

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
FULL BOARD MEETING
Friday, September 17, 2021
The Welcome Center at VSU Multipurpose Center
Located at 20809 2nd Avenue, Petersburg, VA (on the campus of VSU)

DRAFT AGENDA
(as of 9.13.21)

1:00 p.m.

FULL BOARD MEETING CONVENED
(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Rector Valerie K. Brown, Presiding

- Roll Call (*Dr. Christine Darden, Board Secretary*)
- Invocation (*Pastor Jasmyn Graham*)
- Approval of Agenda
- Rector's Remarks
- President's Remarks Dr. Makola M. Abdullah

CLOSED SESSION(S)

- Discussion of the President's Compensation Package
- Discussion of Personnel Issue(s)

(Break 15 minutes)

BOARD APPROVALS

- Full Board Meeting Minutes, August 5, 2021
- New Board Member Orientation, August 5, 2021
- Board Annual Retreat/Workshop Minutes, August 6, 2021

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Executive Committee**
 - **Report of Actions taken by the Executive Committee**
 - Resolution for Exemplary Service to Huron F. Winstead
 - Resolution for Exemplary Service to Gregory A. Whirley
 - Call for Nominations for the position of VSU Foundation Liaison
- **Facilities, Finance & Audit Committee**
 - **Information Item:**
 - Summary of Updates the Division of Finance, Internal Audit, Technology Services
- **Academic & Student Affairs Committee**
 - **Approval Item:**
 - Resolution for Approval of the Six-Year Plan

FULL BOARD MEETING
Friday, September 17, 2021
Page 2

COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

- **Academic & Student Affairs Committee**
 - **Information Item:**
 - Summary of Updates from Enrollment Management, Academic & Student Affairs Division
 - Reports from the Faculty and Student Representatives
 - Dr. Ceslav Ciobanu, Faculty Representative
 - Mr. Kameron Gray, Student Representative
 - Remarks from the Staff Senate
 - Ms. Fran Y. Thomas, Chair

(Break 15 minutes)

- **Institutional Advancement Committee**
 - **Information Item:**
 - Summary of Updates (Government Relations, Office of Institutional Advancement)
- **Personnel, Compensation & Governance Committee**
 - **Information Item(s):**
 - Board Matrix Update
 - Summary of Updates (Human Resources)

Report of Affiliated Foundation(s)

- Ms. Brenda Stith-Finch, Chair, VSU Foundation Board

Legal Counsel Update (if any)

Announcements

Adjournment

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 17, 2021**

The Full Board Meeting was held in the Welcome Center at Virginia State University

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Valerie Brown, Rector, called the meeting of the Virginia State University (VSU) Board of Visitors (Board) to order in the Welcome Center at approximately 1:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present.

Board Members Present:

Dr. Valerie Brown, Rector
Mr. Glenn D. Sessoms, Vice Rector
Dr. Christine M. Darden, Secretary
Ms. Thursa Crittenden
Ms. Pamela A. Currey
Mr. Michael Flemming
Ms. Shavonne Gordon
Mr. Raul Herrera
Mr. Charlie W. Hill (*electronic communication*)
Mr. Jon Moore
Mr. William L. Murray
Mr. Edward Owens
Mr. Xavier Richardson (*electronic communication*)
Mr. James J.L. Stegmaier (*electronic communication*)
Mr. Wayne Turnage
Dr. Ceslav Ciobanu, Faculty Representative to the Board
Mr. Kameron Gray, Student Representative to the Board

Administration Present:

Dr. Makola Abdullah, President
Dr. Donald Palm, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Annie C. Redd, Special Assistant to the President/Board Liaison
Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Asst. Vice Provost/Enrollment Management
Hubert Harris, Chief of Staff
Sheila Alves, Chief Audit Executive, Internal Audit
Dr. Gwendolyn Dandridge, Director, Communications
Eldon Burton, Director of Government Relations
Maurion Edwards, Chief Information Officer/Technology Services
Chief David Bragg, VSU Police Department

Legal Counsel Present:

Cynthia Norwood, Assistant State Attorney General
Deborah A. Love, Senior Assistant Attorney General and Chief

Other Attendees:

Pastor Jasmyn Graham, Director of Campus Ministries
Kendra White, Office of Compliance
Yourdonus James, Office of Conference Services
Ben Houck, Finance
Danette Johnson, President's Office
Debbie Jefferson, President's Office
Chris Henry, Technology Services
Corey King, Technology Services
Creasy McQueen, Campus Ministries
Sylvia Jones, Staff Senate
Mekhi McKinney, Student Government Association

The following Board members participated by electronic means from remote locations identified below. The Board members participated by Cisco WebEx virtual meeting.

