



**VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF VISITORS  
March 22, 2024  
James Branch Cabell Library  
901 Park Avenue – Room 303  
Richmond, VA**

**MINUTES**

**DRAFT**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Todd Haymore, *Rector*  
Mr. Andy Florance, *Vice Rector*  
Mr. Anthony Bedell  
Ms. Rooz Dadabhoy  
Mr. Steven DeLuca, *virtual pursuant to Code Section 2.2-3708.3(B)(4) personal matter where the member was unable to attend the meeting due to previous commitment – Boston, MA*  
Mr. H. Benson Dendy III  
Hon. Peter Farrell  
Dr. Dale Jones  
Ambassador Carmen Lomellin, *virtual pursuant to Code Section 2.2-3708.3(B)(3) where the member's principal residence is over 60 miles from the meeting location – Arlington, VA*  
Mr. Edward McCoy  
Dr. Tonya Parris-Wilkins  
Dr. Clifton Peay  
Mr. P2 Sandhu

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ms. Ellen Fitzsimmons  
Rev. Tyrone Nelson  
Mr. Keith Parker

**OTHERS PRESENT**

President Michael Rao  
Ms. Chelsea Gray, *Executive Director of Board and Executive Operations*  
Ms. Stephanie Hamlett, *University Counsel*  
Mr. David Litton, *Interim Executive Director, Audit and Compliance Services*  
Presidential Cabinet of VCU  
VCU students, faculty and staff  
Members of the Media

**CALL TO ORDER**

Rector Todd Haymore called the meeting to order at 10:58 a.m. The public was able to view the open session of the meeting via livestream at <https://mssvideo.vcu.edu/BOV>.

**RECTOR’S REMARKS**

The Rector began by acknowledging the men’s and women’s basketball teams. Both teams had great seasons overall - men’s 22 wins and women’s most regular season wins (26) in history. VCU athletes take their success to the classroom achieving their highest grade point average in program history last semester.

He continued with VCU’s student success being recognized by the SACSCOC review committee who visited VCU at the end of February for the university’s accreditation review. The committee members were very impressed with the dedication to student success by everyone at VCU.

Rector Haymore thanked General Assembly partners for recognizing VCU’s mission and contributions to the Commonwealth, especially concerning military waivers, student financial aid and the base appropriation. So far this session has been positive for VCU.

About a year ago the VCU community celebrated the historic gift from Dr. Todd Stravitz and his family’s Barbara Brunckhorst Foundation that launched the Liver Institute. A lot has happened since then and the momentum has continued. Dr. Arun Sanyal will be providing an update on the Stravitz-Sanyal Institute for Liver Disease and Metabolic Health.

He thanked the team that supports these meetings.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Rao began by sharing his enthusiasm for the current semester. He expressed appreciation to state leaders in the General Assembly and the Governor for their support and the board members who helped advance VCU and VCU Health and its interests to these state leaders.

VCU has exponential momentum right now. The SACSCOC accreditation was very encouraging. He recognized the Provost and his office for the work done for the accreditation visit along with results from the academic repositioning task force that will be presented at the May board meeting.

2023 was VCU’s best year yet – but every sign is that 2024 is going to be better. The momentum and success are showing up in the number of students committing to come to VCU. Overall applications and out-of-state applications are up. Students come from all backgrounds and communities – VCU’s diversity is the real America. He mentioned his visit to India where more students were recruited and strengthened partnerships with universities in Gujarat. As VCU is attracting more student interest, it is also planning for more housing.

Last year VCU had its best fundraising year ever - an effort that led to ranking 35th in the nation among all schools, and 21st among public universities.

Investments to promote and support impactful research led to last year's milestone of \$465 million in research funding. Success is driven by purposeful, innovative and strategic investments.

He recognized the strong operating performance by the Health System. And in a more forward movement, the School of Public Health has received the necessary approvals to achieve accreditation. The first group of students will graduate from the School in May.

He continued by mentioning that the board will hear from Dr. Arun Sanyal about the Liver Institute which is set up to be a unique global center for research, care, and training, focused on the liver and metabolic health. The vision is to be a global magnet for liver-metabolic health training and research with a strong focus on patient centered science and clinical care – i.e. translational science. Leadership (Dr. Sanyal) is ranked in top 0.1% of investigators and second in lifetime impact on liver disease care worldwide. He will update on where the institute is currently and its upcoming plans and anticipated impact.

