

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT
VIRTUAL MEETING
1:00 p.m., November 19, 2020
(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)**

**AGENDA
(as of 11.12.2020)**

- CALL TO ORDERMr. Xavier Richardson, Chair
- ROLL CALL
- INVOCATION (*Mrs. Charmica Epps Harris*)
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES (if any)
- PRESIDENT’S REMARKS Dr. Makola M. Abdullah
- REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
 - Sponsored ProgramsDr. M. Omar Faison, Associate VP,
Research, Economic Dev. & Graduate Studies
 - Government Relations UpdateMr. Eldon Burton, Director
 - Communications Update Dr. Gwendolyn Dandridge, Interim Director
 - Institutional Advancement UpdateMrs. Charmica E. Harris, Associate Vice
President & Director, Alumni Relations
- 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.*

11.11.2020

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
ELECTRONIC INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT (IA) COMMITTEE
APPROVED MINUTES**

Thursday, November 19, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Xavier Richardson, Chair, called the Institutional Advancement Committee meeting to order at approximately 1:15 p.m. The meeting was held via Cisco WebEx.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present.

Committee Members Present:

Mr. Xavier Richardson, Chair
Dr. Valerie Brown
Ms. Thursa Crittenden
Ms. Pamela Currey
Dr. Christine Darden
Ms. Shavonne Gordon
Mr. Glenn Sessoms
Mr. Huron Winstead, Rector (ex-officio)
Ms. Beverly Everson-Jones, Chair, VSU Foundation

Administration Present:

Makola M. Abdullah, Ph.D., President
Dr. Donald Palm, Senior Vice President/Provost
Hubert D. Harris, Chief of Staff
Kevin Davenport, Vice President, Finance/Administration/CFO
Charmica Epps Harris, Interim Associate VP, Institutional Advancement
Dr. Omar Faison, Associate Vice President for Research & Economic Development/ Dean, Graduate Studies
Eldon Burton, Director, Government Relations
Dr. Gwendolyn Dandridge, Interim Director, Communications
Dr. Annie C. Redd, Special Asst. to President/Board Liaison

Legal Counsel Present:

Deborah Love, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Chief, Education Section

Others Present:

Dr. Wes Bellamy, Department Head, Political Science
Yourdonus James, Director, Conference Center
Travis Edmonds, Technology Services
Tazjia Harris-Paiva, Institutional Advancement
Dr. Ceslav Ciobanu, President, Faculty Senate/Faculty Representative

Institutional Advancement Committee
Draft Minutes
November 19, 2020
Page 2

INVOCATION

Mr. Xavier Richardson, Chair, invited Ms. Charmica Epps Harris to offer the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES (if any)

The minutes from the September 17, 2020 meeting were approved by roll call vote.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Makola M. Abdullah informed the committee that the University is in the final stages of hiring a vice president for external relations. The position will have oversight for institutional advancement, communications, and government relations.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Sponsored Programs

Dr. M. Omar Faison presented information on sponsored programs relative to research proposals, awarded grants, and expenditures. In the first quarter, the University submitted 28 grant proposals totaling \$26.83 million. There appears to be a significant increase from fiscal year 20; however, we must be cautious because the schedule of submissions was altered due to the effects of COVID-19. Eighty-three grants were submitted in the first quarter fiscal year 21 and expenditures (activity against the grant) for the first quarter of fiscal year 21 totaled \$6.04M. Indirect costs recovered are tied to expenditures which are currently trailing expenditures for the past two fiscal year due to a slowdown in activity because of COVID-19. The expectation is that the University will be in the \$22 million range.

Government Relations

Eldon Burton presented an update on Government Relations including an explanation of the state's budget development and budget deliberation processes. The 2020 Special Session concluded with the General Assembly (GA) restoring VSU's previously unallotted fiscal year (FY) 21 funding into the state's budget; therefore, Virginia State University received the largest legislative package that it has ever received. The funding included nearly \$8M for operations as well as all of VSU's previously approved capital projects. VSU will also receive \$1.7M from the state's \$60M appropriation designated to support public colleges and universities in maintaining affordable access to their institutions. In addition, over \$9.3M will be awarded to VSU as part of a new allocation in federal Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act dollars to support Virginia's institutions of higher education. Consistent with the GA's recently advanced budget, the funding will be distributed to public universities to support telework and distance learning infrastructure, personal protective equipment, sanitization and cleaning, and testing for students, staff, and faculty.

