

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
9:00 A.M.; Thursday, November 19, 2020
(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)**

**DRAFT AGENDA
(As of 11.12.2020)**

- CALL TO ORDER Ms. Pamela Currey, Chair
- ROLL CALL
- INVOCATION
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES (if any)
- PRESIDENT’S REMARKS Dr. Makola M. Abdullah
- REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
 - Division of Academic & Student Affairs Dr. Donald Palm, Sr. VP/Provost & Team Members

Approval Items (None)

Information Items:
 - Spring 2021 Re-Opening Plan
 - Enrollment
 - Retention Rate
 - Student Success Initiatives
 - SCHEV Performance Measures
 - Police and Public Safety Mr. Hubert D. Harris
Chief of Staff
- OTHER BUSINESS
- ADJOURNMENT

***All start times for committees are approximate. Meetings may begin either before or after the posted approximate start time as committee members are ready to proceed. Meetings may also end either before or after the posted time. The Board reserves the right to change its schedule as needed.*

11.10.2020

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
ELECTRONIC ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
9:00 AM; Thursday, November 19, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Pamela Currey, Chair, called the Electronic Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held via Cisco Web Ex.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present.

Committee Members Present:

Ms. Pamela Currey, Chair
Dr. Christine Darden
Mr. Charlie Hill
Mr. William Murray
Mr. Xavier Richardson
Mr. Wayne Turnage (*absent*)
Mr. Gregory Whirley
Mr. Huron Winstead, Rector
Dr. Ceslav Ciobanu, Faculty Representative to the Board
Mr. Kameron Gray, Student Representative to the Board

Administration Present:

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President
Dr. Donald Palm, Provost/Sr. Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs
Mr. Hubert Harris, Chief of Staff
Mr. Rodney Hall, Associate Vice President, Enrollment Management
Mrs. Regina Barnett-Tyler, Interim Associate Vice President, Student Success and Engagement
Dr. Tia Minnis, Assoc. Vice Provost/Ex. Dir., Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness
Mr. Kevin Davenport, Vice President for Finance & Administration/Chief Financial Officer
Dr. Annie C. Redd, Special Assistant to the President and Board Liaison

Legal Counsel Present:

Ms. Deb Love, Office of the State Attorney General

Other Attendees:

Ms. Cynthia D. Baker, Student Success and Engagement
Ms. Danika Clemmons, Student Health Services
Ms. Yourdonus James, Conference Services
Mr. Travis Edmonds, Technology Services

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Currey gave an overview of today's full agenda acknowledging that there were no new items to approve and also highlighting the area set aside to discuss the SCHEV reporting. Additional discussion will take place on Friday, November 20, 2020 when SCHEV staff will be present to answer any questions from the full board.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The committee approved the minutes from the September 18, 2020 meeting by roll call vote.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Abdullah introduced Dr. Ceslav Ciobanu, the new Faculty Senate Chair and the new Faculty Representative to the Board. Dr. Ciobanu, Professor of Economics and Coordinator of Economics Programs had worked at VSU for 16 years. Dr. Ciobanu earned his academic degrees from Moscow State University.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Donald Palm brought greetings to the Board and acknowledged the planned full agenda to include Spring 2021 Reopening plan, SCHEV Performance Measures, Enrollment, Retention Rate, and Student Success Initiatives. Dr. Palm then introduced Mrs. Danika Clemmons, Director for Student Health Services to present the reopening plan for Spring 2021. Mrs. Clemmons acknowledged the collaboration of partners such as Virginia Department of Health, Bon Secours, VACUMD, and Internal partners regarding the reopening plan. She highlighted (4) focal areas and included key elements of the reopening plan.

1. Repopulation of the Campus –

- Training modules to Faculty, Staff, Students
- Student Health Services Handbook
- Calendar to Reopen (Students move in mid to late January) with a planned reopening date of February 1, 2021.