And finally, he joined Rector Haymore in congratulating VCU men's and women's basketball teams, both of which made VCU proud in the A-10. He shared his support for student success, and acknowledged that VCU student athletes perform not only on the court, but in the classroom. Student athletes had a collective GPA last fall of nearly 3.5 – the highest ever. And student-athletes have earned a departmental GPA of at least 3.0 in every semester since the spring of 2015.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

Rector Haymore reminded the board that they were provided all action item materials in advance of the meeting. Rector Haymore moved that the Board of Visitors of Virginia Commonwealth University approve the following:

1. December 7, 2023 meeting minutes
2. December 8, 2023 meeting minutes
3. Discontinue the current MS degree program in Nursing - School of Nursing
4. Establish a new MSN degree program in Nursing - School of Nursing
5. Mandatory Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Training Resolution
6. Delegation of Authority for Banking and Investments Modification
7. Contract for Security Services
8. Authorization for Acquisition of Liver Institute Equipment (MRI)
9. Amendment to the 2024-2030 Six-Year Capital Plan, Authorization to Initiate a Capital Project, and Design Review and Approval of Project Plans for Scherer Hall Renovations
10. Authorization to Amend the 2024-2030 Six-Year Capital Plan, West Grace Street Housing

The motion was seconded and was approved unanimously.

The minutes are posted at <https://bov.vcu.edu/meetings/minutes/>. A copy of the other action items are attached hereto as ***Attachment A*** and is made a part hereof.

Rector Haymore continued by sharing that the nominating committee met earlier that day. The committee agreed to recommend to reappoint Mr. Andy Florance as Vice Rector and Hon. Todd Haymore as Rector and appoint Ms. Ellen Fitzsimmons as Secretary. Mr. H. Benson Dendy III made a motion to appoint the recommended Rector, Vice Rector, and Secretary for FY25. The motion was seconded and was approved unanimously.

### **CONSTITUENT REPORTS**

Rector Haymore welcomed Ms. Leila Griffin and Ms. Margot Sell, the BOV undergraduate and graduate student representatives. They shared A copy of Ms. Griffin and Ms. Sell's presentation is attached hereto as ***Attachment B*** and is made a part hereof.

He then welcomed Dr. Valerie Robnolt, faculty senate representative. A copy of Dr. Robnolt's written report is attached hereto as ***Attachment C*** and is made a part hereof.

Lastly, staff representative Ms. Amanda Simmons presented. A copy of Ms. Simmons's presentation is attached hereto as ***Attachment D*** and is made a part hereof.

### **VCU HEALTH SYSTEM UPDATE**

Rector Haymore reminded members of the board that he along with four of their colleagues and President Rao attended the VCU Health System Authority board meetings earlier that week. He asked Dr. Levy to provide a high level report. He reported on patient access improvements including the purpose is to be efficient and to grow volume and closed on the end of Q3 tracking an estimated 5% improvement year-over-year for both inpatient and outpatient access and MCVP is tracking ahead of budget.

He continued with sharing the one year anniversary of Children's Hospital - it has had incredible increases in patient experience scores since moving to the Tower with inpatient going from the 44th to 95th percentile and the emergency department from 12th to the 50th percentile. Occupancy is at 93% and over 7,000 surgeries have been done.

He provided an update on the VCU Health CMH Family Medicine Residency Program with three resident spots filled. He concluded his report by recognizing the three year anniversary of VCU Health Tappahannock Hospital acquisition.

A copy of Dr. Levy's presentation is attached hereto as ***Attachment E*** and is made a part hereof.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

The public comment period began by Rector Haymore stating that the board welcomes input from all stakeholders and considers their viewpoints important in making critical decisions before the board. All who want to speak will be afforded the opportunity. Those who have registered will speak in the order in which they registered. He continued by stating that the board expects everyone attending the meeting to respect the right of each speaker and board members in conducting the business of the university to be heard without interference. The board wants to

be able to hear from everyone. He thanked everyone for upholding the values of freedom of speech at this public meeting.

