

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

Wednesday, November 7, 2018

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Pamela Currey, 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 2:45 pm.

**ROLL CALL**

A quorum was present to include per code and motion,

*Committee Members Present:*

Ms. Pamela Currey  
Dr. Daryl Dance  
Mr. Charlie Hill  
Mr. Xavier Richardson (*electronic participation*)  
Mr. Gregory Whirley  
Dr. Zoe Spencer, Faculty Representative

*Absent:*

Mr. Wayne Turnage  
Miss Gabrielle Wilks, 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 for Administration  
Dr. G. Dale Wesson, Vice President, Research and Economic Development  
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

*Other Attendees:*

Ms. Cynthia D. Baker, Student Success and Engagement  
Dr. Dawit Haile, College of Engineering  
Dr. Jame’l Hodges, Associate VP, Student Success and Engagement  
Dr. Sabin Duncan, Executive Director for Student initiative, Academic Center for Excellence  
Dr. Kimetta Hairston, ACE Fellow

### **AGENDA APPROVED**

The Committee approved the agenda with the addition of a presentation by Dr. Dawit Haile, Interim Dean, College of Engineering and Technology.

### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The Committee approved the minutes from the September 20, 2018 Committee meeting.

### **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Division of Administration**

Mr. Hubert Harris addressed the committee with the YTD crime statistics as of October 31, 2018, noting a slowing off in November. Mr. Harris further noted the tracking for Virginia Public College Crime Stats from 2013-2016 and Virginia Public Colleges from 2013-2016 per 5,000 students. Mr. Harris called attention to one murder crime in the statistic count. This is based on the Clery Act policies, which require VSU to report it even though the crime took place across the street from the campus.

#### **Division of Academic Affairs**

Dr. Donald Palm addressed the committee with the introduction of Dr. Dawit Haile, Interim Dean of the College of Engineering and Technology, giving way for a presentation on the College of Engineering. Dr. Haile's presentation highlighted the following: Description of the College of Engineering and Technology, Data Points, Recent Activities and Achievements, Short and Mid Term Goals, and Challenges.

President Makola Abdullah shared and recognized that VSU is leading the country in Computer Engineering graduation. Dr. Haile noted some key attributes as to why are in the area of Advising Mentoring specifically noting Altria peer to peer. Research experiences, and internships with opportunities from scholarships, internships, resources (college level) job placement, and educational research.

#### **Enrollment Management**

Mr. Rodney Hall addressed the committee noting the validation of students to be 928 which is a decrease from 1,145. Mr. Hall spoke on the difference of grade/impact on offers accepted to enrollment deposits for fall 2018. Mr. Hall further discussed the Transfer Founders Scholarship, scholarships with 3.0 GPA--Presidential Scholarships and Provost Scholarships, and scholarships for Stem Students and Non Stem Students.

Dr. Palm addressed the board on Academic Affairs, noting the following:

SACS Reaffirmation Update: At the SACSCOC Annual Meeting December 8-11, 2018, VSU will receive the decision from SACSCOC Board of Trustees. Best case is that VSU will be reaffirmed 10 years with no monitoring, and the worst case is that VSU will be reaffirmed 10 years with 6 months of monitoring.

VSU Strategic Plan:

Expectations: Comprehensive, Clear Simple, Drive Budget, Engage Alumni, Exposure

*Vision Draft* - We Produce World-Class Leaders and Scholars for State, National and Global Workforce Needs.

*Mission* remains the same

*Priority One* - Increase Student Opportunity and Access to Higher Education

Goal – Become a national model institution for educating students from all backgrounds while yielding high academic achievement and employment success rates.

*Priority Two* – Achieve National Distinction in Academic Excellence

Goal – Strategically establish and enhance academic programs to deliver distinctive, responsive and innovative offerings that effectively prepare leaders and scholars to meet the demands of a global society and workforce.

*Priority Three* – Provide a transformative VSU Student Experience that supports the Holistic Development of Students.

Goal – Facilitate and promote student opportunities to engage in leadership development Programs, career readiness programs, educational support services, co-curricular activities and residential living/learning programs.

*Priority Four* – Define the VSU Brand and to Tell our Story

Goal – Strategically communicate the value of Virginia State University

*Priority Five* – Effectively use emerging and innovative opportunities to sustain institutional health growth and operational effectiveness.

Goal – Ensure university operations support long-term growth, sustainability and effectiveness and promote within university operations that enhances the level of excellence and innovations.

*Priority Six* – Strengthen Financial Health

Goal - Strengthen philanthropic support and align alternative revenue sources to achieve long-term fiscal sustainability

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

Dr. Letizia Gambrell-Boone addressed the Board with the request for a moment of silence for Trojan Brianna Jordan who passed away over the summer and would have begun her third term at VSU in Fall 2018. Dr. Gambrell-Boone, then addressed the board on Student Success and Engagement noting the following:

#### **Retention Updates**

- Retention stands at 69% which is a drop compared to last Fall. VSU is still striving to achieve the aspirational retention rate of 75% rate.
- Fallen Trojan – Destanee Lyles and the support and love shown from the VSU Trojan family with the attendance of faculty, staff, and students who traveled to be in attendance with the family at her funeral.
- Enrollment report as of October 29, 2018 stands at 4382 with 38 students withdrawing as of October 29, 2018. Some of the withdrawals reflects from students being suspended.
- Division-wide intra-semester Outreach Initiative. *Each One Reach One* is a division-wide retention strategy that assesses the Enrollment Vulnerability of freshmen.
  - It Equips and empowers staff to engage small clusters of freshmen
  - Staff and students are matched based upon Enrollment Vulnerability Scorecard data.
  - It proactively engages students before the end of the semester by facilitating connections with campus resources while building familial bonds.
- **Student Survey**
  - Why are They Here? Why Students Choose VSU? (Top 3 Reasons 331 responses to date).
    - Accepted (208 responses –Tied for #1)
    - Wanted to Attend an HBCU (208 responses – Tied for #1)
    - Sense of Belonging (145 responses)
    - Major Offered (108 responses)
  - What Do We Know?
    - The number one reason they seek out counseling services is related to stress
    - Our immediate suspension protocol is the number one reason that students are withdrawing this semester. Utilizing Restorative Justice as an option is being as well as reviewing whether suspension is the best option.
  - Where Do We Want to Go?
    - We are striving to achieve our 75% retention rate target!
    - Data Driven Decisions Making
    - Health and Wellness Initiative
    - Building Better Relationships
    - Leveraging EAB to Enhancing Student Communication
  - SAVE THE DATE: Trojan Winter Wonderland, November 26, 2018

**Other Business:**  
None

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting of the Committee at 5:17 pm.

  
Ms. Pamela Currey, Chair

2/7/19  
Date

