

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2018**

*The Full Board Meeting will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Gateway Dining Event Center  
Salon A, on the campus of Virginia State University*

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Harry Black, Rector, called the meeting of the Virginia State University (VSU) Board of Visitors (Board) to order in Salon A of the Gateway Dining and Event Center at 9:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

A quorum was present.

*Board Members Present:*

Mr. Harry Black, Rector  
Mr. Huron F. Winstead, Vice Rector  
Ms. Thursa Crittenden, Secretary  
Ms. Pamela A. Currey  
Dr. Daryl C. Dance (*absent*)  
Mr. Michael Flemming  
Mr. Charlie W. Hill (*absent*)  
Dr. Alma C. Hobbs  
Ms. Jennifer Hunter  
Mr. Paul Koonce  
Mr. Xavier Richardson  
Mr. Glenn Sessoms  
Mr. James J.L. Stegmaier  
Mr. Wayne Turnage (*absent*)  
Mr. Gregory Whirley  
Dr. James Norman, Faculty Representative to the Board (*absent*)  
Mr. Cody Mitchell, Student Representative to the Board

*Administration Present:*

Dr. Makola Abdullah, President  
Dr. Donald Palm, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Dr. Letizia Gambrell-Boone, Vice President of Student Success and Engagement  
Mr. Hubert Harris, Vice President of Administration  
Ms. Reshunda Mahone, Vice President of Institutional Advancement  
Dr. G. Dale Wesson, Vice President of Research and Economic Development  
Mr. Rodney Hall, Assistant Vice President, Enrollment Management  
Ms. Pamela Turner, Director of Communications  
Mr. Osubi Craig, Special Assistant to the President for Special Projects and Initiatives  
Dr. Annie C. Redd, Special Assistant to the President/Board Liaison  
Ms. Sheila Alves, Chief Audit Executive

*Legal Counsel Present:*

Ms. Ramona Taylor, University Legal Counsel  
Ms. Bonnie N. Holmes, Legal Assistant, University Legal Counsel

*Other Attendees:*

Rev. Delano Douglas, Director, Campus Ministries  
Paula McCapes, President, Staff Senate  
Dr. Shedrick McCall, Vice-Chair, Faculty Senate  
Travis Edmonds, Information Technology  
Danette Johnson, President's Office  
Yourdonus James, Office of Conference Services  
April Edwards, Institutional Advancement  
Durba Chatterjee, Institutional Advancement  
Joyce E. Henderson, VSU Real Estate Foundation  
Bob Turner, VSU Foundation  
Pete Stith, VSU Real Estate Foundation  
Dr. Dawit Haile, Interim Dean, College of Engineering and Technology  
Dr. Victor H. Vilchiz, Chair, Department of Chemistry  
Dr. Vykuntapathi Thota, Professor of Education

**OPENING REMARKS**

Rector Black invited Reverend Delano Douglas, Director of Campus Ministries, to lead the invocation.

**RECTOR'S REMARKS**

None.

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

President Makola Abdullah presented updates on the University as well as faculty and student achievements. President Abdullah recognized faculty members for years of service to VSU, and for gubernatorial appointments: Dr. Thota, Professor of Education who has 45 years of service at the University; Dr. Dawit Haile, interim Dean of the College of Engineering and Technology, who was appointed to the Manufacturing Development Commission; and Dr. Victor Vilchiz, who was appointed to the Water Commission. The Board and the gallery expressed appreciation for the faculty members' achievements.

President Abdullah ended his remarks by recognizing the Trojan Football Team for winning the 2017 CIAA Football Championship. The Board and gallery congratulated the coaches and players.

**COMMITTEE SESSIONS**

The Rector adjourned the meeting of the Full Board to allow for board committee meetings with the Board functioning as a committee of the whole.

**Academic and Student Affairs Committee**

*(Committee Members Present: Currey, Hobbs, Richardson, Whirley, Mitchell, Black)*

Dr. Alma Hobbs, Committee Chair, convened the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. Dr. Donald Palm presented a Resolution for Approval of the Formulation of Policy document, which outlined the University's policy and process for approval and revision of policies. Dr. Palm presented updates on the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) reaffirmation process, the summary of the SACSCOC off site committee report, and the VSU SACSCOC reaffirmation immediate next steps. Discussion followed on the 24 standards for which SACSCOC requested additional information. Dr. Palm addressed the SACSCOC concerns for each standard and how the University would respond to the concerns.