Ms. Chelsea Gray mentioned that per board procedures a notice was shared allowing for a public comment period and written public comment. Board members have received the written public comments. The board heard from all of those that signed up to speak and received their written materials. A copy of the written public comments and written materials can be found as an exhibit to these minutes.

### **STRAVITZ-SANYAL**

Rector Haymore and President Rao introduced Dr. Arun Sanyal and commended him for his tremendous work with the Stravitz-Sanyal Institute of Liver Disease and Metabolic Health (SSLI). Dr. Sanyal began his report by sharing that he and Dr. Stravitz had the vision to make VCU forever the leading center for liver learning and liver related health care worldwide. The goal was to promote and leverage research that could impact millions of lives around the world, while also becoming a regional and national center of excellence for the care of liver disease and metabolic health in general by translation of scientific discovery and integrating education, research and technology.

He shared clinical updates. There has been exceptional growth in clinical capacity, 206 liver transplants last year - outcomes are nationally recognized. The SSLI is arguably one of the top five, and certainly top ten, but maybe even in the top five now, and headed towards the top three programs in the country. Thanks to the growth of the liver programs, we have now established multidisciplinary programs across many different areas and a big focus on women's health because 50% or more of the population are women. The SSLI has impacted human health worldwide. For alcohol related diseases, the number one drug that is currently being looked at for alcohol related liver disease is a molecule that was developed in this program and was then spun out and commercialized. Just in the last year, 135 published papers and over 175 presentations were shared by our faculty worldwide. There has been a continuous increase in federal grant funding. Additional faculty have been recruited, bringing more than another \$10,000,000 in grant funding with them.

He continued with an update on education and mentorship. People all around the world are coming to SSLI for training and going back to become ambassadors for VCU and SSLI. The week after the board meeting 15 senior heads of departments of liver disease from different universities in Brazil are visiting for a two day intense training in metabolic health and liver disease

SSLI has several differentiators. Now metabolism can be studied, inflammation can be studied along with scarring cancers - all of these processes in humans in real time. A critical part of it is developing novel technology, using imaging to do that.

There is a commitment to diversity. SSLI will be collaborating with Onkai (official agreement with VCU in development). Onkai is currently linked to 10,000 clinics around the country serving under-served populations and covering 30 million covered lives. The partnership with

them is to train their clinical staff about issues around metabolic health, liver disease, but also provide access to those patients to clinical trials using a novel digital platform called Trial Bridge.

SSLI has had an impact on the health industry in Virginia building a biotech hub, creating jobs to prepare for tomorrow's medicine. The institute is also building a global workforce including South America, Latin America, the Middle East, Asia subcontinent, and the Far East - extending its reach to over 1 billion people worldwide.

The vision for the future includes better training to prepare for tomorrow's needs for investigators making it easier to do research and provide care with more options for patients. For patients better access, reduced burden of therapy and diagnostics, and better outcomes. The SSLI has already exceeded its three to four year timelines within two years. There are some challenges along the way. As a worldwide society we all must work together to resolve these challenges as we move forward, so that we can actualize the vision and the mission that we set out when we created the institute. In the end, it is about better access for patients, better and safer care, novel approaches, better outcomes, and building the workforce for tomorrow. Because the clock does not stop for anyone, we have to prepare the workforce to take on these challenges in the years to come.

