**D R A F T**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, May 6, 2021**

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

A meeting of the University Council was held on Thursday, May 6 at 3 p.m. via Zoom.

The following members and alternates were present:

**Officers:** Michael Rao, Gail Hackett, Meredith Weiss and Holly Alford

**Administration:** Matt Conrad, Andrew Daire, Jay Davenport, Jean Giddens, Karol Kain Gray, Grant Heston, Art Kellerman, Charles Klink, Tomikia LeGrande, Pam Lepley, and Constance Relihan

**Faculty:** Deidra Arrington,Sompop Bencharit,Michael Broda,Brian Brown,Paul Bukaveckas,Jason Callahan, Everett Carpenter, Valerie Carter,Ross Collin, Mariah Crilley, Rodney Dyer, James Ferri, Josh Galligan, Denia Lee Hing, Catherine Ingrassia, Nancy Jallo, Melissa Jamerson, Miriam Kuttikat, Hermine Maes, Jacqueline Smith-Mason, Brian McNeill, Tom McNulty, Edward Millner, Jonathan Moore, Mary Pettiette, Christine Remmers, Valerie Robnolt, Scott Street, Dong Sun, Katharine Tibbetts, Christy Tyndall,Melissa Tyler,StaceyWahl,Matt Wallin, and Shijun Zhang

**Postdoctoral Scholar:** Sean Koebley

**Classified staff**: Delores Armstrong, Michelle Hawkins, Pamela Mason, Brian McNeill, Karen Mullins, and Saher Randhawa

**Students**: Sydney Biondi, Jordan James, Udhanth Mallasani, Fatima Malik, and Taylor Maloney

**Ex-Officio and Guests**: David Allen, Jacob Belue, Jason Block, Tom Briggs, Tina Carter, Michael Cimis, Gypsy Denzine, Karen Helderman, Alex Henson, Charles Johnson, Monty Jones, Alison Jones, Steven Kessinger Teresa Knott, Cleopatra Magwaro, Aashir Nasim, Nicole Omecene, Susan Robb, Reuban Rodriguez, Veronica Shuford, Samantha Wheeler, Angela Nicholas, and Elizabeth Dean

1. **President’s Report**

President Rao welcomed everyone. He expressed his gratitude for everyone’s work during a remarkable year, going above and beyond what was asked of them. He noted that this is Dr. Hackett’s final University Council meeting. He discussed her unwavering dedication to student success; noted how she strengthened VCU’s online courses and programs; how she headed the effort to hire a more diverse faculty; built faculty support such as peer mentoring, compensation/salaries, and her shared governance approach. She was a key leader in Quest development and implementation and budget design. Dr. Rao thanked her for delaying her retirement to make sure the transition to the next provost is successful. Fotis Sotiropoulos will start on August 1, 2021.

Dr. Rao provided a brief report that included the following highlights: 1) university-wide virtual commencement scheduled for May 21; 2) VCU Class of 2020 commencement survey; 3) emergency grant article in Washington Post on April 24, 2021; and 4) Fall return to campus. He noted that vaccinations are more accessible and open to all now. VCU is monitoring vaccination progress and infection rates, and we are focused on physical health and safety as much as we are on health. Effective May 17, fully vaccinated faculty/staff/students are exempt from quarantine, surveillance testing and daily health attestation requirements. Proof of vaccination is required. VCU will continue to assess AG Herring’s guideline regarding mandatory COVID-19 vaccination and will keep the university community informed. Dr. Rao also noted that the BOV will meet in-person and virtually on May 13-14. It will consider the university budget — holds the line on undergrad tuition for third consecutive year. The full proposed budget can be found on the Office of the President page (Click on the Board of Visitors tab, open comment portal closes at 4:30 p.m. on May 7). The meeting will be live-streamed.

Dr. Rao said it has been long academic year and we are feeling optimistic for a fall semester that feels more familiar. He thanked Council members for their hard work and wished everyone an enjoyable summer.

