**MINUTES**

**Thursday, February 1, 2024**

**3:00-4:30 PM**

A meeting of the University Council was held on Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 3:00

p.m. in the VCU Cabell Library, conference room 303, and via Zoom. The following members and alternates were present:

**Officers:** President Michael Rao, Fotis Sotiropoulos, Meredith Weiss and Scott Street

**Administration:** Scott Breuninger, Jay Davenport, Jean Giddens, Jimmie Gahogan for Aaron Hart, Grant Heston, Catherine Ingrassia, and Alison Miller, Pamela Lepley, Karol Gray, Karen Helderman, Alex Henson,

**Faculty:** Stephen Alcorn, Chrisa Arcan, Julie Arendt, Brian Brown, Sarah Jane Brubaker, Beth Bukoski, Amita Chin, Alexis Crawford, Katherine Dabney, Kosta Damevski, Rob DiRenzo, Lindsay Evans, Hope Ginsberg, Kanako Iwanaga, Cassie DeSena Jacobs, Amie Knapp, Shillpa Naavaal, Bettina Peacemaker, Peter Pidcoe, VaCora Rainey, Roxanne Spindle, Maria Rivera, Valerie Robnolt, Michael Rosenberg, Christy Tyndall, Stacy Wahl, Larry Williams, Jeff Wilson, and Kim Zicafoose, Oliver Speck, Aimee Knapp, Srirama Rao, Cassie DeSena-Jacobs, Kanako Iwanaga, Everett Carpenter, K.C. Ogbanna, Lindsey Evans, Beth Bukoski, Hernan Buceli, Jala Brooks, Lacey Seaton, Paul Bukaveckas, Jacob Goffnett, Nancy Husson, Hope Ginsburg, Julie Arendt, Stacey Wahl, Charles Klink, Michelle Edmonds, Delores Armstrong, Carrie Peterson, Sarah Golding, Nancy Jallo, Lisa Brown, Mangala Subramaniam, Carrie Connolly,

**Postdoctoral Scholar:** Eda Koseli

**Staff**: Valarie Carter, Holly Dean, Melissa Burton, Hannah Steighner, and Katina Velentzas, Louise Putnam, Teresa Dulaney-Dewald, Corey Martin, Melody Harris, Jenn Arce, Gabrielle Whittington, Dina Belic, Erin Wilson, Derek Van Buskirk, Chelsea Gray, Jeff Kraus, LaToya Blizzard, Janet Wooten, Emerson Hernandez, Jessica Lindsey, Jason Block, Rob DiRenzo, Lendi Bass, Julia Daum,

**Students**: Lana Birdwell, Zachary Hodgen, Sincere Sade-Reading

**Ex-Officio and Guests**: Andrew Arroyo, Karen Helderman, Mangala Subramaniam.

# Minutes

President Rao indicated the minutes of November 30, 2023, did not need to be approved but any changes should be sent to UNIVCOUNCIL@VCU.EDU.

# President’s Report

President Rao thanked faculty and staff for the great milestones VCU has achieved. Still have a way to go in terms of overall enrollment. Currently have surpassed 2023 freshman enrollment. Guaranteed enrollment has helped. Specifically, he thanked Provost Sotiropoulos and his team. Thanked Research Vice President Sriram Rao for great work in research. The legislative session is going well. Several VCU graduates are new legislators. Legislative priorities: Looking for additional financial student assistance; meet our R1 peers in terms of faculty salaries; Massey Cancer Center, reimbursement for military waivers. Delighted to have this program but in the past three years VCU has experienced a large increase. Taking resources of $18M and spreading it across a large number of new students.

Preparing for SACSCOC reaccreditation February 27, 28, and 29. The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) visit coming up soon.

# Committee Reports

* **Academic Affairs Committee-**

**For Action: New Degree Program Proposals: Approved**

**Proposal to establish a new MSN degree program in Nursing***—Dr. Michelle Edmonds, Professor, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs, and Department Chair for Family and Community Health, School of Nursing*

This program is seeking to start a Master’s Direct entry program for pre-licensure for nurses. Allows people with a bachelor's in another field to come into nursing at the master’s degree level as a pre-licensure nurse. Hope this can be one way we can help create a better workforce in Virginia for more nursing faculty and hope this will have some impact on the nursing shortage. With a 94% “yes” votes, 3% “no” votes and 3% abstentions. The vote passes.

* **University Policy Committee-**

**No Report**

* **Faculty Affairs Committee-**

Asking for bylaws changes regarding the faculty affairs committee. The Bylaws committee is reviewing the changes requested.

* **Student Affairs Committee-**

Jim Hagan representing Aaron Hart. Continue to work on a policy or recommendation around improving/improving stronger transparency and communication between students, faculty, and administration. Will bring back a recommendation in the spring.

* **Staff Affairs Committee-**

Melissa Burton, newly appointed chair of the staff subcommittee group. Faculty members reached out and are concerned about staff performance evaluations and the caps on ratings. The committee met on this. Since this was not a policy update it isn’t for the committee to decide so sent this to the Staff Senate.

1. **Constituent Reports**

* Student Government Association-Sincere Slade-Reading provided a report about upcoming Lobby Day and Homecoming. Ongoing efforts to further contribute to the overarching goal of fostering unity within One VCU. A general discussion followed.
* Faculty Senate Report-Maria Rivera provided a report and a general discussion followed.
* Staff Senate Report-Maya Rogers provided a report and a general discussion followed.
* **SACSCOC site visit and Quality Enhancement Plan**
* **Andrew Arroyo**, *Interim Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Office of the Provost*
* **Katrice Hawthorne**, *Associate Vice President for Assessment & Institutional Effectiveness, Office of the Provost*
* **Lacey Seaton**, *Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Leadership, School of Education*
* **Jeff Kraus**, *Director of Executive Communications, Office of the Provost*

Next few weeks around campus, both digitally and in print, there will be mention of the SACSCOC visit and the Quality Enhancement Plan. Faculty at VCU are leading committees at VCU. Katrice Hawthorne described the timeline for reaccreditation which started in 2021. Site visit for Qatar is February 22, 2024, and VCU main campus is February 27 – February 29. VCU should receive the final report in June 2024. Dr. Golding presented a report of the Quality Enhancement Plan.

Slide deck available for review on Canvas.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:49 PM

**Next meeting** - February 29, 2024