

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
9:00 A.M.; THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025
Gateway Dining & Event Center, 2nd Floor
(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)
DRAFT AGENDA**

CALL TO ORDER... Dr. Leonard Haynes III, Chair

ROLL CALL

INVOCATION

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES (if any)

- February 6, 2025

PRESIDENT’S REMARKSDr. Makola M. Abdullah

CLOSED SESSION (if any)

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Enrollment Updates Dr. Alexis- Brooks-Walter
Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management/
Dr. Curtis Coleman
Executive Director for Enrollment
- VSU Accreditation Update Dr. Tia A. Minnis
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- VSU Strategic Plan Update.....Dr. Tia A. Minnis
- Student Scholar Spotlight.....Dr. Dan Roberts
Dean, Honors College
Executive Director of Global and Special Initiatives/
Mr. Arnold Westbrook
Assistant Director of Global Talent Development

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Haynes, Chair, called the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting to order at 9:00 am. The meeting was held in the Gateway Dining & Event Center located on the campus of Virginia State University.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Leonard Haynes, III, Chair
Mr. Thomas Cosgrove, Vice Chair
Mr. Peter McPherson
Dr. Robert Denton, Jr.
Ms. Daphne Meeks
Mr. Edward Owens
Dr. Valerie K. Brown, Rector

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Victor K. Branch
Mr. Jon Moore
Dr. Joseph Chase
Dr. Harold Green, Jr.
Ms. Verndell Robinson
Mr. Robert Thompson
Mr. Kishore Thota (*absent*)
Dr. Harold Green, Jr.

BOARD APPOINTEES:

Professor Tracey Jackson, Esq., Faculty Representative
Mr. Marquis Mason, (filled in for Mr. Yousif Omer, the SGA Representative)

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President
Dr. Tia A. Minnis, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs
Mr. Kevin Davenport, Senior Vice President for Finance & Administration/CFO
Ms. Tonya S. Hall, Vice President for Advancement and External Engagement
Ms. Shawri King-Casey, Vice President for Institutional Integrity and Compliance
Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management
Dr. Annie Redd, Chief of Staff/Director, Board of Operations & Relations

INVOCATION

Chair Haynes invited Board member Dr. Joseph A. F. Chase, Jr. to offer the invocation.

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INVOCATION

Chair Haynes invited Board member Dr. Joseph A. F. Chase, Jr. to offer the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The committee approved the agenda by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The committee approved the minutes from the February 6, 2025 meeting by voice vote.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Abdullah welcomed the board members and expressed his gratitude to the faculty and staff for their outstanding work during the Spring semester and academic year.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ENROLLMENT UPDATES (Fall 2025 Projections)

Provost Minnis welcomed the board and introduced Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. Dr. Brooks-Walter then introduced Dr. Curtis Coleman, Executive Director, who proudly announced that 1,410 people attended the March 29th VSU open house. Participants came from Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, New York, Connecticut, Georgia, Texas, California, and Florida. For Fall 2025, we have received over 17,000 applications, with 8,990 admits and 900 deposits. Dr. Brooks-Walter also announced that Dr. Coleman will be leaving VSU at the end of the Spring semester. She noted improvements in enrollment and appreciated the successful initiatives led by Dr. Coleman. President Abdullah and other board members thanked him for his contributions and work at VSU.

VSU ACCREDITATION UPDATE

Provost Minnis provided an update on VSU's priority 2, which focuses on sustaining academic excellence. She gave an overview of the work accomplished in this area.

Regarding the SACSCOC Fifth-year report, a referral report was submitted to SACSCOC on April 1, 2025. The next step is to receive notification from SACSCOC, with the report expected in June 2025.

SCHEV ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE SUBMISSION

Dr. Minnis presented organizational changes for the Board's approval. The renaming of the Department of Hospitality Management to the Fred and Ruby Thompson Department of Hospitality Management was approved by the Board in 2023; however, due to SCHEV change in procedures and policy, it is necessary for the Board to endorse the change. The renaming of the HPER (Health, Physical Education, and Recreation) department to the Department of Health and Human Performance is being recommended by the Provost. Additionally, the Provost is recommending reorganization of the Department of Political Science and the Department of History to create the Department of History and Political Science.

VSU STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Currently, there are 6 priorities, 6 goals, 31 objectives, and 152 strategic actions that Academic Affairs is working on. The strategic priorities are:

- VSU Priority 1: Increase Student Opportunity and Access to Higher Education
- VSU Priority 2: Sustain Academic Excellence
- VSU Priority 3: Provide a Transformative VSU Experience that Supports the Holistic Development of Students

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- VSU Priority 4: Define the VSU Brand and Tell Our Story
- VSU Priority 5: Diversify Financial Resources and Enhance Operational Effectiveness
- VSU Priority 6: Enhance the Land-Grant Mission of the University

For Fall 2025, the headcount is projected to be 6,000, with a target of 386 new transfer students, 560 projected graduate students, and 1,389 expected new FTIC (first-time in college) students. The expected number of degrees awarded in 2025 is 1,000.

The new motto for our strategic plan is 'Greater by Design.' This motto builds on 'Preeminence with Purpose' and recognizes the transformative potential of AI and emerging technologies. Provost Minnis provided an overview of the mission, the vision moving forward, and the values attached to that plan. The steps in this journey include a review phase from November to March, a visioning phase from March to June, a reflective phase from June to September, and a feedback phase from September to November.

STUDENT SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Tia A. Minnis introduced Dr. Dan Roberts, Dean of Honors College and Executive Director of Global and Special Initiatives. Dean Roberts expressed his pride in the students in his programs and invited them to present their work personally.

Dean Roberts then introduced Mr. Arnold Westbrook, Assistant Director for Talent Development. Mr. Westbrook presented the student organizations he works with, and representatives from these groups shared reports of their experiences. Strada scholars receive financial support from the Strada Foundation. The DB8 Society-Speech and Debate team performed an informative skit titled 'We Speak.' Mr. Westbrook also recognized other student groups including the Charlie W. Hill Leadership Institute Fellows.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Haynes called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was received, properly seconded, and the committee voted by voice vote. The Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:45 am.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date