Institutional Advancement Committee
Draft Minutes
November 19, 2020
Page 3

Both the House Appropriations and the Senate Finance Retreats will take place in November and the Governor will announce his recommendations to the GA for FY22 funding in December. VSU has already submitted budget request to the Governor's office to restore all of the unallotted funds previously approved for FY22 along with a \$2M request to fund the Student Persistence and Academic Recovery (SPAR) Program. In addition, Agency 212 submitted capital request to construct the Becoming Outstanding Leaders of Tomorrow (BOLT) Leadership Center for Social Responsibility, construct an addition onto Johnston Memorial Library, improve heating, air conditioning and ventilation campus wide for infectious aerosol control, and to renovate Virginia Hall. Agency 234 requested renovations to L. Douglas Wilder Cooperative Extension Building and to replace heating, ventilation, air-conditioning and controls in the M.T. Carter Building. The 2021 General Assembly Session is scheduled to begin in mid-January.

The Chair congratulated President Abdullah and Mr. Burton and other VSU staff on their hard work in securing historic state funding for the University.

Mr. Burton introduced Dr. Wes Bellamy who spoke to the Committee about mission of the John Mercer Langston Institute of African American Political Leadership. The program is a development program suitable for collegiate scholars as well as current and emerging African American Virginians (community leaders, local, elected officials, state officials, nonprofit leaders) who are interested in becoming more active in public service and expanding political power. The institute was named in honor of Mr. Langston, the first president of Virginia State University, and will be housed on the campus.

Office of Communications

Dr. Gwendolyn Dandridge, Interim Director of Communications presented a Communications update. The VSU positive media and community interactions continue. VSU remains consistent with telling our story through local, regional and national news headlines. Local and national headline topics include: VSU John Mercer Langston Institute, VSU Decision to return to campus in spring 2021, Virtual Homecoming, Grow with Google, and the Small Farms Program. In addition, we are intentional as it relates to getting the VSU faculty serving as noted experts on topics of local and national interest. We are also working to continue to increase our presence on social media.

Institutional Advancement Update

Mrs. Charmica E. Harris, Associate Vice President & Director, Alumni Relations presented updates. Fundraising totals for fiscal year 2021 as of November 8, 2020 are \$1,063,181 from 1,173 donors. Compared to fiscal year 2020 year-to-date this is an increase in both donors (FY20 1,060) and dollars (FY20 \$1,000,507). An increase in funding from alumni, as well as foundations and corporations, continues with the most recent announcements coming from Atlantic Union Bank, Dominion Energy, Truist Foundation and Idealliance.

**Institutional Advancement Committee
Draft Minutes
November 19, 2020
Page 4**

The office also sponsored a virtual alumni homecoming weekend and concluded with a virtual half-time show and Rogers Stadium Virtual Sell Out, which raised \$47K for tuition assistance. Plans are being made to participate in the global day of giving, Giving Tuesday scheduled for December 1, 2020. The Advancement Office will execute the presented strategies for quarter two to seek and secure philanthropic support from all constituents focusing on end of the year appeals.

ACTION ITEM

The chair presented a resolution for the committee to recommend for affirmation to the full board at the November 20th meeting. The resolution affirms the naming of the John Mercer Langston African American Political Leadership Institute at VSU. The motion was made and seconded. The motion to recommend affirmation passed by roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:15 p.m.

Approved*

Shavonne Gordon (acr)

2/4/2021

Xavier Richardson, Chair

Date

***Approved by the Institutional Advancement Committee at its virtual meeting, February 4, 2021 – convened by Ms. Shavonne Gordon, Vice Chair**