Dr. Palm also presented updates on VSU's strategic planning timetable and asked for suggestions on the best way to correspond with BOV about the strategic plan and to gather feedback. He will share the communication plan included in the strategic plan with the Board. The Rector suggested that the Executive Committee serve as a core group as a Strategic Plan Advisory Group but any member of the Board could participate in the group.

Dr. Letizia Gambrell-Boone presented Spring 2018 data as of January 16, 2018: 3,351 total student validations; number of students validated for housing at 1892 with 1722 moved in. Dr. Gambrell-Boone shared that the student who was injured during the shooting incident at VSU last fall returned to school this spring semester. The Board and the gallery expressed appreciation for that news. All nine National Pan-Hellenic Council organizations will be active on campus for the first time in 5 years. A newly designed Neophyte Risk Management Training will be rolled out to the community.

Division highlights included the recent induction of 61 students into the Trojan Leadership Program; all of the inductees carried a 3.0 or better grade point average. In addition, the Division sponsored successful engagements such as the 2017 Winter Wonderland and the 2018 Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Day with over 200 persons participating in service projects. Ms. Currey shared that she often hears about the good work Dr. Boone is doing at the SCHEV office.

Mr. Rodney Hall presented updated information on enrollment and data from the 2018 admissions report. Mr. Hall further explained the on-going challenges vs the opportunities for more transfer students. Discussion followed regarding the academic impact of a larger student body, planned growth, and the optimal enrollment for VSU.

Mr. Hubert Harris presented crime statistics from the Department of Police and Public Safety as of the end of 2017. The data showed a slight increase in year 2017 than in 2016 but lower numbers than years 2015 and 2014. Mr. Harris gave updates on increased security with the hiring of 10 new officers within 60 days. The department is now comprised of four sworn officers, four security officers, and four new sworn officers.

**Facilities, Finance and Audit Committee**

*(Committee Members Present: Flemming, Koonce, Stegmaier, Winstead, Whirley, Black)*

Mr. Michael Flemming, Committee Chair, convened the Facilities, Finance and Audit Committee. Kevin Davenport presented the Revised Textbook Adoption and Affordability Policy and the Resolution for the Federal Credit Union Lease for approval. Discussion followed regarding the Budget to Actual Report as of December 31, 2017, a proposed board reporting schedule from the Division of Finance, the CFI trend data, and new legislation that requires 30-day notification to the public before the Board votes on tuition increases. Mr. Flemming stated that the Committee will meet soon to discuss the kind of financial statements needed to help judge the overall financial situation of the institution.

Ms. Sheila Alves presented a Resolution for approval of the Internal Audit Plan and a Resolution for approval of the Internal Audit Charter. Ms. Alves also shared the status of the quality assurance review.

**Personnel and Compensation Committee**

*(Committee Members Present: Crittenden, Hunter, Sessoms, Stegmaier, Winstead, Black)*

Mr. Glenn Sessoms, Committee Chair, convened the Personnel and Compensation Committee and called for approval of the minutes from the November 16<sup>th</sup> committee meeting. Mr. Sessoms announced that the Board would soon conduct its annual evaluation of the President. Discussion followed as board members reviewed the timeline for the evaluation process and the evaluation tool. The evaluation tool will be available to Board members beginning February 28, 2018.

**Institutional Advancement Committee**

*(Committee Members Present: Crittenden, Currey, Hobbs, Hunter, Koonce, Richardson, Flemming, Sessoms, Black)*

Ms. Hunter, Committee Chair, convened the Institutional Advancement Committee and called for approval of the minutes from the November 17<sup>th</sup> committee meeting. Dr. G. Dale Wesson presented updates from the Division of Research and Economic Development, and Mr. Osubi Craig presented Government Relations updates. Ms. Reshunda Mahone shared updates from the Office of Institutional Advancement, and Ms. Turner presented updates from the Office of Communications.

The Rector recessed the meeting for lunch.

