**D R A F T**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, November 4, 2021**

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

A meeting of the University Council was held on Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 3 p.m. via zoom.

The following members and alternates were present:

**Officers:** Michael Rao, Fotis Sotiropoulos, and Meredith Weiss

**Administration:** Cathleen Burke, Andrew Daire, Jay Davenport, Joseph DiPiro, Karol Kain Gray, Eric Hazelrigg, Grant Heston, Art Kellerman, Charles Klink, Tomikia LeGrande, Pam Lepley, Mary Pettiette, and Constance Relihan

**Faculty:** Ronke Akinkugbe,Sompop Bencharit,Alisa Brink,Brian Brown, DeniseBurnette, Everett Carpenter, Ross Collin, Kimberly Compton, Mariah Crilley, Carla-Mae Crookendale, Katherine Dabney, Marjolein Dewit, Rodney Dyer, Sarah Faris, Josh Galligan, Catherine Ingrassia, Nancy Jallo, Peter Kirkpatrick, Joyce Lloyd, Milos Manic, Edward Millner, Nicole Omecene, Maria Rivera, Sarah Rothschild, Mary Shall, Roxanne Spindle, Katharine Tibbetts, StaceyWahl,Yi Wen Wei, David Webber, Jeff Wilson**,** Christine Wynd,Wenli Yan, and Erin Hickey Zacholski

**Postdoctoral Scholar:** Chelsea Sawyers and Melissa Maczis

**Staff**: Elizabeth Dean, Sandra Mazzoli, Chris McDonald, Elizabeth Quammie, Saher Randhawa, Amanda Simmons, Hannah Steighner, Chris Straus, and Jennifer Tennison

**Students**: Kamal Alhassan, Natalie Barr, Sydney Biondi, Chidera Ntiwunka-Ifeanyi, Reena Pidaparti, Singth Nawagamuwage Perera, Shawn Rosalez, and Jacob Yim

**Ex-Officio and Guests**: Delores Armstrong, Jihad Aziz, Jakob Belue, Jason Block, Mike Flanigan, Erin Webster Garrett, Chelsea Gray, Ann Marie Halstead, Alena Hampton, Genevieve Siegel-Hawley, Karen Helderman, Irene Herold, Joanne Jensen, Alison Jones, Carly Katz, Susan Kornstein, Denise Laussade, Ishneila Moore, Tom Myrick, Teresa Nadder, Aashir Nasim, Susan Robb, Reuban Rodriguez, Veronica Shuford, Deborah Noble-Triplett, John Venuti, and James Wiznerowicz

1. **President’s Report**

President Rao welcomed Council members to the third meeting of the academic year and noted we will be completely virtual for this meeting as well as the December meeting following a survey of council members. The remaining meetings in the spring semester are being moved to a campus meeting space that is more conducive to hybrid meetings of this size.

Dr. Rao noted that it has been a busy and fruitful several weeks since our last meeting. He is energized by our students, faculty and staff who are establishing VCU as the model for higher education. He particularly enjoyed meeting with several student groups last month: first gen, non-traditional students, military, and men of color. The common thread tying these diverse groups together is the desire to learn and achieve things they or their loved ones never imagined. They are truly inspirational and demonstrate that if we can meet our students where they are, they will succeed, and we will succeed in our mission as an institution of higher education. He thanked everyone for their dedication and work to help our students achieve their version of the American Dream.

Recently, Dr. Rao also had the opportunity to meet with researchers from across our campuses along with VP for Research and Innovation, Dr. Srirama Rao, to discuss the strategic research priorities plan​​. VCU is at a pivotal moment as a national public research university to lead in transformative innovation; and to be at the forefront of transdisciplinary research, scholarship and creative practice as an institution to improve all aspects of the human condition. The plan is collaborative, embraces the arts and humanities and is guided by four themes:

* + Enriching the human experience
  + Achieving a just and equitable society
  + Optimizing health
  + Supporting sustainable energy and environments

The research strategic plan draws talent and expertise from all areas of the university. It will fuel innovation and entrepreneurship at VCU; bolsters our work to develop treatments and cures to diseases; to find creative solutions to society’s diciest issues; create a clear pathway to make sure everyone has a chance to reach their goals and live a full life; and enhances experiential learning opportunities for our undergraduate students.

Dr. Rao noted he is energized and excited about what is coming.  He has discussed with the Board of Visitors and university senior leadership that we have shown we are ready to lift VCU and the human experience to the next level. We are an organization of great consequence to thousands in Virginia and beyond. We are proving to be a model for higher ed and a model for transformative innovation that serves the public good, which makes this an excellent time to review and adjust our Quest 2025 strategic plan.

1. **Minutes**

The minutes of the October 7, 2021 were approved.

1. **Committee Reports**

The Academic Affairs and University Policy Committee presented the following programmatic changes, and new and revised policy proposals**:**

Proposal to create a Graduate Certificate in Culturally Responsive Leadership—Dr. Genevieve Siegel-Hawley, Associate Professor, Department of Educational Leadership, School of Education, discussed the proposal and responded to questions. With 97% “yes” votes and 3 abstentions, a motion was made and seconded to accept and move the proposal forward for review and approval by the VCU Board of Visitors.

Proposal to create a Baccalaureate Certificate in Public Health Laboratory Sciences—Dr. Teresa Nadder, Chair, Department of Laboratory Sciences, College of Health Professions, discussed the proposal and responded to questions. With 92% “yes” votes and 8 abstentions, a motion was made and seconded to accept and move the proposal forward for review and approval by the VCU Board of Visitors.

Proposal to create a Graduate Certificate in Health Equity—Dr. Alena Hampton, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Success, College of Health Professions, discussed the proposal and responded to questions. With 97% “yes” votes and 3 abstentions, a motion was made and seconded to accept and move the proposal forward for review and approval by the VCU Board of Visitors.

Proposal to discontinue the Master of Music in Music—Dr. James Wiznerowicz, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, School of the Arts, discussed the proposal and responded to questions. With 92% “yes” votes, 2% “no” votes, and 6 abstentions, a motion was made and seconded to accept and move the proposal forward for review and approval by the VCU Board of Visitors.

Proposal to discontinue the Doctor of Philosophy in Art History—Dr. James Wiznerowicz, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, School of the Arts,

discussed the proposal and responded to questions. With 73% “yes” votes, 18% “no” votes, and 9 abstentions, a motion was made and seconded to accept and move the proposal forward for review and approval by the VCU Board of Visitors.

Revised Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy (Board of Visitors)—Dr. Jihad Aziz, Interim Assistant Vice Provost and Executive Director, University Counseling Services, and Ms. Ishneila (Squig) Moore, Employee Relations and Performance Management Director, Division of Human Resources, discussed the policy and responded to questions. With 87% “yes” votes, 5% “no” votes, and 8 abstentions, a motion was made and seconded to accept and move the policy forward for review and approval by the VCU Board of Visitors.

1. **Constituent Reports**

Natalie Barr provided an SGA Report. She discussed SGA highlights and a general discussion followed.

Nancy Jallo provided a Faculty Senate Report. She discussed faculty senate highlights and a general discussion followed.

Saher Randhawa provided a Staff Senate Report. She discussed staff senate highlights and a general discussion followed.

1. **Cabinet Report**

Dr. Fotis Sotiropoulos, Provost and Senior VP for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Tomikia LeGrande, VP for Strategy, Enrollment Management and Student Success, provided a presentation on “Recalibation of Quest 2025: Together We Transform. A general discussion followed and Drs. Sotiropoulos and LeGrande responded to questions.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 p.m.