**D R A F T**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, April 6, 2023**

**3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

A meeting of the University Council was held on Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 3 p.m. in the VCU Cabell Library, conference room 303 and via Zoom.

The following members and alternates were present:

**Officers:** Fotis Sotiropoulos and Scott Street

**Administration:** Scott Breuninger, Karol Gray, Aaron Hart, Catherine Ingrassia, Marlon Levy, and Gary Tepper

**Faculty:** Stephen Alcorn,Brian Brown,Lisa Brown, Beth Bukoski, Everett Carpenter, Amita Chin, Kim Compton, Alexis Crawford, Carla-Mae Crookendale, Kosta Damevski, Marjolein Dewit, Rodney Dyer, Lindsay Evans, Sarah Golding, Nancy Husson, Kanako Iwanaga, Susan Kornstein, Joyce Lloyd, Lathika Mohanraj, Bettina Peacemaker, Peter Pidcoe, ViCora Rainey, Maria Rivera, Valerie Robnolt, Oliver Speck, Christy Tyndall, Yi Wen Wei, Larry Williams, Jeff Wilson, Erin Zacholski, and Kim Zicafoose.

**Postdoctoral Scholar:** Apurva Tadimari Prabhakar

**Classified Staff**: Delores Armstrong, Melissa Burton, Teresa Dulaney-Dewald, Brogan King, Amanda Simmons, and Chris Straus

**Students**: Mmesoma Azi, Rachel Delgado, Pratyush Narayen, Anne Skelton, John Sztraicher, and Brittany Spivey.

**Ex-Officio and Guests**: Andrew Arroyo, Jason Block, Chelyen Davis, Irene Herold, Magnus Johnsson, Sara Jones, Jeff Kraus, Pam Lepley, Alison Miller, Suzanne Milton, Aashir Nasim, Reuban Rodriguez, Mangala Subramaniam, Melissa Tyler, and Evan Udowitch.

1. **Provost’s Report**

Provost Sotiropoulos welcomed Council members to the seventh UC meeting of the academic year. The Provost noted that VCU’s uncommon approach to being a university that prioritizes access, excellence, and impact achieved some significant milestones over the past several weeks.

Last week, we officially cut the ribbon on the new inpatient tower for the Children’s Hospital of Richmond at VCU.

* This achievement has been years in the making, and it has been a top priority of the president’s since he arrived at VCU.
* This facility is a national model for putting the needs of children first – here, they will receive the best specialized care in a warm and soothing atmosphere.

Many of you watched the president’s annual State of the University address last Wednesday.

* It focused on the incredible transition that we, and all of higher education, are experiencing, and how VCU is uniquely positioned to thrive and lead in a rapidly changing landscape.
* We have a distinctive mission that really positions us well for the future. Everyone admitted to VCU has the potential to succeed – and we will do everything we can to help make sure of it.
* Our shared work to reimagine what student success looks like for a new generation is gaining national attention. Later this month, theChronicle of Higher Education will kick off a national series of meetings on the future of higher education at VCU. They could have chosen anywhere in the United States. They chose us because of our impact.
* Also, VCU will soon “officially” announce that the National Cancer Institute is granting its highest ranking – comprehensive status – to the VCU Massey Cancer Center. Massey is leading the charge for what a community-focused cancer treatment and research center looks like.

Just recently, SCHEV approved our new School of Population Health.

* This is our 15th school/college – it will improve health equity in Virginia and train a much-needed public health workforce.
* Dr. Vanessa Sheppard will serve as interim dean.

On Friday, we welcomed our new men’s basketball coach, Ryan Odom.

* The president shares with Coach Odom an expansive view of what winning means.
* Winning is not just the game. It also means success in the classroom, where, program wide, our student-athletes have had 16 semesters of a cumulative GPA above 3.0.

Scott Street provided an update on the University Council bylawsprocess. He reported that 19 members had responded to the Membership and Terms questionnaire. The questionnaire will remain open for an additional week to accommodate those who have not had an opportunity to respond. These results, as well as results from previous questionnaires throughout the academic year, will be compiled for additional work over the summer. Later in the fall we'll come back to this body with the recommendations on what changes should be made to the bylaws so they can be reviewed, discussed, and hopefully finalized by early in the spring semester.

1. **Minutes**

The minutes of the March 2, 2023 were approved.

1. **Committee Reports**

The Academic Affairs and University Policy Committee presented the following

programmatic changes, and new and revised policy proposals:

**New Conflict of Interest and Commitment Disclosure and Management for University Employees (including Faculty) Policy (Administrative)**—Ms. Suzanne Milton, Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer and Ms. Sara Jones, Program Manager for Investigations and Analytics, Office of Integrity and Compliance, discussed the new policy and responded to questions. With 93% “yes” votes, 5% “no” votes, and 2% 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.

**Revised Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) for Financial Aid Policy (Administrative)**—Mr. Evan Udowitch, Director of Financial Aid and Scholarship, discussed the revised policy and responded to questions. With 100% “yes” votes, a motion was made and seconded to accept Choice #1 and move the revised policy forward for review and approval by the VCU Board of Visitors.

1. **Constituent Reports**

Mmesoma Azi provided an SGA Report. A general discussion followed.

Valerie Robnolt 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**.

Dr. Aaron Hart, Vice President, Division of Student Affairs, provided a report on Innovation, Impact and Advocacy. He encouraged Council members to wear black and gold on Wednesdays to show their pride and support of VCU. A general discussion followed and Dr. Hart responded to questions.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.