**RECTOR'S REMARKS**

After lunch, the Rector called for the approval of minutes from the November 16-17, 2017 Board meeting and for Committees to present items for approval of the Board.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The November 16 -17, 2017, Board meeting minutes were accepted as printed for approval.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Academic and Student Affairs Committee**

*(Committee Members Present: Currey, Hobbs, Richardson, Whirley, Mitchell, Black)*

On behalf of the Committee, Dr. Hobbs, Chair, presented the Resolution for approval of the Formulation of University Policy. Mr. Richardson moved for approval of the policy. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Dr. Hobbs also presented a recommendation to establish a Board strategic plan advisory group to serve as a resource to the administration in developing the VSU strategic plan. The Committee would consist of the Vice Rector, Secretary, and Committee chairs along with other board members who want to participate. Mr. Whirley moved to approve the recommendation. The recommendation was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Dr. Hobbs invited Dr. Shedrick McCall, Vice-Chair of the Faculty Senate, and Mr. Cody Mitchell, Student Representative, to make remarks on behalf of their respective constituencies. With permission of the Rector, President Abdullah invited Ms. Paula McCapes, President of the Staff Senate, to the floor to give an update on Staff Senate activities.

### **Facilities, Finance and Audit Committee**

*(Committee Members Present: Flemming, Koonce, Stegmaier, Winstead, Whirley, Black)*

On behalf of the Committee, Mr. Flemming, Chair, presented the Revised Textbook Adoption and Affordability Policy for approval. Mr. Winstead moved for the approval of the policy. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Mr. Flemming presented the Resolution for the Federal Credit Union Lease for approval. Mr. Whirley moved for approval of the resolution. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Mr. Flemming presented the Resolution for approval of the 2018 Internal Audit Plan. Mr. Sessoms moved for approval of the resolution. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Mr. Flemming presented the Resolution for approval of the Internal Audit Charter. Mr. Koonce moved for approval of the resolution. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

### **Personnel and Compensation Committee**

*(Committee Members Present: Crittenden, Sessoms, Stegmaier, Winstead, Black)*

Mr. Glenn Sessoms, Chair, stated there were no approval items.

**Institutional Advancement Committee**

*(Committee Members Present: Crittenden, Currey, Hobbs, Hunter, Koonce, Richardson, Flemming, Sessoms, Black)*

Ms. Jennifer Hunter, Chair, stated there were no approval items.

**REPORTS OF AFFILIATED FOUNDATIONS**

Mr. Robert Turner, Executive Director of the VSU Foundation, gave an overview of the recent retreat with members of the VSU Administration, the Real Estate Foundation, and the VSU Foundation.

**CLOSED SESSION**

In accordance with § 2.2-3711(A)(1), (10) of the *Code of Virginia*, Ms. Crittenden moved to convene a closed session at 1:52 p.m. for discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property and/or disposition of real property where discussion in public would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the University. The motion provided that President Makola M. Abdullah, Kevin Davenport, Letizia Gambrell-Boone, Sheila Alves, Joyce Henderson, Pete Stith, Annie C. Redd, and Ramona L. Taylor, Legal Counsel, 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.

Ms. Crittenden also moved to convene a closed meeting for consultation with legal counsel and pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. More specifically, the Legal Counsel discussed *Spencer vs VSU*, *Cameron Building LCC vs VSU*, *Schoening vs VSU*, and *Northampton Board of Supervisors vs VSU*, et al. The motion provided that President Makola Abdullah and Ramona L. Taylor, Legal Counsel, 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 2:32 p.m. in accordance with § 2.2-3712(D) of the *Code of Virginia*. Ms. Crittenden conducted the poll in which all board members certified that the Board only discussed public business matters. All board members present certified compliance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

Mr. Koonce moved to authorize the University administration to accept Northampton County parcel and then gift it back to Northampton County. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

**BOARD ELECTIONS OVERVIEW**

Rector Black reminded the Board that election of officers will take place at the April Annual Meeting. Information pertaining to the election can be found in the Board Bylaws, Article III, Section 3.1.3, Executive Committee Governance. Board members will receive additional

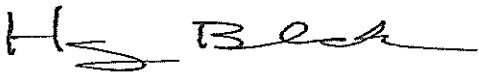
information (timeline and nominating instructions) about the election process as outlined in the Bylaws.

**BOARD RETREAT ACTION PLAN FOLLOW-UP**

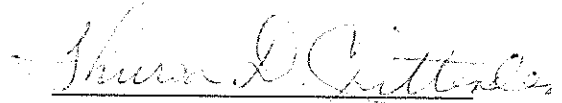
Ms. Crittenden opened the discussion with a request for board members to express their views as reflections and/or assessment of the Board's performance in the January 2018 meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Rector adjourned the meeting at 2:49 p.m.



Harry Black, Rector



Thursa D. Crittenden, Secretary

4/27/18  
Date

4/27/18  
Date