

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS  
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021  
9:00 A.M.  
The Welcome Center @ VSU Multipurpose Center  
(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)**

**DRAFT AGENDA**  
(as of 9.13.21)

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)

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

NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Division of Academic & Student Affairs ..... Dr. Donald E. Palm, III  
Provost/Senior Vice President
  - Approval Item:
    - University Six-Year Plan
  - Information Items:
    - Minority Small Business Launch Center..... Dr. Patrice Perry-Rivers  
Asst. Professor, Management/Marketing
    - Strategic Plan Update..... Dr. Palm
    - Covid-19 Update ..... Dr. Robert N. Corley  
Vice Provost/Director, COVID Response Team
    - Enrollment Management Update ..... Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter  
Asst. Vice Provost for Enrollment Management
    - Six-Year Graduation Rate ..... Dr. Palm
    - Strategic Plan & Enrollment Projections..... Dr. Tia Minnis  
Vice Provost for Academic Success, Planning & Institutional Effectiveness

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (continued)

- University Six-Year Plan ..... Dr. Palm
- Student Success & Engagement ..... Dr. Palm
  
- Police and Public Safety ..... Mr. Hubert Harris, Chief of Staff  
David Bragg, Asst Vice President/Chief of Police, Campus Dept. of Police/Public Safety
  
- Athletics Update ..... Mr. Hubert 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.*

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS ELECTRONIC  
ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 16, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Pamela Currey, Chair, called the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

A quorum was present.

*Committee Members Present:*

Ms. Pamela Currey, Chair  
Dr. Christine Darden  
Mr. Charlie Hill (*electronic communication*)  
Mr. Edward Owens  
Mr. Xavier Richardson  
Mr. Glenn Sessoms  
Dr. Valerie Brown, Rector (ex-officio)  
Dr. Ceslav Ciobanu, Faculty Representative  
Ms. Destiny Sanders (*sitting in for Kameron Gray, Student Representative*)

*Other Board Members Present:*

Mr. William Murray

*Administration Present:*

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President  
Dr. Donald Palm, Provost/Sr. Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs  
Dr. Tia Minnis, Vice Provost for Academic Success, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness (*electronic communication*)  
Mr. Kevin Davenport, Vice President for Finance & Administration/Chief Financial Officer  
Dr. Gwendolyn Dandridge, Director of Communications  
Sheila Alves, Chief Audit Executive  
Tanya Simmons, AVP/Director, Human Resources  
Adrian Petway, Budget/Finance  
Dr. Annie C. Redd, Special Assistant to the President and Board Liaison

*Legal Counsel Present:*

Cynthia Norwood, State Attorney General

*Other Attendees:*

Pastor Jasmyn Graham, Director, Campus Ministries  
Cynthia D. Baker, Student Success and Engagement

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where VSU is after the first year, a dashboard with data was presented representing approved benchmarks to include progression of graduation rate of 47%, enrollment projects, total degrees offered, establishment of 7 Living learning communities and VSU Online degree programs which went from 0 to 3.

Dr. Palm then spoke on VSU COVID 19 updates on behalf of Dr. Corley, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Chair of the COVID-19 Response Team. As of September 13, 2021, the total campus positivity rate for COVID-19 is .98%. Students currently have a COVID-19 vaccination rate of 68%. Faculty/Staff currently have a COVID-19 vaccination rate of 81%. Currently 4,151 tests have been conducted resulting in 4 on campus in isolation, 3 off campus, and 26 completed isolation and have returned to class.

In an effort to achieve a 90% or better COVID-19 vaccine rate, measures were put in place to include:

1. A \$500 and \$1000 incentive for students and faculty/staff, respectively, with documented proof of vaccine;
2. Student, faculty and staff testing/vaccine sites on the second floor of Gateway and Jones Dining Halls. Depending on vaccine status, all faculty, staff and students will be tested and given the option to receive the vaccine;
3. Communication to all unvaccinated faculty, staff and students to confirm non-compliance status;
4. Student communication on September 12, 2021 to vacate residence halls if non-compliant by September 18, 2021;
5. Cease & Desist for all registered student organizations until further notice;
6. Non-compliant students (commuter) will be transitioned to remote instruction;
7. Non-compliant faculty and staff will follow a progressive discipline strategy ultimately ending with suspension without pay and termination.

Chair Currey congratulated VSU for being safe and beating the current VA positivity rate. Dr. Palm also advised that 861+ students have been vaccinated since arriving on campus. Goal is to achieve 90% compliance. President Abdullah gave thanks to faculty and staff and for meeting students where they are. Dr. Palm gave thanks to Dr. Corley and the COVID team. Chair Currey gave further thanks to VSU family and stated absolutely remarkable and incredible of what has been accomplished.

Dr. Palm then gave the floor to Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Interim Assistant Vice Provost for Student Success and Enrollment Management, who provided an update on enrollment numbers for First Time in College Freshmen, Transfers and Graduate Students. Dr. Brooks-Walter also gave updates on the Virginia College Access Network (VCAN) program, which is awarded to freshmen who live within 25 miles of VSU and meet admission requirements and are Pell eligible. Currently there are 247 First-Time Freshmen participating in the VCAN program; with the returning VCAN students, the program has over 300 students. The incoming VCAN students have a 3.13 grade point average (GPA). The program is funded by the state and provide free tuition and mandatory fees for students. About three-fourths of our VCAN scholars have opted to live on campus. In response to questions, Dr. Brooks-Walter verified that VCAN students receive tuition, room and board with 74% living on campus and 26% campus. With their welcome packet, students receive a 1-year commitment (to VSU) agreement. She indicated that there is excitement about the retention rate which is expected to be higher than last year. The retention rate will come out in October, and Dr. Brooks-Walter will report at the next board meeting.

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Homecoming 2021 "Back Home on the Hill". There will be a week of activities beginning October 16 and ending October 23, 2021 with the Homecoming football game.


David Bragg, Associate Vice President/Chief of Police, Campus Dept. of Police/Public Safety updated the Committee on Public Safety by providing crime statistics reports from 2018-2021 and ongoing efforts for retention of officers. With the change in the law in Virginia regarding Marijuana, all minor marijuana violations are sent to Student Conduct. There was no civil unrest on VSU campus between 2018-2021.

Mr. Hubert Harris, Chief of Staff, provided an overview of activities in Athletics on behalf of Peggy Davis, Associate Vice President for Athletics Department. Mr. Harris advised that 193 student athletes made the Honors List, 170 with GPA of 3.0 and 74 with GPA 3.5. Mr. Harris spoke on upcoming events, health and safety of players, vaccination of athletic teams, testing Programs during practice and before games. The tracking of teams that are fully vaccinated and athletes in the community.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Approved:

  
Chair

11-19-2021  
Date