VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
9:00 A.M.; THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025
Gateway Dining & Event Center, 2nd Floor
(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)
DRAFT AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER…………………………………………………Dr. Leonard Hayes III, Chair

ROLL CALL

INVOCATION

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES (if any)
- November 14, 2024

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

CLOSED SESSION (if any)

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
- Enrollment and updates (Spring2025/Fall 2026).........................Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter
  Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

- SCHEV Performance Report..Dr. Tia Minnis
  Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

- Academic AI Initiatives……………………………………………………….Dr. Tia Minnis
  Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

- Safety and Security Update……………………………………………Chief David Bragg
  AVP for Safety and Security

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

1.28.25

CALL TO ORDER
The Vice Chair, Mr. Cosgrove, called the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. It was held in the Gateway Dining & Event Center on the campus of Virginia State University.

ROLL CALL
A quorum was present.

Committee Members Present:
Dr. Leonard Haynes, III (*Springfield, MD, Virtual due to inclement weather*)
Mr. Edward Owens
Mr. Thomas Cosgrove (*Vice Chair*)
Dr. Robert Denton, Jr.
Ms. Daphne Meeks
Dr. Valerie Brown, Rector (*Ex-officio*)

Board Appointees:
Dr. Tracey Jackson, Faculty Representative
Mr. Yousif Omer, Student Representative (*arrived at @10:55am*)

Legal Counsel:
Nathan Moberly

Other Members Present:
Mr. Victor Branch
Dr. Harold Green, Jr. (*arrived at @10:59am*)
Dr. Joseph A. F. Chase, Jr.
Mr. Jon Moore
Mrs. Verndell Robinson
Mr. Robert Thompson
Mr. Peter McPherson

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
The Chair called Pastor Seth Ahmad-McQueen, to deliver the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
The committee approved the agenda by voice vote.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS
President Abdullah welcomed and acknowledged the board members for their service.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
Enrollment and Management Updates (Spring 2025/Fall 2024)
Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, VP for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, presented the Spring 2025 enrollment numbers of registered and cleared students. The last enrollment count was 5,238. For Fall 2025, Virginia State University (VSU) received 13,268 applications. Although this number is lower than the last two years, the deposits have increased.   The previous academic student scholarships were named the Provost Scholarship and the Presidential Scholarships. Moving forward, the new scholarships are the Trojan Trailblazers, Orange and Blue, and Academic Excellence. Those students who are on the old scholarship format will continue through their matriculation on those scholarships. An Open House will be held on March 29th, 2025. The morning will be for anyone interested in VSU, and the afternoon will be dedicated to those students who have been admitted. Dr. Brooks-Walter answered questions and addressed concerns from members of the board.

SCHEV PERFORMANCE MEASURES
Provost and VP for Academic Affairs, Tia A. Minnis, presented the board with an overview of SCHEV and the performance measures and standards. She informed the board that all public institutions are evaluated based on six performance measures. The first four measures are performance-based and each institution must meet at least 95% of the following measures: in-state undergraduate enrollment, in-state undergraduate degrees, in-state STEM-H degrees, and in-state status of upper-level students (Junior and Seniors). Performance measures 5 and 6, are based on averages and include measurements for in-state undergraduate student degrees that are awarded and in-state 2-year transfer students. She shared the 2024 SCHEV biennial assessment results by institutions in Virginia to show and compare our status on meeting our performance measures. She noted that performance measures 5 & 6 used a baseline to grade VSU's performance, which spanned over 8 years. The Academic Affairs unit is working on a corrective action plan that will be submitted this Spring as well as a remediation plan update to be submitted by May 2025. The next review cycle is October 1, 2026.

ACADEMIC AI INITIATIVES
Provost and VP for Academic Affairs, Tia A. Minnis, presented the board with the initiatives VSU is making in AI and preparing our students for an AI-powered future. The Reginald F. Lewis College of Business has created teaching materials and grading tools for faculty to use in the classroom, given students projects with some working directly with Carfax and Hewlett Packard, students are using SAS Viya, students have excelled in STEM

challenges winning the top prize for AI-based banking solutions, and this college has plans to add new courses in AI and be immersive in simulations for Spring 2025. The College of Natural and Health Sciences (CNHS), Dr. Brian Sayre, is using AI in the intro to microbiology classes where students have created customized study aids that are specific to their needs and learning habits. CNHS is moving forward with skill development, interactive learning, preparation for the future of AI, and proactive learning formats to help their students. The College of Education (COE) is using AI-based modules for Doctoral research methods. They are focused on leveraging AI tools for both qualitative and quantitative research as well as setting goals to foster critical thinking, and ethical considerations, and enabling a comprehensive understanding of AI applications in research. The College of Engineering and Technology is introducing students to ChatGPT, Google Gemini, GitHub copilot, AI Edge computing devices, and data visualization and analysis. They are having students use practical applications in case studies and capstone projects to give practical experience to our students. The digital learning and extended education (DLEX) division under the provost office offers AI training through IBM Skills Build where over 250 students have completed foundational AI training. They also have student engagement initiatives through IBM talks held monthly with IBM professionals and monthly HBCU v/s HBCU Student Wednesdays. Through the faculty development department, AI hands-on workshops and trainings are offered and Dr. Dawit Haile is leading the grant initiatives for Generative AI and Industrial Cybersecurity. To keep the AI initiative going, Provost Minnis has created a Provost AI Advisory Council comprised of faculty, staff, and students who are passionate about AI.

SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATES
Chief David Bragg, AVP for Public Safety and Chief of Police, shared with the board the campus crime report and the campus arrest report for 2023-2024. He reviewed the offenses that have occurred each year and he was happy to report that there has been a 25% reduction in total crime cases. Chief Bragg is working on salary increases for officers, recruiting to hire 4 additional full-time security officers and four additional full-time police as well as student safety observers. He will continue to use RMC for dorm security and campus events. He has put some safety enhancements in place such as more manpower on the night shift, 100% ID check-in beginning at 6 pm until 6 am at Gateway/Moore Hall, and set up fixed observation checkpoints across campus. Fencing has been constructed on the south side of the campus for added security. Technology such as security cameras, additional light towers, portable cameras, and messaging boards are used to help security efforts. President Abdullah thanked Chief Bragg for his work as well as Jane Harris and Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter for creating a security plan for the campus.

ADJOURNMENT
With no further business, Vice Chair Cosgrove called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was properly moved and seconded. The committee voted by voice vote and the chair adjourned the meeting at 11:04 am.

APPROVED:

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                    Chair   Date