

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
ELECTRONIC COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
VIA CISCO WEBEX
9:00 A.M., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021
(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)**

AGENDA

- 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
 - Computer Science Initiative Update..... Dr. Dawit Haile
Dean, College of Engineering and Technology/
College of Health and Natural Sciences
 - Enrollment Management Update..... Mr. Rodney Hall
Asst. VP, Enrollment Management
 - Academic & Student Affairs Division Update Dr. Donald Palm
Senior VP, Academic & Student Affairs/Provost
 - Strategic Plan Update
 - VSU SCHEV Education Performance Measures Plan
 - Spring 2021 Re-Opening Plan
 - 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.*

1.28.21

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
ELECTRONIC ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
9:00 AM; Thursday, February 4, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Pamela Currey, Chair, called the Electronic Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting to order at approximately 9:15 a.m. The meeting was conducted via Cisco Web Ex Meeting.

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 (*absent*)
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. 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
Dr. Robert Corley, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Mr. Kevin Davenport, Vice President for Finance & Administration/Chief Financial Officer
Dr. Gwendolyn Dandridge, Director of Communications
Dr. Annie C. Redd, Special Assistant to the President and Board Liaison

Legal Counsel Present:

Ms. Deborah 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

Chairperson Currey gave an overview of today's full agenda acknowledging that there were no new items to recommend approval to the full board.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The committee approved the minutes from the November 19, 2020 meeting by roll call vote.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Abdullah welcomed the board members to the Academic and Student Affairs committee meeting and noted the lengthy agenda for today. The President acknowledged the student move in and testing processes and the start of classes on Monday, February 1, 2021 although there were a few hiccups not related to COVID. The President thanked the contributing departments.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Palm brought greetings to the Board and introduced Dr. Dawit Haile, Dean of the College of Engineering and Technology and Dr. Pamela Leigh-Mack, Chair of the College of Engineering and Technology. Dr. Haile presented updates on the initiatives with computer science and the proposal to enhance graduation numbers in Computer Engineering and Computer Science.

Dr. Haile shared the mission statement for the College of Engineering and Technology and cited there were 73 programs within four departments: Department of Engineering, Department of Computer Science, Department of Applied Engineering Technology, and Department of Mathematics and Economics. Dr. Haile highlighted data and accomplishments from the College such as

- Enrollment ratio, graduation ratio, and student to faculty ratio.
- ABET Accreditation
- Graduation trends and key attributes of advising/mentoring, research experiences and internships.
- Opportunities
- Accelerated graduate programs with Virginia Tech
- Summer Interns
- Job placement
- Key distinctions of VSU programs and The Equity Gap.

Dr. Leigh-Mack presented the highlights of the proposal: 1) Provide financial incentives, 2) Establishment of a strong bridge program, 3) Enhancement of program capacity, 4) Constitution of a support team.

Discussion followed with Visitors echoing the importance of internships and the transition into the workforce and acknowledging lots of great information and why this program was selected. Visitors asked if the presentation could be made available to board members to provide the opportunity to study further to compare VSU proposal vs other colleges.

Dr. Palm then introduced Mr. Rodney Hall to provide updates on Enrollment Management. Mr. Hall provided tentative enrollment data for spring 2021 as registration is ongoing. He advised that the overall projection would be flat while also advising that current data for Fall 2021 would be lower than previous 2 years. Mr. Hall then shared updates on Enrollment plans, Recruitment Plan, Transfer Center, and New Appointments. Mr. Hall spoke on the area of recruitment of Latino students with the VA Latino Higher Education Network (VALHEN). This association will bring about the opportunity for an admissions counselor specifically for Spanish speaking students and families.

Recruitment Plan Application Growth

- Virtual on-site admission
- Self-reported academic history
- Admission Pros

Merit Scholarships and Financial Aid

New Scholarship Matrix

VCAN (Virginia College Affordability Network)

Transfer Students-

Founders Scholarship

New articulation agreements

Statesman--Trojan Alliance with Richard Bland College

Transfer Center

- Centralized area for transfer recruitment and credit evaluation
- Articulation agreements management
- Transfer program contact
- HBCU (California Community College) Partner

New Appointment and Positions

- Executive Director of Admissions
- Director of Transfer Center
- VCAN positions: Admission Operational staff

Dr. Palm advised that he would update the Board of Visitors on the VSU Spring 2021 reopening, the VSU Strategic Plan Updates and would address the VSU SCHEV Education Performance Measures remediation plan. Mrs. Regina Barnett-Tyler would give an update on Student Affairs/Student Success and Engagement.

Dr. Palm advised the committee that VSU had presented the Spring 2021 reopening plan to SCHEV and it was accepted. He expressed thanks to the Reopening Task Force Committee that was comprised of various departments throughout VSU. Dr. Palm cited several staff for their efforts with this plan; Dr. Corley for heading the University COVID Response Teams, Dr. Clemmons and Mrs. Barnett-Tyler for their co-partnership in heading the COVID Care Team, and the VSU external partnership with Virginia Dept. of Health and Bon Secours.

Dr. Palm advised the Board on the successful town hall meetings with parents/students as well as faculty and staff. He also noted successes achieved: Distributed PPE with the assistance of Jane Harris and the Facilities staff; Identified and Established Testing Procedures to include Rapid/PCR; Established capacity to Isolate Students (Whiting Hall); Identified adequate space for social distancing in Student Housing, Classrooms, and Dining; and provided options for Faculty and Staff with Pre-existing Conditions including telework.

Examples of work performed by Facilities include:

- PPE Campus Distributions
- Welcome Kits
- FT custodial staff for Student Health
- Electrostatic Sprayers
- Disinfect and professional clean between classes
- Building and Infrastructure

Dr. Palm advised on the successful return of student athletes although teams are not competing at this time. Dr. Clemmons, Director of Student Health to speak further on the steps regarding:

- repopulation of the campus,
- monitoring of health conditions to detect infection
- containment to prevent the spread of the disease if detected
- Shut down in the event it becomes necessary.

Dr. Palm then addressed the board on updates regarding:

- VSU Strategic Plan-Six-year plan – Recruitment; Student Success; Education; University specific initiatives restored

Dr. Palm stated that AY 2019-2020 and AY 2020-2021 will be reviewed. Fall 2022 and those numbers are already low and will be lower still but SCHEV is aware of those projections. Next cycle 2021-2022 through 2028- 2029. Discussion followed with Dr. Palm stating that VSU is not on probation due to academic measures but due to audit of finance. VSU is not in danger of losing funding for Fall 2022 because of the probation.

Dr. Palm then introduced Mrs. Regina Barnett-Tyler, Interim AVP for Student Success and Engagement. Mrs. Barnett-Tyler addressed the following:

- Town Hall meetings held for students and parents
- Spring 2021 Move in video
- Stop the Spread Agreement provided and signed at Move In
- Isolation/Quarantine Hall (Whiting Hall) can hold up to 55 people
- Four students elected to go home after testing positive and the other 6 remained on campus.
- Trojan COVID Response Team (TCRT)
- LiveSafe APP to be implemented
- RLH
- Student Activities
 - Community Engagement
 - Student Engagement
 - Student Conduct
 - Student Leadership and Civic Engagement
- TRIO programs-grant applications due for ETS and EOC for renewal for 5 years. Upward Bound, ETS, and EOC continue to service 1588 students virtually. New SSS grant was awarded to VSU and will serve 140 LIFG VSU students manually. Hiring of New SSS Director.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Currey adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

Approved:

Pamela A. Currey (acr)

4.23.21

Pamela A. Currey, Chair

Date