- Mr. Hill located in Hampton, VA; unable to attend due to personal reasons because of a conflict.
- Mr. Stegmaier located in North Chesterfield, VA; unable to attend due to medical reasons. Mr. Stegmaier would not be able to vote because the Board's Bylaws only address members' participation for personal reasons.
- Mr. Xavier Richardson located in Atlanta, GA; unable to attend due to personal reasons because of a business trip.

INVOCATION

Rector Brown invited Pastor Jasmyn Graham, Director of Campus Ministries, to offer the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Rector made a revision to the agenda by deleting the discussion item related to the President's compensation package. The Personnel, Compensation and Governance Committee is not ready to bring forth its recommendations. The motion to accept the revised agenda was made and properly seconded. The Board approved the revised agenda by voice vote.

RECTOR'S REMARKS

Rector Brown encouraged board members to attend the committee meetings and review materials prior to the meetings. She reminded board members that if they are not members of committees, they cannot vote on actions until the committees bring actions to the full Board for approval. In addition, the Rector shared comments she has received that everyone feels comfortable sharing and expressing their opinions without fear of retribution. She indicated that at the end of the day the board and the staff will come together in a consensus on actions and goals for the University.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Abdullah thanked the board for their work and stated that he recognizes and appreciates their presence, time, and energy volunteering to provide stewardship for Virginia State University. He also thanked the VSU team for their incredible work, especially since the opening of the academic year. The President presented a summary of accomplishments and highlights that have occurred since the beginning of the fall 2021 semester.

The President shared a comparison of fall 2021 and fall 2020 enrollment showing an increase in the number of enrolled students over fall 2020. The administration expects that enrollment numbers for undergraduates and first time in college students will continue to increase. The final enrollment data will be available in October 2021.

President Abdullah mentioned the campus COVID-19 vaccination rate and shared information about other measures taken to regularly test and vaccinate students such as establishing mini clinics in Jones Dining Hall and the Gateway Dining and Events Center. The efforts have proven successful thus far because the campus positivity rate is less than 1%, and our campus vaccination rate has been rising. The President shared the University's top rankings for 2021-2022: Top 10% in student retention at HBCUs, Top 15% of Bang-for-your-Buck Universities, Top 30 in Best HBCUs, and Top 20% of Performers in Social Mobility. The President stated that he is most proud of the ranking of VSU being in the top 15% of the Bang-for-your-Buck Universities in the nation and top 10% in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The President shared recent efforts on the federal level including petitioning key Congressmen on behalf of the Council of 1890s Presidents to deliver on President Biden's promises for the infrastructure bill. In addition, the administration hosted Senator Tim Kaine who toured the VSU Minority Small Business Launch Center. Other highlights included ways that VSU has been telling its own story, ranging from press releases, partnerships, naming of rooms and campus buildings, hosting State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and the Council of Presidents for Virginia, and meeting with Atif Qarni, Virginia Secretary of Education. The President also introduced Mr. Maurion Edwards, the new Chief Information Officer and Director of Technology Services, who came on board in late August 2021.

CLOSED SESSION

The Rector asked for a motion to convene a closed session at approximately 1:30 p.m. for (1) consultation with legal counsel employed, or retained by public body regarding specific legal matters which require provision of legal advice by such counsel pursuant to Virginia code section 2.2-3711 (A)(8), and (2) personnel matters related to the employment, assignment, appointment or performance of specific employees, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) specifically relating to the performance of a senior leader and a faculty member. The motion was made and properly seconded. The motion passed by voice vote. The Rector invited Ms. Sheila Alves, Chief Audit Executive, to remain for the first phase of the closed session and President Abdullah to return for the second phase. Cynthia Norwood, Assistant Attorney General, and Deborah Love, Senior Assistant Attorney General also remained for the closed session.