A copy of Dr. Sanyal's presentation is attached hereto as *Attachment F* and is made a part hereof.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Rector Haymore moved that the Board of Visitors of Virginia Commonwealth University convene a closed session under Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act for the discussion of personnel matters, more specifically relating to the performance evaluation of various staff members; faculty tenure appointments and changes in status; and Section 2.2-3711 (A)(2) and (11) for discussion of a special award and consideration of admission or disciplinary matters or any other matters that would involve the disclosure of information contained in a scholastic record concerning any student of any Virginia public institution of higher education or any state school system, specifically regarding the selection of the Board of Visitors Student Scholarship recipient which requires disclosures of scholastic records; and Section 2.2-3711 (A)(3) for the discussion of potential acquisition of certain real property to further the educational purposes of the University where discussion in open session would adversely affect the university's bargaining position and negotiating strategy, specifically related to real property to be used for Intercollegiate Athletics; and Section 2.2-3711 (A)(7) for discussion of matters requiring the provision of legal advice by counsel, relating to an update on potential and current litigation in state and federal courts and other legal matters relating to pending investigations and regulatory audits; and under Section 2.2-3711(A)(8) for the provision of legal advice related to specific matters; and Section 2.2-3711 (A)(9) for the discussion of gifts, bequests, and fund-raising activities of the University, namely the Named Funds Report, the Approved Named Funds under \$50,000 Report, and other notable and significant gifts; and Section 2.2-3711 (A)(11) for discussion or consideration of honorary degrees or special awards, namely proposed recipients for such degrees or awards; and Sections 2.2-3711 (A)(7)(8) and (19)

for discussion of specific cybersecurity vulnerabilities and briefing by staff concerning actions taken to respond to such matters, specifically relating to data security and certain IT processes; and Section 2.2-3711(A)(23) to discuss operational strategies where disclosure of such strategies would adversely affect the competitive position of the Authority, specifically the finance and operating trends of the Authority.

The motion was seconded and was approved unanimously.

Following the closed session, the public was invited to return to the meeting. Rector Haymore called the meeting to order. On a motion duly made and seconded the following resolution of certification was approved by a roll call vote:

### **Resolution of Certification**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Visitors of Virginia Commonwealth University certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

<b><u>Vote</u></b>	<b><u>Ayes</u></b>	<b><u>Nays</u></b>
Mr. Todd Haymore, <i>Rector</i>	X	
Mr. Andy Florance, <i>Vice Rector</i>	X	
Mr. Anthony Bedell	X	
Ms. Rooz Dadabhoy	X	
Mr. Steven DeLuca	X	
Mr. H. Benson Dendy III	X	
Hon. Peter Farrell	X	
Ambassador Carmen Lomellin	X	
Mr. Edward McCoy	X	
Dr. Tonya Parris-Wilkins	X	
Dr. Clifton Peay	X	
Mr. P2 Sandhu	X	

Dr. Dale Jones was not present for the roll call. All members present responding affirmatively, the resolution of certification was adopted.

### **CLOSED SESSION ACTION ITEMS**

Rector Haymore moved to approve the named funds and spaces report and named funds under \$50,000 as presented in closed session, the special awards recipients as presented in closed session, and the recipient(s) of the BOV Scholarship as discussed during closed session. Dr. Tonya Parris-Wilkins abstained from the specific vote for the special awards recipients. All other members present responding affirmatively, the closed session action items were approved.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Rector Haymore concluded by reminding all board members and those present that the committee open session reports were provided in the packets at their seats. A copy of the reports are attached hereto as ***Attachment G*** and is made a part hereof.

He continued with one item of other business. The board heard from the student representatives and the guest speakers during the public session regarding the implementation of a new graduation mandate for students (incoming students this fall) that would be mandated to take the racial literacy course in order to graduate. The issue of a new graduation mandate has been one that many on the board have had in their minds since the requirement was delayed last summer - July - and then into the fall semester due to insufficient class capacity. The question that the board faces is whether to add a new graduation mandate for students. The discussion . Earlier today, the student population in particular, the burdens that they are already carrying is something that the board needs to consider. This year, VCU saw its largest freshman class ever and is expecting a strong freshman and transfer enrollment again this fall. But with all that in mind, the board needs to very closely consider how VCU best meets its mission while managing its growing student population and the university's limited financial resources. General Counsel has confirmed that the board has the authority to weigh in on new graduation mandates for students. Discussions like this are not new to the BOV; there is clear history, dating back nearly 20 years, that the board approved strategic direction and vision for VCU's curriculum. And this particular mandate has been shared with the board several times in the past few years prior to today's focus, going back to the former Provost. This is not discussing the content of the courses. It is about the mandatory nature of the new graduation requirement and the additional burden that may be added to the students. He asked the administration to share more information about the General Education mandate at a future Academic and Health Affairs Committee meeting so that the board can determine whether to add a new graduation mandate for students.

