

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

Wednesday, April 25, 2018; 1:00 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 in Virginia Hall on the campus of Virginia State University at 1:05 pm.

**ROLL CALL**

A quorum was present.

*Committee Members Present:*

Ms. Pamela Currey  
Dr. Daryl Dance  
Mr. Charlie Hill  
Dr. Alma Hobbs  
Mr. Xavier Richardson (*absent*)  
Mr. Wayne Turnage (*absent*)  
Mr. Gregory Whirley  
Dr. James Norman, Faculty Representative  
Mr. Cody Mitchell, Student Representative

*Administration Present:*

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President  
Dr. Donald Palm, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Dr. Letizia Gambrell-Boone, Vice President, Student Success and Engagement  
Mr. Hubert Harris, Vice President of Administration  
Mr. Rodney Hall, Asst. Vice President, Enrollment Management  
Mr. Osubi Craig, Special Asst. to President for Strategic Initiatives/Dir., Government Relations  
Dr. Annie C. Redd, Special Assistant to the President and Board Liaison

*Legal Counsel Present:*

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

*Other Attendees:*

Ms. Cynthia D. Baker, Student Success and Engagement  
Dr. Jame'l Hodges, Associate VP, Student Success and Engagement  
Dr. Sabin R. Duncan, Executive Director, Academic Center for Excellence  
Mr. Joseph Lyons, Academic Center for Excellence  
Orane McKleen, Freshman Student at VSU

**AGENDA APPROVED**

The Committee approved the agenda with the addition of a presentation by President Abdullah.

## **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Dr. Abdullah presented comparative data and information he compiled on access and completion to communicate the University's position to the VSU community. Committee members congratulated the President on the presentation but also advised him to exercise caution in using the information as it could be misconstrued, continue with this research, and look for the best models.

### **Division of Administration**

Mr. Hubert Harris presented updates on the VSU Department of Police and Public Safety.

- Increased security in residence halls using an external security company.
- Hired 10 new officers within 60 days, (4) sworn officers, and (4) security officers. Additionally (4) new sworn officers and (2) security officers awaiting background checks.
- Partnered with Student Success and Engagement on immediate suspension protocol.
- Increased community policing activity.
- Implemented body cameras for Police Officers.
- Presented year to date crime statistics noting specifically the areas of assault and larceny and the reduction of numbers compared to last year's statistics.
- Presented information on Clery Act crimes and human trafficking in the Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and Washington DC areas of young women and young women with children.

### **Enrollment Update**

Mr. Rodney Hall presented Enrollment Updates, noting the following:

- Open House held on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> in Multipurpose Center.
- Statistics showed that over 5,000 students have been accepted to Virginia State University.
- 3,000 students visited Welcome Center between January and April 2018. Transfer students coming from Richard Bland and John Tyler Community College.
- Records showed that 350 students from the Newport News, Hampton, and Williamsburg vicinity are currently enrolled at VSU.
- Largest population of VSU students come from the Tidewater area.

Discussion followed on how to influence counselors at local high schools who are not promoting VSU.

### **Division of Student Success and Engagement**

Dr. Letizia Gambrell-Boone shared information on an event titled **BARE: A Reflection on Womanhood**. Dr. Boone hosted the event during the month of March in recognition of Women's History Month. Several female VSU faculty, staff and students recited poems from the book Milk and Honey by Rupi Kanur.

Dr. Gambrell-Boone introduced Orane McKleen, a current freshman and marketing major with a 3.8 cumulative GPA from Bronx NY. Mr. McKleen currently coaches other students with time management skills. Mr. McKleen spoke on his overall experience with ACE and his first year here at VSU.

Dr. Gambrell-Boone provided updates on

- Retention/Registration rates target at 71% and striving for 75%.
- 771 freshmen registered, 418 with holds, largest % is financial holds with a small % for health.
- Gap to get from 71% to 75% retention rate
  - \$125,000 to \$150,000 needed to close gap for Freshmen
  - Establishment of a fund for seniors so that finances will not hinder them from returning to graduate.
- 23% of students at a 3.1 GPA the national average of first year students.

### Academic Affairs

Dr. Donald Palm, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, stated that he would present three resolutions for the Board's consideration in closed session: Candidates for Promotion and Tenure, Candidates for Faculty Emeritus, and Candidates for Honorary Degrees. Committee members requested to hear the nominations at this committee meeting.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

In accordance with § 2.2-3711(A)(1) and 2.2-3711(A)(11) of the *Code of Virginia*, the Committee went into closed session at 3:07 p.m. for discussion or consideration of promotion and tenure, faculty emeritus, and/or honorary degrees and/or special awards.

The motion provided that President Makola Abdullah, Dr. Donald Palm, Provost; Ramona L. Taylor, University Legal Counsel, and Dr. Annie C. Redd, Board Liaison, attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting is deemed necessary, and/or their presence will aid the Board in its deliberations. The Board reconvened in open session at 3:52 p.m. in accordance with § 2.2-3712(D) of the *Code of Virginia*. 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.

In open session, Dr. Palm presented the Credit Acceptance Policy for consideration. In addition, Dr. Palm presented updates on the SACSCOC Reaffirmation Process, the Strategic Plan, and the Quality Enhancement Plan.

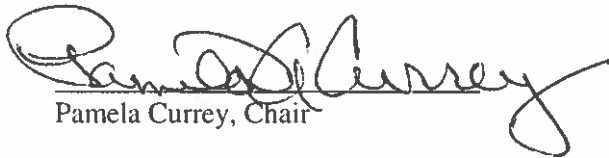
- The SACSCOC Reaffirmation On-site committee gave us one recommendation re: a repeated audit finding.
- The on-site committee gave recommendations with overall approval of the QEP.
- Strategic plan and its need to be about real life challenges
  - ✓ Engaging Alumni and how it will help in the long run
  - ✓ Strategic plan to be in place prior to budget
  - ✓ Looking for a strong push

**Other Business:**

- Dr. Hobbs announced she will not return for another term and that this would be her last committee meeting.
- Mr. Hill shared that this could be his last committee meeting as the end of his first term was June 30, 2018. He was unsure of his re-appointment status.
- The committee would like to hear from Deans and program directors regarding challenges and accomplishments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Dr. Hobbs adjourned the meeting of the Committee at 4:16 pm.

  
Pamela Currey, Chair

Sept 21, 2018  
Date