

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
9:00 a.m.; THURSDAY, September 14, 2023
Gateway Dining & Events Center
(on the campus of Virginia State University)
(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)**

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDERDr. Leonard Haynes, III, Chair

ROLL CALL (*Dr. Redd*)

INVOCATION (*Pastor Seth Gooden McQueen, Director of Campus Ministries*)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES (if any)

- April 20, 2023 Committee Meeting

PRESIDENT’S REMARKSDr. Makola M. Abdullah

CLOSED SESSION (if any)

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Honors College/Global Leadership and Talent..... Dr. Daniel Roberts and Dr. Lisa Hopson
Division of Global Leadership and Talent Development/Honors College
- Enrollment Management Report Dr. Tia Minnis, Interim Provost/VP, Academic Affairs
Dr. Curtis Coleman, Executive Director of Admissions
- Admissions Policy..... Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter
VP, Student Affairs & Enrollment Management
- Housing Report..... Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter
- Public Safety and Police Report/Updates..... Chief David Bragg
Asst. Vice President/Chief, VSU Police & Public Safety

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Leonard Haynes, Chair, called the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. 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 (*participation by electronic communication*)

Mr. Edward Owens (*participation by electronic communication*)

Thomas Cosgrove

Dr. Christine Darden (*absent*)

Dr. Robert Denton, Jr.

Ms. Daphne Meeks

Dr. Valerie Brown, Rector (*ex-officio*)

Dr. Leonard Githinji, Faculty Representative

Mr. Devon Nobles, Student Representative

Due to personal reasons, Dr. Leonard Haynes participated in the meeting by electronic communications via Cisco WebEx from Silver Springs, MD.

Due to medical reasons

, Mr. Edward Owens participated in the meeting via electronic communications via Cisco WebEx from South Boston, VA 24592.

Other Members Present:

Ms. Pamela Currey

Mr. Victor Branch

Dr. Harold Green, Jr.

Dr. Joseph A. F. Chase, Jr.

Administration Present:

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President

Dr. Tia Minnis, Interim 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 & Compliance

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

Dr. Annie Redd, Chief of Staff/Director, Board of Operations & Relations

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Other Attendees:

Dr. Robert Corley, Dean, College of Agriculture
Dr. Gwendolyn Dandridge, Asst. Vice President/Director of Communications
Dr. Michelle Corley, Special Assistant to the Provost
Mr. Maurion Edwards, CIO/Technology Services
Dr. Tracey Barley, Vice Provost for Digital Learning & Extended Studies
Chief David Bragg, Asst. Vice President/Chief, VSU Police and Public Safety
Yourdonus James, Director of Conference Services
Rodney Hall, Deputy Chief of Staff
Danette Johnson, President's Office
Debbie Jefferson, President's Office
Tina Cabrera, President's Office
Kendra White, Office of Compliance/Policy Analyst
Sylvia Jones, Office of the Provost
Derrick Jennings, Technology Services
Adrian Petway, Associate VP/Finance

INVOCATION

Chair Haynes invited Pastor Seth Ahmad-McQueen 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 April 20, 2023 meeting by voice vote.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Abdullah welcomed the board members back to the campus and thanked them for their service. We started the semester with an increased enrollment with joys and challenges. The President thanked the faculty and staff for their fantastic work and cutting-edge methods to ensure our students have a great semester.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Honors College/Global Leadership and Talent

Dr. Minnis presented Dr. Daniel Roberts, Dean of the Honors College, and Dr. Lisa Hopson, Associate Director of the Honors College, to give a brief overview of the Honors College. Drs. Hopson and Roberts gave an overview of their Global leadership program. They shared pictures of the various countries they visited,

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activities, and experiential experiences of the honor students. Dr. Roberts introduced two Honors College students who participated in the international travel - Tommy Patterson and Angela Ali. Students shared their experiences and were grateful for this opportunity. Dr. Roberts recognized Dr. Arnold Westbrook, Morgan Jones, and Aurelia Donald for their hard work and dedication to the Global leadership program. There are service learning components in the Honors program. Those components include etiquette training, networking opportunities, team building, and cultural awareness.

Enrollment Management Report

Dr. Tia Minnis reported on the new degree offerings and shared that VSU is expanding offerings that include STEM degrees and certificates. The Academic Affairs Division has identified programs based on current career demands and is conducting internal reviews and making necessary changes. In addition, the Division is exploring artificial intelligence in higher education to encourage faculty to adjust and improve their teaching methods.

Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter reported on Enrollment Recruitment, Retention, Housing, and the strategic enrollment plan initiated at the University. Staff conducted an internal review and is currently making changes to address the needs of VSU through additional degree programs. A Visitor inquired about the 18 new degree programs and the resources it will take to run them. Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter has a plan to address the academic changes. Another Visitor inquired about working with Medical schools and preparing students for the MCAT. He stated that more physicians are needed. The Chair asked about available website resources.

Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter thanked Dr. Regina Barnett-Tyler, Dr. Franklin Johnson-Norwood, Tiffany Gullins, LaTrece Walton, and Kim Chase for being always available for students. She introduced Dr. Curtis Coleman, Executive Director of Admissions, who shared data on the fall 2023 admissions and registered students. Dr. Coleman also shared information from a nationwide study indicating where most students came from. VCAN is in place and offering scholarships to those high school seniors within a 45-mile radius of the University. Recruiting efforts focus on special populations such as military, international, and dual enrollment students. Discussion followed in response to questions about Dinwiddie County and recruitment in Mississippi and Alabama. President Abdullah stated that Dr. Coleman has come up with creative ideas to reach the target for the University, and the President thanked Dr. Coleman for his work.

Housing Report

Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter shared information on methods that the University used to address the demand for student housing. A Visitor asked if the University could meet the growing demand for faculty to meet the increased enrollment of students. Dr. Brooks-Walter stated that the University is working out a plan for Fall 2024 to address the anticipated needs and concerns.

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Public Safety and Police Report/Updates

Chief David Bragg reported on the incidents with our students in the first two weeks of school. To provide more protection and security, he has hired new officers and is recruiting additional ones. He has increased officer visibility and presence on campus. The VSU campus police are working with local police departments to forge relationships to ensure the students are covered.

ADJOURNMENT

With 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 11:52 p.m.

APPROVED:

Deanne C. Haynes
Chair

11/16/23
Date