

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS  
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS  
9:00 A.M.; THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2024  
100 E. Main Street; Norfolk, VA 23510  
(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)  
AGENDA**

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

ROLL CALL

INVOCATION

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES (if any)

- September 12, 2024

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

CLOSED SESSION (if any)

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Enrollment and Retention.....Dr. Tia A. Minnis  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter Vice President for Student  
Affairs and Enrollment Management

- 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Update.....Dr. Tia Minnis  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

11.1.24

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS  
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2024  
MEETING MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Thomas Cosgrove called the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. It was held at The Hilton Norfolk Main Hotel, Norfolk, VA, 100 E. Main Street, Norfolk, Virginia.

**ROLL CALL**

A quorum was present.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Dr. Leonard Haynes, Chair III (Absent)  
Thomas Cosgrove, Vice Chair  
M. Peter McPherson  
Dr. Robert Denton, Jr. (Virtual)  
Ms. Daphne Meeks  
Mr. Edward Owens (Absent)  
General (*Ret*) Dennis Via  
Dr. Valerie Brown, Rector (Ex-officio)

**BOARD APPOINTEES:**

Dr. Tracy Jackson, Faculty Representative  
Mr. Yousif Omer (Absent)

**OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Victor Branch  
Dr. Joseph Chase  
Ms. Verndell Robinson  
Mr. Robert Thompson

**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

**LEGAL COUNSEL:**

Nathan Moberly

**INVOCATION**

The Vice Chair called Dr. Joseph A. F. Chase, Jr. to deliver the invocation.

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**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.

**ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS REPORT**

Dr. Tia A. Minnis, Provost and VP for Academic Affairs expressed her appreciation for the board and introduced Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter to present data on enrollment.

**2024 FALL ENROLLMENT REPORT**

Undergraduate enrollment for Fall 2024 included 1753 students; of that number 264 were transfer students. There are 2,294 first-generation Trojans which make up 45% of fall enrollment. The residency consists of 1,247 in-state students and 506 out-of-state students. The top 5 states with the highest numbers are New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Washington, DC, and New Jersey. For the Fall 2024 gender population, there are 1,020 female students and 733 males. The top degree programs include Psychology, Management, Biology, Computer Science, and Criminal Justice. Dr. Brooks-Walter stated that the top 3 degrees may switch places in ranking but remain in the top 3. Graduate enrollment has increased, including 215 students enrolled in the Master's program and 46 in the doctoral programs. The increase in the Master's program is largely attributed to the new MBA program. Current total enrollment is at 5,605 which is an increase of 8%. Of that number, 5,124 are undergraduate students and 481 are graduate students with a full-time enrollment of 93%. The average age of the students is 22.4 years old at 84%.

**FIRST TIME in COLLEGE (FTIC) RETENTION UPDATE**

Retention numbers were reported as 69% for Fall 2024. The university has been averaging around 70% for the last 5 years. 5 steps are in place to help with retention. They are entry and transition, community building, learning, and academic support, counseling and advising, and data and communication.

With Trojan Connect, students are offered opportunities such as Trojan traditions which is an online course for freshmen to take before their first semester at VSU. Trojan Connect is designed to improve academic skills and build a new peer network. Students have the opportunity to receive supplemental instructions from their peers to help with courses such as introductory accounting, English courses, and computer courses. There are academic recovery classes designed to allow students to do a do-over in certain classes. Students are allowed to start over and take the course over the winter break. Sophomore success is another initiative that helps our 2<sup>nd</sup> year students. Emerge EmpowerED at VSU is an initiative that utilizes the HBCU culture, traditions, and realities to empower high school students to graduate as college-ready high school graduates ready to serve

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as leaders in their community. In order to retain Pell-eligible students we have launched a first-year life plan that includes help with course selection, major declaration, graduation timeline, study habits, and potential internship opp.

**PROGRESS REPORT UPDATE**

Dr Minnis presented the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan to the board. The plan includes 6 priorities. Priority 1 is aimed at increasing student opportunity and greater access to Higher education. The target for 2025 is to have a fall headcount of 6,000 students, 386 new transfer students, 1,389 FTIC students, and 560 graduate students. The university is aiming for a 75% retention rate for FTIC students. The targeted degrees awarded will be 1,000. Priority 2 is to sustain academic excellence. The university will pursue and implement programs that define our niche and prepare our target population to meet the demands of a global society and workforce. Priority 3 is to provide a transformative VSU experience that supports the holistic development of students. The university will implement student support and co-curricular programming that fosters student success, civic engagement, and a culture of servant leadership. Priority 4 defines the VSU brand and tells our story. Priority 5 offers diversified financial resources and enhances operational effectiveness. For priority 5, we aim for \$6M in philanthropic support. Priority 6 enhances the land-grant mission of the university and access to higher ed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Vice Chair Thomas Cosgrove called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was properly received, and properly seconded, and the Committee voted by voice vote. The Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:15 am.

**APPROVED**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date