One board member asked that the administration present at an Academic and Health Affairs Committee meeting more information about Focused Inquiry based on the public comments that were heard during the meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Rector Haymore adjourned the meeting at 3:02 p.m.



# ATTACHMENT A

## Virginia Commonwealth University Proposed Program Discontinuance Brief Proposal to close the Master of Science in Nursing degree program

### **Overview**

Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) requests approval to discontinue the Master of Science (M.S.) degree program in Nursing (CIP code: 51.3818). The degree is located in the School of Nursing.

### **Delivery Format**

The program is offered in the traditional, face-to-face format except for the concentration in nursing leadership and organizational science (NLOS) which is offered fully online.

### **Target Implementation Date**

Summer 2024. Following implementation of a teach-out plan, full closure of the degree program will take place at the end of spring 2027 semester.

### **Demand and Workforce Development**

A shortage exists for advanced practice registered nurses in VA. Given the demand for advanced practice registered nurses, VCU offers and will continue to offer the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) in Nursing Practice degree program. The DNP in Nursing Practice has become and is the endorsed entry-level preparation for nurse practitioners and prepares graduate to become nurse practitioners and nurse leaders. The same advanced practice concentrations available with the M.S. in Nursing are currently embedded and available in the DNP in Nursing Practice degree program.

### **External Competition**

Currently, no other public institution in the Commonwealth offers a master's degree in advanced nursing practice (CIP code: 51.3818). Four other public institutions offer a master's of nursing under a generalized registered nursing/registered nurse CIP code 51.3801.

### **Target Population**

A teach-out plan is in place for the 137 students currently enrolled in the M.S. in Nursing degree program. All students are expected to graduate by spring 2026. The last term that students will be able to complete the M.S. in Nursing degree is Spring of 2027. The 6 students that have "stopped out" have been considered and will be advised that the program will no longer graduate students after the spring of 2027. A revised plan of study will be completed for each student.

### **Impact on Existing Programs**

With the closure of the M.S. in Nursing, registered nurses interested in advanced practice training will be able to enroll in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) in Nursing Practice program. VCU School of Nursing has dedicated the past three years to transitioning advanced practice nursing programs to the DNP degree level as the entry point for nurse practitioners. VCU anticipates a further increase in enrollment in the DNP in Nursing Practice degree program.

### **Impact on Faculty**

No faculty positions will be lost as a result of the discontinuance of the degree program. Faculty teaching core and required courses in the Master of Science in Nursing will teach coursework in other degree programs.

**Funding**

No funding is needed or requested for the discontinuance of the M.S. degree program in Nursing.

**Next Steps**

- February 20 – University Graduate Curriculum committee meeting
- February 22 – University Committee on Academic Affairs (UC-AA) meeting
- March 7 - University Council (UC) meeting
- March 11 - President's Cabinet
- March 21/22 - Board of Visitor's Meeting (BOV)
- March 25 – Submission for SCHEV and SACSCOC approval

## **Virginia Commonwealth University Proposed Program Brief** **Proposal to create a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program in Nursing**

### **Overview**

Virginia Commonwealth University seeks approval for a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program in Nursing at the MCV campus in Richmond, VA. The proposed degree program will be administered through the dean's office in the School of Nursing.

The proposed master's degree program is designed as a direct-entry pre-licensure degree that will focus on providing students with entry-level professional nursing education and core competencies for nurse generalists. Students will learn foundational nursing concepts, health assessment techniques, chronic and acute care management, evidence-based practice, informatics, and leadership principles, preparing them for diverse roles in the nursing profession. The proposed degree program will prepare students to conduct health assessments in delivering comprehensive patient care, promoting wellness, and making informed clinical decisions. Students will learn to utilize nursing informatics to improve healthcare data management, enhance clinical decision-making, and optimize patient care outcomes across the lifespan. Graduates will be prepared to take the NCLEX-RN and serve as Registered Nurses (RNs) and nursing leaders or managers, capable of working in various healthcare organizations and settings. The degree program will address the growing demand for nurses in the Commonwealth.

### **Delivery Format**

The proposed program will be offered in a hybrid format.

