

Dr. Leonard Githinji, Faculty Senate Chair - remarks for the Opening Conference, 08/11/2022

President Abdullah, Provost Palm, faculty colleagues, staff, students and our esteemed guests:

I bring greetings to you on behalf of the Faculty Senate leadership and also warmly welcome you back as we begin our fall 2022 semester.

Colleagues, we are starting this academic year on a very high note, with record student enrollment which is a true testament that “Greater Happens Here”. More students are choosing to come to VSU, and these are great news indeed.

Other great things happening at VSU include the expansion of our academic programs, including new and complete online degree programs, and good financial standing of the University, just to name a few.

I would like to thank the University Administration, Faculty, and Staff, for your dedication and commitment to the mission of Virginia State University that has led to these success stories. On behalf of the Faculty Senate, I look forward to seeing more successes as we continue serving in the framework of shared governance, with open communication and transparency.

During the last academic year, we operated under a significant challenge necessitated by the pandemic. The faculty senate applauds the University’s effort of keeping us safe, by creating the COVID-19 Taskforce that is led by Dr. R. Corley and his team. This year, although the CDC has relaxed some restrictions, we cannot afford to completely let our guard down, especially in consideration of the projected increase in campus population, while the Omicron variant and its subvariants continue to emerge.

My faculty colleagues, I urge you to keep up the good work as we continue serving our increasing number of students while also changing the lives of communities we serve in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Let us enhance the spirit of shared governance by continuing to serve through our faculty senate. We plan to continue meeting every 3rd Friday of the month, from 3:00-5:00 PM via Zoom, starting on August 19 and I look forward to seeing you then. Also, Tracy Jackson, the FS Vice-Chair and I, have planned to host a workshop tomorrow at 9:00 AM in HM 153W, entitled

“The Role of the Faculty Senate in Enhancing the University’s Shared Governance”. Please consider attending the workshop where we will discuss several aspects of the faculty senate with an objective of increasing more participation especially among new faculty members.

Thank you.