2. Monitoring health conditions to detect infection

- Testing of students during Move in (Rapid and PCR Antigen). Rapid testing takes about 15 minutes to return results and could present false negatives and false positives while the PCR Antigen could take days to weeks for results but with more affirmative information.
- Faculty and Staff strongly encouraged to go to Primary Care or Urgent Care to obtain COVID test
- Surveillance testing will be at 15% population of faculty, staff, and students.
- Temperature checks and screenings provided by self-monitoring (paper format) and Hands free temperature screening stations in high traffic areas.

3. Containment to prevent Spread of the Disease when detected

- Isolation/Quarantine quarters will be in Whiting Hall (55 individual spaces)
- Students have the option to return home or isolate in Whiting Hall. Will sign document if choose to go home acknowledging the potential risk of their return home. Must obtain a clearance from physician before returning to campus.
- Student Health to acquire additional staffing
- Trained contract tracers outside of VDH
- Separate locations for sick/well visits
- Campus Dashboard created with daily updates
- Strongly encouraging everyone to download COVID Wise App.

4. Shutdown considerations

- Continuous review of current COVID 19 numbers statewide and campus wide regarding spikes and/or elevations
- Review of statewide restrictions and consultation with VDH state Epidemiologist, local government, orders per the Governor, and state guideline changes, in addition to If the (55) individual spaces in Whiting Hall have been filled to capacity with verified COVID 19 cases.

Ms. Clemmons responded to Visitors' comments and questions that the VSU plan is in compliance with Virginia guidelines and best practices of other higher education institutions relative to the overall plan, sample testing, surveillance testing, and temperature kiosks.

Dr. Palm discussed the SCHEV report and explained how SCHEV evaluates state institutions. SCHEV evaluates biannually and reports are generated only on the even year for (6) performance measure. VSU was evaluated on 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 in year 2020. Dr. Palm advised that measures 1-4 are actual measures presented to SCHEV by VSU and not from SCHEV, while measures for 5-6 are based on average comparisons. What VSU is truly at fault for in measures 1-4 is for overreaching in their efforts in making projections.

1. Performance Measure 1 (the number of in-state undergraduate headcount enrollment)
2. Performance Measure 2 (the number of in-state bachelor degree awards)
3. Performance Measure 3 (in-state STEM-H bachelor degree awards)
4. Performance Measure 4 (the number of in-state, upper level sophomore level for two-year institutions and junior and senior level for four-year institutions-program-placed, full time equivalent students)
5. Performance Measure 5 (the number of in-state bachelor degrees awarded to students from underrepresented populations)
6. Performance Measure 6 (the number of in-state two year transfers to four-year institution)

Dr. Palm then presented data specifically breaking down per performance measure and year and the results. He advised the Board that VSU has been diligently working with SCHEV regarding a remediation plan and a lot of the items in the plan were and have already been addressed in VSU's strategic plan. Dr. Palm highlighted Initiatives, systems, and processes already instituted to support the measures such as the following:

- Out in Four
- Transfer Initiatives (Trojan Alliance Program, Transfer Equivalency Website)
- Degree Audits
- High-Tech/High-Touch Advising System
- Enhance and Tailored Student Success Initiatives
- Early Alert System – Monitoring Student Progression (EAB)
- Implementation of Academic Support Counselors and Graduation Specialist in each College.
- Supplemental instructional programs to support students' academic progress and progression.

Dr. Palm advised the need to slow the pace and utilize the predictive analytical tools currently in place to enhance projections.

- Predictive Analytics (Institutional Research)
- EAB/Student Success Collaborative
- Early Alert Systems
- Degree Works –Degree Audits
- Engage in strategic efforts focused on our in-state populations.

Discussion followed to clarify the SCHEV procedure in reporting and evaluation and discuss if/how the report may impact SACSCOC accreditation, financial benefits, and future enrollment projections. The Dr. Palm will include updates on the progress of the remediation plan in future meetings.

Mr. Rodney Hall presented enrollment updates and data for fall 2020, spring 2021, and fall 2021. He advised at this time it is not unusual for those numbers for fall 2021 to be low. Mr. Hall then presented updates and shared information on recruitment initiatives, plans, and events.

