DRAFT

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, February 6, 2020**

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Monroe Park Campus, University Student Commons

Virginia Rooms

A meeting of the University Council was held on Thursday, February 6, 2020, at 3 p.m. at the University Student Commons

The following members and alternates were present:

**Officers:** Gail Hackett and Holly Alford

**Administration:** Cathleen Burke, Jean Giddens, Muthoni Imungi, Cindy Kirkwood, Charles Klink, Tomikia LeGrande, and Don Young

**Faculty:** Deidra Arrington,Mike Broda, Nina Exner, Mary Lou Hall, Nancy Jallo, Andrea Kohashi, Susan Kornstein, Sharon Lanning, Katie Logan, Pamela Mason, Donna McClish, Meera Mehtaji, Edward Millner, Jonathan Moore, Lauren Pamulapati, Christine Remmers, Valerie Robnolt, Carlos Smith, Jacqueline Smith-Mason,Scott Street,Dong Sun, Christy Tyndall, Brian Verrelli, David Webber, Christine Wynd, and Kristin Zimmerman

**Postdoctural Scholar:** Sean Koebley

**Classified staff:** Delores Armstrong,Holly Dean, Christopher Garland, Brian McNeill, Beni Meyers, Karen Mullins, and Saher Randhawa

**Students**: Sombo Chunda,Jordan James,Sara Saunders,and Tyler Williams

**Ex-Officio and Guests**: Heather Creswick, Nichole Damico, Debra Duke, Tomika Ferguson, Donna Gibson, Robin Hurst, Alison Jones, Jacqueline Kniska, Hanan Kourtu, Shannon Mitchell, Deborah Noble-Triplett, Jana McQuaid, Aashir Nasim, Carla Nye, Angela Reynolds, Betty Rippley, Susan Robb, Roy Sabo, Verionica Schufert, Alexander Tartaglia, Jennifer Tennison, and Brian Verelli

1. **President’s Report**

On behalf of President Rao, Gail Hackett provided a brief report that included the following highlights:

* Leadership updates: Jacqueline Smith-Mason, Honors College Interim Dean; Robert Winn, Director of Massey Cancer Center; and Peter Buckley is now interim VP for VCU Health Sciences and CEO of the VCU Health
* John Ulmschneider was named the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Academic/Research Librarian of the Year
* Online grad programs ranked among the best in the nation by US News & World Report (School of Education #8, School of Business #35, and School of Nursing #45)
* State of the University recap
* Student success-our grad rate continues to rise (40% higher than a decade ago, 10% higher than the national average; six-year rate is among the highest of 17 similar institutions)
* Working hard with the general assembly to increase faculty and student funding (i.e. student financial assistance, faculty compensation)
* Also reminding our general assembly of our unique role in serving Virginia’s patients
* Construction update: Children’s Hospital of Richmond inpatient (anticipated completion 2022); adult outpatient (summer 2022 completion date); VCU Health and Sheltering Arms collaboration (late-spring 2020 completion); Historic Moore Street School (future daycare center with 148 slots, 48 reduced rate/free-of-charge slots reserved for children living in Carver and Gilpin neighborhoods)—will be operated by the School of Education.

Dr. Hackett shared that President Rao is grateful for council members’ commitment to excellence in all that they do in the classroom, clinic, lab and studio.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the University Council meeting on December 5, 2019 were approved.

1. **Committee Reports**

On behalf of the Academic Affairs and University Policy Committee, Gail Hackett discussed the following new programs/programmatic changes and policy proposals:

1. Proposal requesting modifications to the Post-Master’s Certificate in Nursing with concentrations in Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Family Nurse Practitioner, and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner--Carla Nye, Director, Master’s Program Department of Family and Community Health Nursing, School of Nursing, discussed the proposal and responded to questions.
2. Proposal to create a Graduate Certificate in Clinical Genetics—Heather Creswick, Department of Human and Molecular Genetics, School of Medicine, discussed the proposal and responded to questions.
3. Proposal to create a Graduate Certificate in Genomics Data Science—Roy Sabo, Department of Biostatistics, School of Medicine, discussed the proposal and responded to questions.
4. Proposal requesting modifications (four) to the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Real Estate and Urban Land Development—Jana McQuaid, Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies, School of Business, discussed the proposal and responded to questions.
5. Proposal to discontinue the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Human Resource Management--Shannon Mitchell, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, School of Business, discussed the proposal and responded to questions.
6. Proposal to create a Baccalaureate Certificate in Fundamentals of Computing--Debra Duke, Undergraduate Director, Department of Computer Science, College of Engineering, discussed the proposal and responded to questions.
7. Proposal to create a Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice—Alexander Tartaglia, Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, College of Health Professions, discussed the proposal and responded to questions.
8. Proposal to create a Graduate Certificate in Teaching: Elementary Education RTR—Jennifer Tennison, Academic Affairs Coordinator, School of Education, discussed the proposal and responded to questions*.*
9. Proposal to discontinue to the Post-Master’s Certificate (Educational Specialist or EdS) in Teacher Leadership--Jennifer Tennison, Academic Affairs Coordinator, School of Education, discussed the proposal and responded to questions*.*
10. Proposal to create a Bachelor of Arts in Human and Organizational Development--Robin Hurst, Department of Teaching and Learning, School of Education, discussed the proposal and responded to questions.
11. Proposal to create a Master of Education in Higher Education--Tomika Ferguson, Department of Educational Leadership, School of Education, discussed the proposal and responded to questions.
12. Proposal requesting a name change for the Doctor of Philosophy in Systems Modeling and Analysis to the Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematical and Data Sciences—Angela Reynolds, Graduate Program Director, College of Humanities and Sciences, discussed the proposal and responded to questions.
13. Proposal to discontinue the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Environmental Studies--Brian Verrelli, Director, VCU Life Sciences, discussed the proposal and responded to questions.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the above proposals and new programs/programmatic changes and move them forward for review and approval by the VCU Board of Visitors.

Jordan James and Tyler Williams provided a Student Government Association report. They discussed recent activities, and a general discussion followed.

Nancy Jallo provided a Faculty Senate Report. A general discussion followed.

Saher Randhawa provided a Staff Senate Report, to include: 1) February 25, 2020 Community Service Lunch and Learn; 2) staff senate awards for excellence-nominations underway; 3) March 12, 2020 career development conference (2 half day sessions); and 4) March 9-13, 2020 Staff Appreciation Week activities. A general discussion followed.

1. **For Information**

Sriram Rao, Vice President for Research and Innovation, provided an overview of research and innovation at VCU, focusing on the state of research. A general discussion followed and Sriram Rao responded to questions.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.