

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
9:00 A.M.; THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024
Gateway Dining & Events Center
(on the campus of Virginia State University)
(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)
DRAFT AGENDA**

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

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES (if any)

- February 8, 2024

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

CLOSED SESSION (if any)

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Academic Affairs Updates.....Dr. Tia A. Minnis
Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- College of Humanities and Social Studies, Overview.....Dr. Isis Walton
Dean, College of Humanities
- Spring Enrollment Updates.....Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter
Asst. Vice Provost for Enrollment Management
- FASFA Update.....Ms. Myra Phillips
Director of Financial Aid

OTHER
BUSINESS
ADJOURN
MENT

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Haynes, Chair, called the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting to order at 9:00am. 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
Mr. Edward Owens
Mr. William Murray
Mr. Jon Moore
Mr. Victor Branch

Dr. Leonard Githinji, Faculty Representative

Other Members Present:

Dr. Valerie Brown
Ms. Shavonne Gordon
Ms. Pamela Currey
Mr. Thompson Cosgrove
Dr. Robert Denton, Jr.
Dr. Harold Green, Jr.
Dr. Joseph A. F. Chase, Jr.
Ms. Daphne Meeks
Mr. Kishore Thota

Administration Present:

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President
Dr. Tia Minnis, Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs
Tonya Hall, Vice President for External Relations

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Kevin Davenport, Senior Vice President for Finance & Administration/ Chief Financial Officer
Shawri King-Casey, Vice President for Institutional Integrity & Compliance
Dr. Annie Redd, Chief of Staff/Director, Board of Operations & Relations
Dr. Robert Corley, Dean, College of Agriculture
Dr. Gwendolyn Dandridge, Assistant Vice President/Director of Communications
Dr. Michelle Corley, Special Assistant to the Provost
Derrick Jennings, Interim CIO/Technology Services
Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Vice President for Enrollment Management
Dr. Tracey Barley, Vice Provost for Digital Learning & Extended Studies
Chief David Bragg, Assistant Vice President/Chief, VSU Police and Public Safety

INVOCATION

Chair Haynes invited Pastor Seth Ahmed-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 February 8, 2024 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 the faculty and staff for their fantastic work during the Spring semester and academic year.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ACCREDITATION

Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Minnis gave a report on the university's accomplishments and accreditation. The United States Department of Education (USDE) recognizes the Southern Association of Colleges and School Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), the school regulatory body, which also serves as the gatekeeper for Title IV, which covers financial aid. Dr. Minnis's presentation covered the prerequisites for each university as well as how the university keeps its accreditation. VSU is authorized to award doctorate, master's, and bachelor's degrees.

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FIFTH YEAR INTERIM REPORT

In the fifth-year review, 22 standards were confirmed to be in continuous compliance. Dr. Minnis discussed the standards that were examined, the university's compliance record, and potential review results.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

There are now 164 students enrolled in the 26 courses offered by VSU Coursera Career Academy, along with 104 instructors and staff members. There are online Linked-in Learning courses offered in the areas of workforce development and career preparedness. Employer-sponsored tuition aid as well as traditional and online programs are promoted through the Workforce Edge platform. Additional programs include the IBM skills build, the IBM HBCU all freshman project, and the skills common academy. VSU is recognized as a Military Friendly Institution. The Employee Degree Attainment Program (EDAP), which will provide graduate-level degree tuition support, is currently in launch.

Academic highlights for the College of Agriculture were presented by Dr. Robert Corley, Dean. Recent news stories about the College of Agriculture have focused on Dean Corley's address to the Farm Bureau Board of Directors, the college's partnership with Petersburg Public Schools, the Small Farm Outreach program, which was recognized as a Project of Excellence, and the college's hosting of the 2nd Annual Ag Festival.

Academic highlights for the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business were presented by Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun, Dean of the Regional F. Lewis College of Business. Dean Omojokun gave an update on the notable successes of the faculty, students, and curricular integration of artificial intelligence.

Academic highlights for the College were presented by Dr. Willis Walter, Dean of the College of Education. The following projects are currently in progress: The hybrid I Too Teach (teacher residence grant) two programs that address the teacher shortage in the neighboring cities and counties include the Education Resident Opportunity (HERO) program and the VSUTEACH program, which has grown from 4 to 36 STEM education minors. In Ireland, Drs. Michelle Belle, Ayana Conway, Tracy Walker, and Michelle Johnson presented their findings.

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The College of Engineering and Technology's Dean, Dr. Dawit Haile, presented the college's academic highlights. The two newly introduced degree programs are the MS in Data Analytics and the BS in Mechanical Engineering. Students have been given the chance to take part in the

Dominion Energy Hands-on Student training, the BEYA conference in Baltimore, MD, and the NSBE conference in Atlanta. VSU hosted the inaugural Robotics championship. The university's quantum lab, which will include courses in quantum computing, cryptography, and sensing, is being constructed by the college.

The College of Natural and Health Sciences' Dean, Dr. Isis Walton, gave a presentation on the achievements of her institution. The psychology department filed its application for accreditation, and the nursing program underwent its accreditation procedure. The largest college at VSU, Dr. Walton thanked her professors and staff with pride for their service to the students. With 1200 majors, the college enrolls 25% of all students. Dr. Walton gave an overview of her college's departments, programs, and minors.

The college operates the John Mercer Langston Institute, the Center of Policing Leadership and Social Justice, and the Center for Creative and Entertainment Arts. She recognized the accomplishments of Dr. Latorial Faison, Assistant Professor; Dr. Wes Bellamy, Chair of the Political Science & Public Administration, Dr. Christin Haynes, Assistant Professor of Social Work, Dr. Cheryl Mango, Associate Professor, Department of History, Jermaine King, Associate Professor of the Department of Languages & Literature, Dr. Lenneal Henderson received the 2024 Citizen Diplomat Award recipient, Chris Waugaman, Assistant Professor of Mass Comm received the Joseph M. Murphy award for Outstanding Service to the CSPA, students Joshua Branch-Howell and Clarence Clark, IV were honored at the Inaugural African American Women's Museum of Art and History, Deja Farquharson-Carter participated in Japan with the JET program, and there were many other accomplishments for both the students and faculty. The Musical department has traveled and gotten many accolades around the nation and the world.

Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management reported on the university's applications and enrollment for Fall 2024. Open House was successful and they received a 98% excellent or good. Instituted Fall 2024 Trojan Ready days to help students to address all of their needs such as financial aid and enrollment. It was a one stop shop to make the Fall 2024 transition easier and seamless.

Myra Phillips, Director of Financial Aid, gave an outline of her financial aid office staff. She gave an update on the FAFSA regulations and shared the delays they have received in processing FAFSA applications. Her office has received over 8,000 2024-2025 applications.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Haynes 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 approximately 11:45am.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date