- Transfer Equivalency Website
- Virtual Recruitment Events
- Trojan Transfer Days (December 2020 and February 2021)
- VSU Open House on November 21, 2020
- Video Messaging (NEW)

Dr. Palm noted the fall 2020 enrollment data with Fall 2020 enrollment being 4,020 with the breakdown of new undergraduates, new graduate students, returning undergraduates, and returning graduate students. Dr. Palm spoke on the retention rate providing data regarding the 2019 new full time (First Time in College) students as 1065 vs those students who returned for a 2nd year as 666. For a retention rate of 63%. Dr. Palm advised that this number was more towards the 58% range but actually increased in spite of COVID 19.

Dr. Palm then introduced Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walters, Executive Director for Academic Center for Excellence (ACE), who provided an overview of Strategic Initiatives. Dr. Brooks-Walters followed up on shared retention initiatives and some factors behind them.

- Institutional environment
- Student Success dependent upon academic and student affairs
- Different populations
- Campus is student centered

Dr. Brooks Walters also shared information about the ACE Strategic Initiatives.

Strategy 1-Entry and Transitions

- Mandatory Orientation (either online or in person)
- Enrollment in first year experience FRST 101
- Selection of Major (requirement)
- Utilization of Super Strong/Myers Briggs testing

Strategy 2-Community Building

- Develop Summer Bridge Program
- Expand Living Learning community to include (4) groups
 - Engineering
 - Education
 - Medical Scholars
 - Honors
- Participation in GroupMe chats

Strategy 3-Learning and Academic support

- Early alerts
- Interventions
- Smart Thinking usage October 1 – October 31

Strategy 4-Counseling and Advising

- Counseling and Advising
- Intrusive Advising
- Financial Aid advising
- Wellness

Strategy 5 Data and Communication: EAB

Strategy 6 Specific College Level Retention Strategies: Project success Initiatives

Dr. Palm informed the Committee of the new program submissions to SCHEV advising that in October, the MSW Social Work was approved. Programs being submitted in December for May approval include the following:

- MBA Business Admin and Management
- MS Data Analytics Engineering
- Ed. S Education Specialist
- BS Sports Management

Dr. Palm introduced Mrs. Regina Barnett-Tyler to give updates on the Division of Student Success and Engagement initiatives and plans for the spring 2021.

- Finalization of the student move in process
- Finalization of the Isolations/Quarantine quarters planned for Whiting Hall
- All students must be validated prior to move in; therefore, the Move in checklist has also been advised and should be sent out soon to students
- VSU Stop the Spread Agreement has been updated and finalized
- A practice Move in will occur on December 1, 2020 with the return of the Basketball teams to campus
- The planning of Spring 2021 Welcome Week
- Student Town Hall and Parent Town Halls to occur prior to student return to address questions and concerns
- Trojan Triple Threat (Mister and Miss VSU Pageant, Virtual Step Show, and Gospel Chorale Concert).
- Meals are set up for the Isolation/Quarantine Halls. Meals to be delivered by Thompson Hospitality 3x a day based on the student meal plan. Preparation of snack kits, water will be available in Residence rooms, and Student Health Services for monitoring via telehealth and UCC Services will be available and provided. Will have opportunity to go outside away from community for wellness.
- SSE Observation of various causes in the month of October to include Breast Cancer, LGBTQ
- SGA Joint Administration and SGA Town Hall held
- Freshmen elections currently in progress.

Mr. Hubert Harris gave a brief update on the Technology stipend; 2695 students received the stipend for an average of \$480.00 per student. The amount awarded totaled \$1.2 million dollars. The awards were for utilization of various technology items.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chair called for a motion to be given for adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Approved*

Pamela A. Currey (acr)

2/4/21

Pamela A. Currey, Chair

Date

***Approved by the Academic & Student Affairs Committee at its virtual meeting on February 4, 2021**