - Dr. Tia Minnis, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
 - Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, VP, Student Affairs & Enrollment Management

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Leonard Haynes, Chair, called the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting to order at 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:

Dr. Leonard Haynes, III Chair, (*Virtual*)
Mr. Thomas Cosgrove
Mr. Edward Owens (*Virtual*)
Dr. Robert Denton, Jr.
Ms. Daphne Meeks
Dr. Valerie Brown, Rector (*ex-officio*)

Board Appointees:

Dr. Leonard Githinji, Faculty Representative
Ms. Kailyn Haye, Student Representative

Other Members Present:

Mr. Victor Branch
Dr. Joseph A. F. Chase, Jr.
Ms. Pamela Currey (*9:15 am*)
Ms. Shavonne Gordon (*9:24am*)
Mr. William Murray (*9:10 am*)

Administration Present:

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President
Dr. Tia Minnis, Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs
Mr. Kevin Davenport, Senior Vice President for Finance & Administration/ CFO
Ms. Tonya S. Hall, Vice President for Advancement and External Engagement
Ms. Shawri King-Casey, Vice President for Institutional Integrity & Compliance
Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management
Dr. Annie Redd, Chief of Staff/Director, Board of Operations & Relations

Other Attendees:

Dr. Gwendolyn Dandridge, Asst. Vice President/Director of Communications
Dr. Michelle Corley, Special Assistant to the Provost
Maurion Edwards, CIO/Technology Services

Gilbert Hanzlik, Facilities
Joyce Wilkins, Budget
Corey Scott, Enrollment Mgmt.
Jonathan Taylor, Finance
Adrian Petway, Finance
Kendra White, Office of Compliance/Policy Analyst
Derrick Jennings, Technology Services
Adrian Petway, Associate VP/Finance

INVOCATION

Chair Haynes invited Pastor Seth Ahmad-McQueen to offer the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The committee approved the agenda by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The committee approved the minutes from the November 16, 2023, meeting by voice vote.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Abdullah welcomed the board members back to campus and thanked them for their service to VSU. President Abdullah also acknowledged General Via for attending his first BOV meeting.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT SUCCESS AND RETENTION INITIATIVES

Ms. Joyce Ellenwood, Director of the Academic Center for Excellence, was introduced by Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter. This was Ms. Ellenwood's first presentation to the BOV. A summary of the Academic Center for Excellence's strategic actions and priorities was given by Ms. Ellenwood. These included introducing a summer bridge program for incoming freshmen, utilizing data analytics, setting up an inclusive infrastructure for student advisement, and incorporating more access to academic advisement. Ms. Ellenwood also explained EAB navigation.

STUDENT SUCCESS BEYOND THE FIRST AND DEGREE COMPLETION

Dr. Minnis thanked Ms. Ellenwood for her presentation and continued to address the BOV about the Student Success Project, Beyond the First Year, and Degree Completion. Dr. Minnis' goals included creating a culture of innovation and academic excellence by increasing funding for research activities and scholarly endeavor increasing investment in teaching and learning; faculty development, support, recognition, and rewards; leveraging instructional technology to improve teaching and learning; and fostering meaningful partnerships with the Petersburg community.

STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT UPDATE

Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter provided a quick introduction to Fire and Life safety, as well as information on Spring Enrollment. Dr. Brooks-Walter said, "Safety isn't expensive, it's priceless." The Fire Marshall has made several trips to the University this semester and offered a few recommendations, some of which are still being implemented, but most of them have been accomplished. This included generator load tests, functional smoke

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detectors (ongoing), inspections of life safety systems, broken pull stations in the stairwells (ongoing), broken fire

doors and fire door hardware, sprinkler inspections, and extreme fire lane parking.

Dr. Brooks-Walter reported on 1/11/24 that a small fire occurred in the washer/dryer unit in Williams Hall. Smoke damage was throughout the building, and students were relocated to Comfort Inn. January 12, 2024, ServePro LLC was contracted to mediate clean-up. They sanitized and deodorized the entire structure, which took approximately 2 weeks. New smoke detectors were installed. The building was placed under fire watch and cleared for re-occupation on 1/24/24. Students moved back into the residence hall on 1/26/24. The new fire alarm system was ordered and installed in late February/March. Risk management remains involved.

Dr. Brooks-Walter gave an overview of Spring Enrollment validation. Total students enrolled 3831, as of Spring 2024.

6-YEAR PLAN DISCUSSION

Leading the conversation on the 6-Year Plan was Minnis:

1. Financial Aid Support and Tuition Assistance to Reduce the Cost of Higher Education 2. Together We Achieve Greater – Partnerships with the Petersburg Community 3. Trojan Care - Mental Health and Wellness Initiatives 4. VSU & RBC School of Technical and Professional Studies 5. Leveraging Technology and Artificial Intelligence.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Haynes called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was received, and properly seconded, and the committee voted by voice vote. The Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:24 a.m.

APPROVED:

Levin L. Haynes
Chair

4/25/24
Date