

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS  
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, January 25, 2017; 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
Board Room, Virginia Hall

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Alma Hobbs, Committee Chair, called the meeting of the Virginia State University (“VSU”) Board of Visitors (“Board”) Academic and Student Affairs Committee to order in the Board Room of Virginia Hall on the campus of Virginia State University at approximately 2:20 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

A quorum was present.

*Committee Members Present:*

Ms. Pamela Currey (*arrived approximately 2:10 p.m.*)

Dr. Daryl Dance (*absent*)

Mr. Charlie Hill

Dr. Alma Hobbs

Mr. Frederick Humphries (*absent*)

Mr. Xavier Richardson (*arrived approximately 2:20 p.m.*)

Mr. Wayne Turnage (*absent*)

Dr. James Norman (*Faculty Representative, nonvoting advisory member*)

Ms. Shai West (*Student Representative, nonvoting advisory member*) (*absent*)

*Administration Present:*

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President

Dr. Donald Palm, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Letizia Gambrell-Boone, Vice President for Student Success and Engagement

Mr. Henry DeBose, Associate Vice President for Student Success and Engagement

Ms. Joanne Curtis-Taylor, Chief Audit Executive

Dr. Annie C. Redd, Special Assistant to the President and Board Liaison

Mr. Rodney Hall, Executive Director, Enrollment Services

*Legal Counsel Present:*

Ms. Ramona L. Taylor, University Legal Counsel Board of Visitors

*Other Attendees:*

Travis Edmonds, Office of Information Technology

Dr. Daniel Roberts, Honors Program (*Presenter*)

Kennedy James, Honors Program (*Presenter*)

Stacey Elder, Honors Program (*Presenter*)

Keyashia Willis, Honors Program (*Presenter*)

Jason Daniels, Honors Program (*Presenter*)

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Committee added three items to the agenda as follows: (1) approval of the November 18, 2016 committee minutes, (2) discussion of honorary degrees, and (3) concerns about the University outreach to a VSU alumnus. The Committee approved the revised agenda.

### REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Letizia Gambrell-Boone presented highlights from the Division of Student Success and Engagement. Highlights included campus holiday observances, and new corporate partnerships to promote students' career interests. Dr. Gambrell-Boone shared retention data for freshmen and retention strategies used in the Academic Center for Excellence.

Dr. Donald Palm presented an update on the SACSCOC Reaffirmation including the University Committee's organizational structure, 2017 timeline, and challenges. Dr. Palm presented information on textbook affordability. Dr. Daniel Roberts, Director of the Honors Program, and four students delivered a presentation on the VSU Honors Program. The student presenters were Ms. Stacey Elder, Senior, Management; Mr. Jason Daniels, Junior, Computer Science; Ms. Keyashia Willis, Sophomore, Biology; Mr. Kennedy James, Computer Engineering.

### CLOSED SESSION

In accordance with §§ 2.2-3711(A)(1), (10) of the *Code of Virginia*, Mr. Richardson made the motion to go into closed session at 4:15 p.m. for a discussion of personnel matters regarding the recommendation of a VSU alumnus for an honorary degree and concerns about University outreach to a VSU alumnus. The motion provided that President Makola M. Abdullah, Dr. Annie C. Redd, and Legal Counsel Ramona Taylor attend the closed meeting as their presence was deemed necessary to aid the Board in its deliberations. The motion was seconded by Ms. Currey and carried by voice vote.

The Board reconvened in open session at 4:34 p.m. in accordance with § 2.2-3712(D) of the *Code of Virginia*. On behalf of the Board, Dr. Redd conducted the poll in which all board members certified that the Board only discussed personnel matters. All board members present certified compliance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

On behalf of the Committee, Dr. Hobbs recommended that President Abdullah develop and present draft policies and procedures to award honorary degrees at every level, i.e., doctorate, masters and bachelors. The committee requested President Abdullah to present the draft policies at the annual meeting in April.

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting of the Committee at approximately 5:00 p.m.

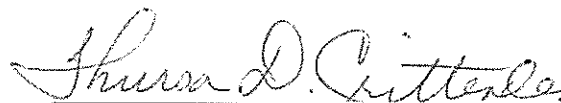
Dr. Alma Hobbs, Committee Chair

April 21, 2017



Harry Black, Rector

4/21/17  
Date



Thursa D. Crittenden, Secretary

4/21/17  
Date