

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

Wednesday, November 13, 2019  
Board Room, 310 Virginia Hall

**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 in Virginia Hall on the campus of Virginia State University at approximately 12:00 p.m.

Mr. Xavier Richardson joined the meeting by telephone at 2:20 p.m. from a remote location identified as 2600 Mary Washington Boulevard, Fredericksburg, VA 22401. Mr. Richardson was unable to physically attend due to family-related medical issues. The committee approved Mr. Richardson’s participation by telephone.

**ROLL CALL**

A quorum was present.

*Committee Members Present:*

Ms. Pamela Currey  
Dr. Daryl Dance  
Mr. Charlie Hill  
Mr. Gregory Whirley  
Mr. Xavier Richardson (*electronic communication*)  
Mr. Huron Winstead, Rector  
Mr. Joshua Hines, Student Representative  
Dr. Zoe Spencer, Faculty Representative

*Committee Members Absent:*

Mr. Wayne Turnage

*Administration Present:*

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President  
Dr. Donald Palm, Provost/ Sr. Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs  
Mr. Hubert Harris, Vice President of Administration  
Mr. Rodney Hall, Asst. Vice President, Enrollment Management  
Dr. Jame’l Hodges, Associate VP, Student Success and Engagement  
Dr. Tia Minnis, Associate Vice Provost/Ex. Director, Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness  
Ms. Sheila Alves, Chief Audit Executive  
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  
Ms. Deb Love, Office of the State Attorney General

*Other Attendees:*

Chief David Bragg, VSU Police Department  
Dr. Dawit Haile, Dean, College of Engineering & Technology  
Dr. Pamela Leigh-Mack, Chair, Department of Computer Engineering  
Dr. Kawachi Clemons, Associate VP for Academic Affairs  
Ms. Yourdonus James, Director, Conference Services  
Ms. Malika Blume, Internal Audit

**AGENDA APPROVED**

The Committee approved the meeting agenda.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The Committee approved the minutes from the September 12, 2019 Committee meeting.

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

None.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The committee convened a closed session pursuant to 2.2-3711(A)(1), (2), and (8) of the Code of Virginia for discussion and consideration of personnel and disciplinary matters, and consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring provision of legal advice. More specifically, the discussions will relate to allegations, current and ongoing internal investigations, and student and staff disciplinary actions related to 2018 and 2019 hazing incidents.

The motion called for President Makola Abdullah; Dr. Donald Palm, Provost; Hubert Harris, VP for Administration; Chief David Bragg; Deb Love, Chief Education Division for the Office of Attorney General; Dr. Kawachi Clemons, Associate VP for Academic Affairs; Dr. Jame'l Hodges, Associate VP for Student Affairs; Dr. Tia Minnis, Associate VP/Ex. Director, OPIE; Ramona L. Taylor, University Legal Counsel; Ms. Sheila Alves, Chief Audit Executive; and Dr. Annie C. Redd, Board Liaison, to attend the closed meeting because (1) their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary; and or their presence would aid the Board in its consideration of this matter.

The committee re-convened in opened session at 1:29 p.m. with a roll call of Board members to certify that the Committee discussed or considered only those public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened.

## **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### Division of Administration

Chief David Bragg presented an update on Police and Public Safety which included 2019 Homecoming activities, 2018-2019 Clery Act data comparison, as well as new police equipment and computer aided dispatch upgrades. Chief Bragg was pleased to announce there were no incidents or calls for police services related to the 2019 Homecoming events. Data comparison shows that there is an overall drop in the number of 2019 campus offenses from 2018 campus offenses at the same time of year (October 31<sup>st</sup>).

### Division of Academic and Student Affairs

Dr. Palm stated that the University had recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commonwealth of Virginia to participate in the Tech Talent Pipeline Investment Program. The Commonwealth initiated the program to create 25,000-35,000 new computer science graduates over the next 20 years. VSU total award for FY2020 is expected to be \$172,740 and for FY2021, \$686,794. The total award over the next 20 years is expected to total \$7.3 million. Dr. Dawit Haile, Dean, College of Engineering and Technology, presented information regarding the college's plan to offer a tuition-free program for computer science and computer engineering majors.

Mr. Rodney Hall presented fall enrollment data for the past three years for freshmen and transfer students. Mr. Hall also presented the current recruitment/enrollment data for the spring 2020 and fall 2020 semesters.

Mr. Henry DeBose, Student Ombudsman, presented an overview of the validation process with a flow chart illustrating the steps for online validation process. Mr. DeBose also presented a flow chart illustrating the process for students that do not complete validation online. The University provides a one stop shop student services location in Daniel Gym to assist the students that need help. The overview included a comprehensive look at the cost of attendance (in-state and out-of-state) and financial aid such as the federal annual loan limits and deadline dates.

Dr. Jame'l Hodges, Associate Vice President for Student Engagement, gave a recap of Homecoming 2019, student engagement/educational programming, and upcoming events. Discussion followed relative to the Anti-Hazing Awareness program with Dr. Walter Kimbrough, President of Dillard University, as the guest speaker.

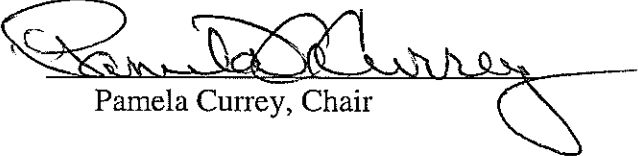
Dr. Palm discussed the six-year graduation rate highlighting the 43% rate for the fall 2014 cohort that graduated in 5 years or less and the rate of 32% for the fall 2015 cohort that graduate in 4 years or less. The fall 2015 rate was an increase from 28% for the fall 2014 cohort that graduated in 4 years or less. Dr. Palm also gave an update on the strategic plan alignment with a 2019-2020 timeline to approve annual plans and budgets prior to the fall semester 2020.

Dr. Palm shared information relative to the status of program accreditations in Hospitality Management, Didactic Program in Dietetics, Engineering, and Education. New proposed degree programs include the MBA in Business Administration, MS in Data Analytics, and Master of Social Work. The two Master of Science and the Master of Social Work degree programs will be presented to the Board for approval. The University is awaiting SACSCOC approval of the BSN in Nursing and the Counselor Education programs. SACSCOC will hold its annual meeting in December 2019 and notify the University after the meeting.

The Academic Affairs Division is in the process of soliciting requests for proposal for the Campus climate survey with the purpose of providing a comprehensive University Campus Climate Survey. Discussion followed regarding the purpose of the proposed survey which is twofold: 1) to gain the perspectives of stakeholders on the institution's climate, and 2) to provide a faculty/staff compensation study salary administration plan.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

  
Pamela Currey, Chair

2-6-2020  
Date