1. **Minutes**

Minutes from the University Council meeting on April 8, 2021 were accepted.

1. **Committee Reports**

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

1. Proposal to discontinue the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Instructional Technology—Dr. W. Monty Jones, Department of Teaching and Learning, School of EducationWith 97% “yes” votes and 2 abstentions, a motion was made and seconded to accept and move the proposal forward for review and approval by the VCU Board of Visitors.
2. Proposal to discontinue the Post-Baccalaureate Graduate Certificate in Online Teaching for K-12 Educators—Dr. W. Monty Jonesdiscussed the proposal and responded to questions. A general discussion followed. With 97% “yes” votes and 2 abstentions, a motion was made and seconded to accept and move the proposal forward for review and approval by the VCU Board of Visitors.
3. Revised University Budget Policy (Administrative)—Dr. David Allen, Director of Budget and Resource Analysis, discussed the proposal and responded to questions. A general discussion followed. With 92%” yes” 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.
4. New Automated External Defibrillators Policy (Administrative)—Mr. Thomas Briggs, Assistant Vice President, Safety and Risk Management and Mr. Steven Kessinger, Interim Director, Risk Managementdiscussed the proposal and a general discussion followed. With 92% “yes” votes and 5 abstentions, a motion was made and seconded to accept and move the proposal forward for review and approval by the VCU Board of Visitors.
5. Revised Safety and Protection of Minors on Campus Policy (Administrative)—Ms. Tina Carter, Director, and Mr. Charles Johnson, Training and Compliance Manager, Mary and Frances Youth Centerdiscussed 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.
6. Revised Preventing and Responding to Discrimination Policy (Administrative)—Ms. Cleopatra Magwaro, Associate Vice President of Institutional Equitydiscussed the proposal and a general discussion followed. With 90% “yes” votes 1% “no” votes, and 2 abstentions, a motion was made and seconded to accept and move the proposal forward for review and approval by the VCU Board of Visitors.
7. Revised Working@VCU: “Great Place” HR Policies (Administrative)—Ms. Ishneila Moore, Employee Relations and Performance Management Director, and Ms. Angela Nicholas, Sr. Employee Relations Consultant, Office of Human Resources discussed the proposal and responded to questions. With 87% “yes” votes, 4% “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.
8. Revised University Recognition through Naming Policy (Board of Visitors)—Mr. Jay Davenport, Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations, and Ms. Samantha Marrs, Senior Associate Vice President for Developmentdiscussed the proposal and responded to questions. With 82% “yes” votes, 13% “no” votes and 5 abstentions, a motion was made and seconded to accept and move the proposal forward for review and approval by the VCU Board of Visitors.
9. Revised Endowed Faculty Chairs and Professorships Policy (Board of Visitors)—Mr. Jay Davenport and Ms. Samantha Marrsdiscussed the proposal and responded to questions. With 85% “yes” votes, 10% “no” votes and 5 abstentions, a motion was made and seconded to accept and move the proposal forward for review and approval by the VCU Board of Visitors.
10. Revised Gift Acceptance and Administration Policy (Board of Visitors)—Mr. Jay Davenport and Ms. Samantha Marrsdiscussed the proposal and responded to questions. A motion was made and seconded to accept and move the proposal forward for review and approval by the VCU Board of Visitors
11. Revised Scholarship and Fellowship Requirements Policy (Administrative)—Mr. Jay Davenport and Ms. Samantha Marrsdiscussed the proposal and responded to questions. With 83% “yes” votes, 11% “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.
12. **Constituent Reports**

Taylor Maloney provided an SGA Report. A general discussion followed.

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

Ms. Saher Randhawa provided a Staff Senate Report. A general discussion followed.

1. **For Information**

Two cabinet reports were given. An update from Government Relations was presented by Matt Conrad, Vice President for Government and External Relations, and Karah Gunther, Vice President of External Affairs and Health Policy. A Budget Update was presented by Karol Kain Gray, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, and David Allen, Director of Budget and Resource Analysis. Discussion followed each presentation.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.