The Board re-convened in opened session with a roll call of voting members that the Committee discussed or considered only those public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motions by which the closed meeting was convened.

BOARD APPROVALS

Action on the minutes from the August 5, 2021 Full Board meeting (APPROVED). The motion was properly seconded and unanimously approved by voice vote.

Action on the minutes from the August 5, 2021 New Board Orientation (APPROVED). The motion was properly seconded and unanimously approved by voice vote.

Action on the minutes from the August 6, 2021 Board Annual Board Workshop (APPROVED). The motion was properly seconded and unanimously approved by voice vote.

Action on the approval of Mr. Jon Moore as the VSU Foundation Liaison to fill that vacancy. (APPROVED). The motion was properly seconded and unanimously approved by voice vote.

Action on the approval of a motion that authorized the Rector to undertake the course of action on a personnel matter in a manner consistent with the discussion in closed session. (APPROVED). The motion was properly seconded and approved by roll call vote. Mr. James Stegmaier did not vote.

Action on the approval of the Resolution to approve the Six Year Plan for 2022-2028. (APPROVED). The motion was properly seconded and passed by voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Rector Valerie Brown shared that this committee approved two Resolutions for Exemplary Service for Huron F. Winstead and Gregory Whirley whose terms ended June 30, 2021. The resolutions were presented to Mr. Winstead and Mr. Whirley at the Board's Recognition Dinner and Reception held on Thursday, September 16, 2021. In addition, the Executive Committee submitted the name of Jon Moore as the VSU Foundation Liaison to fill that vacancy. The motion to accept the nomination was made and properly seconded. The motion unanimously passed by voice vote.

Facilities, Finance and Audit Committee

Vice Chair William Murray shared that the Committee received a very informative and comprehensive report from Finance, an uplifting presentation about the new compliance program and the rebooting of that effort, and a report on a variety of internal audit matters. On behalf of the Committee, Mr. Murray presented one action item for approval of the Full Board. He made the motion that the Rector be authorized to undertake the course of action on a personnel matter in a manner consistent with discussion in closed session. The motion was properly seconded and passed by roll call vote. Mr. Stegmaier did not vote.

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

On behalf of the Committee, Chair Pamela Currey presented one action item for approval of the Full Board--a Resolution to approve the Six Year Plan for 2022-2028. The motion was properly seconded and unanimously passed by voice vote. The Committee received an exciting overview of the newly established Minority Small Business Launch Center which was established in part with a \$453K growth and opportunity grant. It is particularly exciting because it is the first time VSU has received a grant in connection with the Growth and Opportunity (GO) Virginia for Region 4 initiative. In line with the Rector's request for committees to review the strategic plan, the Provost presented an update to the Committee and the Chair believes that VSU is where it needs to be at this point.

Reports from the Faculty and Student Representatives

Dr. Ceslav Ciobanu gave a few remarks on behalf of the Faculty Senate sharing major activities and concerns from the faculty. Chair Currey asked Dr. Ciobanu to convey the Board's gratitude to the faculty for all they do, especially in these trying times. President Abdullah also expressed his gratitude to the faculty and indicated that a large part of the business brought to the Board is a result of the faculty members' work. On behalf of the Student Government Association (SGA), Kameron Gray shared accomplishments and highlights since the beginning of fall semester, and future events planned by SGA. In addition, Kameron shared leading concerns submitted by students. Chair Currey thanked Kameron for the report, reviewed the list of leading student concerns, and encouraged him and the student leaders to continue the ongoing dialogue with the Provost to resolve these concerns as much as possible. President Abdullah expressed that he thinks Kameron is doing a wonderful job as SGA President as he is an advocate for students but he also encourages students to do their best to stay safe.

