

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
9:00 A.M.; THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022
Gateway Dining & Event Center
(on the campus of Virginia State University)
(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)

DRAFT AGENDA

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)

- April 21, 2022 Committee Meeting

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS Dr. Makola M. Abdullah

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Division of Academic & Student Affairs Dr. Donald E. Palm III
Executive Vice President/Provost
 - Approval Item:
 - Affirmation of the Six-Year Plan
 - Information Items:
 - Enrollment Management Update Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter
Asst. Vice Provost for Enrollment Management
 - VSU Fall 2022 Challenges and Opportunities Dr. Donald E. Palm, III
 - Covid-19 Update/Health & Wellness Update..... Dr. Robert N. Corley
Vice Provost/Director, COVID Response Team
 - Student Success & Engagement Ms. Regina Barnett-Tyler
Assoc. Vice Provost, Student Success & Engagement
 - Police and Public Safety Mr. David Bragg
Assoc. Vice President, Public Safety/Chief of Police

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

All start and ending meeting times are approximate. Meetings may begin after the posted start time at the pleasure of the Board. The Board reserves the right to change its schedule as necessary.

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Pamela Curry, 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:

Ms. Pam Currey, Chair

Dr. Christine Darden

Mr. Thomas Cosgrove

Dr. Leonard Haynes, III (*absent*)

Mr. Edward Owens (*absent*)

Dr. Valerie Brown, (Rector, ex-officio)

Dr. Tracey Jackson (*sitting in for Dr. Leonard Githinji, Faculty Representative*)

Ms. Yania Campbell, Student Representative

Other Members Present:

Dr. Robert Denton, Jr.

Ms. Shavonne Gordon

Dr. Harold Green, Jr.

Mr. Glenn Sessoms

Administration Present:

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President

Dr. Donald Palm, Provost/Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs

Tonya Hall, Vice President for External Relations

Kevin Davenport, Senior Vice President for Finance & Administration/Chief Financial Officer

Shawri King-Casey, Vice President for Institutional Integrity & Compliance

Dr. Annie C. Redd, Chief of Staff/Director, Board Operations & Relations

Dr. Tia Minnis, Vice Provost for Academic Success, Planning & Institutional Effectiveness

Dr. Robert Corley, Vice Provost for Academic and Student Affairs

Dr. Gwendolyn Dandridge, Asst. Vice President/Director of Communications

Maurion Edwards, CIO/Technology Services

Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Assoc. Vice Provost, Enrollment Management

Chief David Bragg, Asst. Vice President/Chief, VSU Police and Public Safety

Tanya Simmons, Associate Vice President for Human Resources

Regina Barnett-Tyler, Associate Vice Provost, Student Success & Engagement

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022**

Page 2

Legal Counsel Present:

Cynthia Norwood Marquez, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Other Attendees:

Yourdonus James, Office of Conference Services

Danette Johnson, President's Office

Debbie Jefferson, President's Office

Marjorie Muse, President's Office

Kendra White, Office of Compliance/Policy Analyst

Franklin Antonio, Technology Services

Derrick Jennings, Technology Services

INVOCATION

Chair Currey invited Pastor Graham 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 April 21, 2022 meeting by voice vote.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Abdullah welcomed the board members back to the campus and thanked them for their service. He thanked Dr. Palm and his team for their diligence and hard work which will be evident in their presentations.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Donald Palm presented the Amended Six Year Plan for the committees to consider recommending it for approval by the Board. Virginia State University submitted an updated Six-Year Plan to consider the new general funds added into the 2022-2024 biennial budget. Virginia State University requested an additional \$13.7M in support of original initiatives that were not funded or fully funded for the initial 2023-2024 budget year. In addition, \$3M in support of Mental Health at Virginia State University was submitted for funding for 2023-2024. A visitor made the motion to recommend affirmation of the Six Year Plan to the full board. The motion was properly seconded, and the committee voted by voice vote.

Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter presented information on validated students, the Academic Center for Excellence, transfer student enrollment, and graduate admissions. To be validated means that these students have provided the means by which their financial obligations will be met. As of the 12th of September, we had 4,503 students validated and since that time another 20 have been validated. Compared to last year we had 3,924 students which represents a 15% increase from last year. New students are up by 61%. We have over 1400 new freshmen and over 300 new transfer students which represent a 61%

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022**

Page 3

increase in new students and in our transfer students. We have the largest number of honor students that we have admitted in recent years. The number of Computer Science and Computer Engineering students are also increasing. Our enrollment census will happen in October at which time our numbers will be finalized. We offered over 300 Academic Scholarships: 107 Provost Scholars, 173 Presidential Scholars and 20 Stem Scholars.

The Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) continues to support retention and progression by using intrusive advising and outreach to help students that need additional support. This year ACE launched a summer bridge program for provisionally admitted students. One hundred twenty-one (121) students from Virginia participated in this program which included high touch interactions with faculty mentors, peer mentors, residence assistance, and academic advisors. We have a number of outreach programs set in place to help students succeed. Our First Year Experience is primarily led by the freshman 101 class wherein we cover all the things needed to make a student successful.

