**FINAL**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, February 29, 2024**

**3:00-4:30 p.m.**

A meeting of the University Council was held on Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. in the VCU Cabell Library, conference room 303, and via Zoom.

The following members and alternates were present:

**Officers:** Fotis Sotiropoulos, Meredith Weiss, and Scott Street

**Administration:** Hernan Bucheli, Aaron Hart, Marlon Levy, Alison Miller, KC Ogbonna

**Faculty:** Stephen Alcorn,Julie Arendt,Lisa Brown,Paul Bukevakis, Beth Bukoski, Yana Cen, Amita Chin, Jody Cox, Alexis Crawford, Kostadin Damevski, Lindsay Evans, Hope Ginsberg, Jacob Goffnett, Kanako Iwanaga, Cassie DeSena Jacobs, Nancy Jallo, Amie Knapp, Salta Liebert, Sara Roan, Shillpa Naavaal, Bettina Peacemaker, Maria Rivera, Oliver Speck, Christy Tyndall, Brian Wattenberg, Larry Williams, Jeff Wilson, Cesar Zamudio, and Kim Zicafoose

**Postdoctoral Scholar:** Eda Kaseli

**Classified Staff**: Holly Dean, Jair Lecky, Louise Putnam, Maya Rogers, Amanda Simmons, and Jennifer Tennison

**Students**: Mmesoma Azi, Sincere Slade-Reading, and Sierra Suarez

**Ex-Officio and Guests**: Suzanne Ameringer, Andrew Arroyo, Norm Bedford, Jason Block, Shelley Conroy, James Gahagan, Irene Herold, Karen Helderman, Alex Henson, Pam Lepley, David Litton, Cleo Magwaro, Samantha Marrs, Suzanne Milton, Mike Porter, Karen Rader, Mangala Subramaniam, and Stephanie Tignor

1. **Provost’s Report**

On behalf of President Rao, Provost Sotiropoulos welcomed Council members to the fifth UC meeting of the academic year. Provost Sotiropoulus noted that 2023 was VCU's best year yet -- record enrollment, research funding, and fundraising, US News top 20 public schools for innovation, NSF top 50 for research, and Massey comprehensive status. Now we build on that, adapting to meet the changing needs of students and society. A general discussion followed.

1. **Minutes**

The minutes of December 1, 2023, were approved.

1. **Committee Reports**

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

**Academic Affairs Committee**

**Proposal to discontinue the current MS degree program in Nursing**—Dr. Shelley Conroy, Professor and Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, Department Chairperson, Adult Health and Nursing Systems, VCU School of Nursing, discussed the proposal and responded to questions. With 89% “yes” votes, 0% “no” votes, and 11% abstentions, a motion was made and seconded to accept and move the proposal forward for review and approval by the VCU Board of Visitors.

**University Policy Committee**

**Academic Engagement Within Class (New Policy**)—Norm Bedford, AVP, Student Financial Services, discussed the new policy and responded to questions. With 77% “yes” votes, 3% “no” votes, and 20% abstentions, a motion was made and seconded to accept and move the policy forward for review and approval by the VCU Board of Visitors.

**International Travel for Employees and Students (Substantive Revision)**—Stephanie Tignor, Director, Global Learning, GEO, discussed the proposed revisions and responded to questions. With 82% “yes” votes, 3% “no” votes, and 15% abstentions, a motion was made and seconded to accept and move the proposal forward for review and approval by the VCU Board of Visitors.

**Foreign Gifts and Contracts Reporting (New Policy)**—Suzanne Milton, Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer, discussed the proposed policy and responded to questions. With 85% “yes” votes, 0% “no” votes, and 15% abstentions, a motion was made and seconded to accept and move the policy forward for review and approval by the VCU Board of Visitors.

**Building Access Control (New Policy)—**Alex Henson, Chief Information Officer, discussed the proposed policy and responded to questions. With 83% “yes” votes, 0% “no” votes, and 17% abstentions, a motion was made and seconded to accept and move the policy forward for review and approval by the VCU Board of Visitors.

**Safety and Protection of Minors (Substantive Revisions)—**Cleo Magwaro, AVP of Campus Equity and Access Services, discussed the proposed revisions and responded to questions. With 87% “yes” votes, 0% “no” votes, and 13% abstentions, a motion was made and seconded to accept and move the proposal forward for review and approval by the VCU Board of Visitors.

**Faculty Affairs Committee**

Valerie Robholt provided a faculty affairs committee update.

**Staff Affairs Committee**

Alison Miller had no report from the staff affairs committee.

**Student Affairs Committee**

James Gahagan provided a student affairs committee update on behalf of Aaron Hart.

1. **Constituent Reports**

James Gahagan provided an SGA Report, and a general discussion followed.

Maria Rivera provided a Faculty Senate Report, and a general discussion followed.

Maya Rogers provided a Staff Senate Report, and a general discussion followed.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.