The Chair also invited Ms. Sylvia Jones, Vice Chair of the Staff Senate, to present remarks on behalf of the Staff Senate. Ms. Jones shared information on staff development events and other programs sponsored by the Staff Senate that allowed staff to voice their concerns. The Staff Senate goal for 2021-2022 is to serve the staff through successful execution of programs that establish inclusion and acknowledge significance. President Abdullah acknowledged the staff for the great work they do and thanked the Staff Senate leadership for its work.

Institutional Advancement Committee

On behalf of the Committee, Chair Shavonne Gordon gave an overview of the government relations highlighting the historical funding VSU received from the state. In addition, the University has received recent gifts from private donors and corporate sponsors as well as corporate sponsors in the pipeline. The Vice President for External Relations has filled key positions in Institutional Advancement and introduced five new team members in areas of Advancement, Alumni Relations, Major Gifts, and Communications.

Personnel, Compensation, and Governance Committee

On behalf of the Committee, Chair Raul Herrera gave a summary of the report from the Office of Human Resources including successes in transitioning key paper processes to online, challenges in university recruitment process, and opportunities the University has for ongoing and

continuous improvement. The University has kicked off the Climate Survey and Salary Equity Study spearheaded by the Office of Human Resources and the Office of Planning/Institutional Effectiveness with an expectation of a report out in the spring of 2022.

To continue the practice of self-evaluation at the end of each Board meeting, Chair Herrera asked members to share their impressions of the Board's performance at this meeting in 2 to 3 minutes.

Report from the VSU Foundation

Ms. Brenda Stith-Finch, Foundation Board Chair, presented a report from the VSU Foundation (VSUF). Ms. Stith-Finch thanked President Abdullah for his trust in the VSUF by agreeing to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) giving the VSUF authority to invest \$4-\$5M on behalf of the institution. The funds have been invested and the VSUF will report on the earnings as appropriate. Ms. Stith-Finch reported an increase in the current market value of the VSUF portfolio from \$17.6M (June 30, 2020) to \$23.8M (July 31, 2021). A comparison of foundations was conducted by Investment Metrics, and for foundations under \$50M, the VSUF portfolio performances are in the 25th percentile for 1, 3, and 5 year time frames. In the 2020-2021 academic year, the VSUF awarded scholarships totaling \$565,992.

The VSUF is supporting the University as a pass through for relationships with three corporations to either manage or co-manage funds for VSU; e.g., Raytheon Technologies for grant funds for the College of Engineering; the National Science Foundation to co-manage funds for a grant in the Psychology Department; GENEDGE to manage funds for a partnership involving student research opportunities in the College of Engineering. VSUF is a potential pass-through with the Millennium Corporation to establish a partnership for research and student internship opportunities in cyber security industry. Ms. Stith-Finch shared that as a VSU alumna, alumni morale has improved significantly, and they are pleased with what they see happening at VSU.


President Abdullah thanked Ms. Stith-Finch and the VSU Foundation for their work and for being an incredible partner in the investment of University dollars and in developing relationships with corporate donors.

LEGAL COUNSEL

There were no updates from Legal Counsel.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Rector adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:30 p.m.



Dr. Valerie K. Brown, Rector



Dr. Christine M. Darden, Secretary

11/19/21
Date

11/19/2021
Date

**RESOLUTION OF THE
VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS**

APPROVING SIX-YEAR PLAN FOR 2022-2028

WHEREAS, § 23.1-306 of the *Code of Virginia* required that “[t]he governing board of each public institution of higher education shall (i) develop and adopt biennially and amend or affirm annually a six-year for the institution....”; and

WHEREAS, every biennium, Virginia State University must submit a Six-Year Plan for consideration by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), the General Assembly, the Governor, and the respective chairs of the House Committee on Appropriations, the House Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Education and Health, and the Senate Committee on Finance; and


WHEREAS, each plan must address the institution’s academic, financial, and enrollment plans and be aligned with the institution’s six-year enrollment projections; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Visitors support the Strategic Initiative reflected in the 2022 Six-Year Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University hereby approves the Six-Year Plan covering the fiscal years 2022-2028.



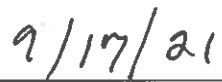
Dr. Valerie K. Brown, Rector



Date



Christine M. Darden, Secretary



Date