The Department of Admission Transfer Services continues to grow, and that department has two agreements in the works. In addition, the Trojan Alliance Pathway between VSU (College of Business) and Richard Bland College has been completed and finalized.

There has been an increase in Graduate Admissions due to the addition of two new programs, the Master of Education (Online) program and the Master of Social Work (MSW). Additionally, the University admitted 10 students to our Master of Education "I Too Teach" grant funded program, which addresses teacher shortages in Petersburg and Richmond Public Schools. We have an additional 44 applicants waitlisted pending grant funding for 2023 for the "I Too Teach" program. Overall, Graduate Admissions admitted 190 first time graduate students and 35 other than first time graduate students (includes First Time Graduates final stage). The first agreement is with California Community Colleges to include four program matches (biology, business, chemistry and criminal justice). The second agreement is an updated VSU and Virginia's Community College Guaranteed Admission Agreement.

The Financial Aid Office partnered with the Admissions Office to increase the number of students who submitted the \$100 enrollment deposit with additional outreach support. In addition, the Financial Aid Office collaborated with VSU Institutional Advancement and Finance Teams to award Essay Scholarships and more University Scholarships for students with 3.00 GPA or higher.

Dr. Palm presented an update on the Retention Rate. Retention rates are measured by cohorts comprised of a specific group of first-time, full-time freshmen who enter in a fall semester, complete that year, and return to the same institution for a second year. The retention rate is calculated as a percentage of the group that originally matriculated. VSU's retention rate is currently being calculated and will be completed at the end of the validation period. Graduation rates are measured in much the same way as retention rates; i.e., they follow a cohort of first-time freshmen who graduated in four years, five years, and six years.

The six-year rate is used for federal reporting because federal financial aid eligibility (12 semesters) is 150% of the time normally needed to complete a bachelor's degree (four years). VSU current graduation rate is 36%.

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022**

Page 4

Dr. Robert Corley presented an update from the COVID-19 Response Team. A university wide 17-member team responsible for responding to daily COVID-19 issues was established in January of 2021. As of September 15, 2022, Center for Disease Control COVID-19 reported that community levels for Colonial Heights, Chesterfield, Hopewell, and Petersburg are at a medium. COVID-19 is now considered to be one of several illnesses that Virginia State University employees and students will manage on a daily basis during the fall 2022 semester.

Virginia State University has put in place an Operational Guidelines for Managing COVID-19 on campus for any student who may test positive:

1. VSU students, staff or faculty who test positive for COVID-19 need to isolate and not attend in-person classes on activities for at least five days.
2. Faculty should accommodate students who need to miss class for a short period of time, as with any other illness.
3. As a community we must respect the medical privacy of others who have tested positive for COVID-19 or have been identified as a close contact.
4. If an employee feels capable to work and their position allows them to work remotely, they can coordinate with their supervisor, dean or chair as appropriate.

Mental Health days have been incorporated into the university calendar with more days than last year. Yania Campbell, SGA Representative, announced the hosting of the first Town Hall Meeting in which the implementation of Wellness Days was discussed with both students and Faculty. Additional proactive measures have been put into place for the safety and protection of both students, faculty and staff.

Regina Barnett-Tyler shared updates from Student Success and Engagement. Visitor Currey notified VSU about the opportunity to apply for the Family U Grant. The grant request was submitted and ultimately awarded to Virginia State University. The two HBCU's in this cohort are Virginia State University and Norfolk State University. Family U grant was founded by Generation of Hope in efforts to increase resources for student parents who are attending our University. This is one of the programs that supports one of the President's initiatives of supporting single parent families. We also applied for another grant called Child Care Access Meets Parent's in School which provides resources for single parents.

Ms. Barnett-Tyler shared the timeline used relative to fall 2022 preparations for residence life and housing, and she gave an overview of challenges and opportunities that ranged from repairs and upgrades to increased staffing to engage the student body. She ended the presentation with a detailed look at the housing data, which included the campus residence halls, University Apartments at Ettrick, off-site housing at Richard Bland College. and local hotels (Comfort Inn and Hampton Inn).

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022**

Page 4

Chief David Bragg presented information on Campus Safety and Security Measures implemented by the VSU Department of Police and Public Safety.

- Increased foot, vehicle, and bike patrols by VSU Police.
- Staffed each residence hall with security staff from RMC Events Security Services, Inc.
- Used deterrent Police Vehicles.
- Ordered additional portable camera system to parking lots and/or areas of concern.
- Ordered additional lighting with the use of portable light towers.
- Provided brochures and pamphlets that contain safety tips, emergency phone numbers, and available resources.
- Assisted Residence Life and Housing with Health and Safety inspections in the residence halls.
- Assigned one VSU Police Officer to University Apartments at Ettrick (UAE) from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. each day. UAE continued to staff 2 security Officers on the premises.
- Requested Chesterfield County Police Department to conduct property checks.
- Conducted Town Hall security meetings and held community policing events for the residents of UAE
- Ordered additional portable camera system to UAE parking lots and /or areas of concern

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Currey called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was received, properly seconded, and the committee voted by voice vote. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date