**D R A F T**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, October 6, 2022**

**3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

A meeting of the University Council was held on Thursday, October 6, 2022 at 3 p.m. in the VCU Cabell Library, conference room 303 and via Zoom.

The following members and alternates were present:

**Officers:** Michael Rao, Scott Street and Meredith Weiss

**Administration:** Scott Breuninger, Jay Davenport, Karol Kain Gray, Catherine Ingrassia, Charles Klink, Tomikia LeGrande, and Gary Tepper

**Faculty:** Stephen Alcorn**,** Sompop Bencharit,Lisa Brown, Sarah Jane Brubaker, Paul Bukaveckas, Beth Bukosi, Denise Burnette, Everett Carpenter, Karen Chartier, Amita Chin, Alexis Crawford, Carla-Mae Crookendale, Katherine Dabney, Kostadin Damevski, Marjolein Dewit, Rodney Dyer, Lindsay Evans, Sarah Golding, Kanako Iwanaga, Nancy Jallo, Susan Kornstein, Joyce Lloyd, Bettina Peacemaker, Peter Pidcoe, VaCora Rainey, Maria Rivera, Valerie Robholt, Oliver Speck, Christy Tyndall, Yi Wen Wei, Larry Williams, Jeff Wilson, Marjolein de Wit, Erin Zacholski, and Cesar Zamudio

**Postdoctoral Scholar:** Apurva Tadimari Prabhakar

**Classified staff**: Delores Armstrong, Peyton Burgess, Melissa Burton, Teresa Dulaney-Dewald, Brogan King, Amie Knapp, Amanda Simmons, Hannah Steighner, Chris Straus, and Jennifer Tennison

**Students**: Hajera Ahmadi, Mmesoma Azi, Mary Barazanchi, Sydney Biondi, Julia Daum, Rachel Delgado, Pratyush Narayen, Chineme Onukwughara, Anne Skelton and Brittany Spivey

**Ex-Officio and Guests**: Jon Becker, Jason Block, Chelyen Davis, Erin Webster Garrett, Tracey Gendron, Alena Hampton, Karen Helderman, Alex Henson, Irene Herold, Alison Jones, Carly Katz, Judith Kornberg, Denise Laussade, Alison Miller, Karla Mossi, Aashir Nasim, Reuban Rodriguez, Mangala Subramaniam, and Deborah Noble-Tripplett

1. **President’s Report**

President Rao welcomed Council members to the second UC meeting of the academic year.

He made a few staff announcements, to include:

* Dr. Mangala Subramaniam joined VCU this week as Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs. She comes from Purdue University, with a strong background in teaching and research, as well as innovative faculty engagement.
* In a few weeks, Dr. Aaron Hart will join VCU as our new Vice President for Student Affairs, a role he currently holds at the University of Houston -Clear Lake (UHCL). Dr. Hart brings extensive experience in advancing university-wide student success.

Dr. Hart will fill the role formerly held by Dr. Charles Klink. Dr. Klink is staying with VCU as associate vice president for student affairs, focusing on student health and wellness. Chuck has held several leadership roles at VCU and has been instrumental in a number of initiatives to make students feel more supported and welcomed here. And, he played a vital role in navigating the many challenges of the pandemic. Dr. Rao thanked Chuck Klink for his service to VCU in this role.

Since the September meeting, there have been some great announcements, to include:

VCU is part of the Alliance for Building Better Medicine that won a $53 million grant through the Economic Development Authority’s Build Back Better regional challenge. Dr. Rao noted that he recently attended a roundtable discussion of next steps, with Senator Warner and representatives from all of our partners, and it is really amazing how far we have come in a short time.

Medicines 4 All and Frank Gupton kicked off this partnership just a couple of years ago – they recognized that we were too reliant on overseas manufacturing for so many life-saving medications. It was, among other things, a national security risk.  Now we are building an entire regional coalition, dedicated not just to creating lifesaving medications right here, but to the workforce needed to support an advanced pharmaceuticals manufacturing hub.

To create the workforce needed, VCU will partner with Virginia State University on various degree tracks, creating a national model for how we build learning and workforce/career pathways. That has to include internships

* Student engagement -- hands-on experiences -- are critical to the learning experience and future success of our students, and our country.
* This creativity, innovation and discovery leads to the kind of entrepreneurship that we need to be competitive globally.
* It is meeting students where they are now and in the future.

Last month, VCU announced that the U.S. News and World Report rankings put us in the top 30 most innovative public universities.

Also, VCU announced that for the first time, VCU surpassed $400 million in sponsored research funding. We have added more than $100 million in research support in just four years. The credit goes to our outstanding research faculty across the university, and to Srirama Rao, our vice-president for research and innovation, in partnership with Provost Sotiropoulos, and SVP for health sciences and VCU Health CEO, Art Kellerman. They have worked hard to raise our profile, go after new grants, and pursue innovative new research projects.

Next week, VCU Massey Cancer Center will host a site visit from the National Cancer Institute as we pursue a comprehensive designation from NCI. Comprehensive status will reflect our intentional focus on addressing cancer disparities and promoting transdisciplinary collaboration. This evaluation will occur October 12, 2022. It will increase our core grant value from NIH. It will be like going from a AAA baseball team to a major league team.

Dr. Rao then asked Dr. Scott Street to provide an update on the review of the University Council bylaws.

Dr. Street thanked members for their comments on the red-lined version of the University Council Bylaws presented in September. The changes focused on nomenclature and organizational changes within the university.

Dr. Street then announced that the next area of the bylaws review is Article 8: Committees. University Council currently has four standing committees (Academic Affairs and University Policy; Faculty Affairs; Staff Affairs; and Student Affairs). Article 8 includes very detailed information on membership and a brief description of the role of each committee. The members were asked to review Article 8 and respond to a forthcoming questionnaire. Responses will be forwarded to the current chairs of the standing committees who will be asked to report out at the next meeting.

1. **Minutes**

The minutes of the September 1, 2022 meeting were approved.

1. **Committee Reports**

The Academic Affairs and University Policy Committee presented the following

programmatic changes, and new and revised policy proposals:

**Revised Investment and Liquidity Policy**—Ms. Denise Laussade, Treasurer and Director, Treasury Services, discussed the policy and responded to questions. With

20+ in person and 85% zoom “yes” votes and 14% abstentions, a motion was made and seconded to accept and move the revised policy forward for review and approval by the VCU Board of Visitors.

1. **Constituent Reports**

Anne Skelton provided an SGA Report. A general discussion followed.

Valerie Robnholt provided a Faculty Senate Report. She discussed faculty senate highlights and a general discussion followed.

Brogan King provided a Staff Senate Report. She discussed staff senate highlights and a general discussion followed.

1. **Cabinet Report**

Tomikia LeGrande, Vice President for Strategy, Enrollment Management and Student Success Chairs of Online Strategy Task Force Workgroups. A general discussion followed and Dr. LeGrande responded to questions.

Deborah Noble-Triplett provided a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Update. Dr. Noble-Triplett discussed a power point presentation focusing on the QEP timeline. She noted that October 14 advanced proposals will be posted on the QEP website. Feedback is welcome from staff, faculty and students. A general discussion followed and Dr. Noble-Triplett responded to questions.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:41 p.m.