### **Target Implementation Date**

Summer 2025

### **Demand and Workforce Development**

Employment projections in the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Occupational Outlook Handbook show the viability of employment for graduates of the proposed MSN in Nursing. According to the BLS, employment for nurses is expected to grow 6.2%, or "faster than the average for all occupations." Data from Virginia Employment Commission demonstrate demand for nurses to grow by 8.26%.

### **External Competition**

One (1) public university offers a similar or related degree program. University of Virginia is the only public institution in the Commonwealth offering a direct entry pre-licensure MSN degree program in Nursing.

### **Target Population**

The program is designed for individuals who hold a bachelor's degree in a non-nursing field and wish to pursue a fast-track route to enter the nursing profession and immediately join the healthcare workforce.

### **Impact on Existing Programs**

The proposed MSN in Nursing will not compromise any existing degree programs at Virginia Commonwealth University. No degree programs will close as a result of the initiation and operation of the proposed degree program.

### **Impact on Faculty**

The School of Nursing has twenty-two (22) full-time faculty members. All faculty will teach core and required experiential learning courses for the proposed degree program.

### **Funding**

The proposed degree program will require approximately 16.5 FTE of instructional effort to initiate, rising to approximately 22 FTE by the target year of 2026-2027. The School of Nursing has the faculty, classified support, equipment, space, library, and other resources necessary to initiate the proposed program. The program will be supported by resources already in place to sustain existing academic programs, including student support services (enrollment services, library support, and career services) and faculty support services.

### **Alignment with the VCU Mission**

The proposed degree program aligns with Virginia Commonwealth University's mission. Through "real-world learning," students engage in civic service projects promoting health and wellness in at-risk populations. This hands-on experience fosters a spirit of "inquiry," enhancing clinical problem-solving skills and competencies. The program focuses on "translating" research into evidence-based practice to elevate the quality of care. Emphasizing "collaboration" with various health disciplines, students develop holistic care plans addressing social determinants of health. Community partnerships with healthcare providers and agencies contribute to the program's success, designed intentionally to foster "diversity, inclusion, and equity." Students learn to appreciate the diversity of the human body, value differences, advocate for inclusion, and promote equitable access to healthcare for improved outcomes across populations.

### **Next Steps**

- January 25 – University Committee on Academic Affairs (UC-AA) Meeting
- February 1 – University Council (UC) Meeting
- February 19 – President's Cabinet
- March 21 – Board of Visitor's Meeting (BOV)

**VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY**  
**BOARD OF VISITORS**  
**March XX, 2024**

**Action Item**

**Requiring the First Year Orientation Program to  
Include Mandatory Human Trafficking Awareness  
and Prevention Training**

**Item:**

Board of Visitors approval of a mandate requiring that a human trafficking awareness and prevention training program be provided to and completed by all first-year students as a part of VCU's first-year orientation program per section 23.1-808.1(A) of the Code of Virginia.

**Background:**

During the 2023 legislative session, the Virginia General Assembly enacted a law that requires governing boards of public institutions of higher education to develop and implement policies requiring that a *“human trafficking awareness and prevention training program be provided to and completed by all first-year students as part of such institution's first-year orientation program.”* This resolution fulfills the requirements of the law.

**Action:**

Virginia Commonwealth University Board of Visitors approval of the resolution concerning a human trafficking awareness and prevention training program in first-year orientation.

**Resolution**

***Requiring the First-Year Orientation Program to  
Include Mandatory Human Trafficking Awareness  
and Prevention Training***

**March XX, 2024**

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia General Assembly has adopted section 23.1 – 808.1 of the Code of Virginia which requires public institutions of higher education to develop and implement human trafficking awareness and prevention training to all first-year students as part of the institution’s first-year orientation program; and

**WHEREAS**, providing human trafficking awareness and prevention training to students can help prevent the occurrence of trafficking and aid in the recognition and reporting of potential trafficking; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Commonwealth University Board of Visitors desires the inclusion of mandatory human trafficking awareness and prevention training in the first-year student orientation program;

**NOW, BE IT RESOLVED** the Virginia Commonwealth University Board of Visitors mandates that all first-year students be provided and complete human trafficking awareness and prevention training as part of the first-year orientation program.

**Virginia Commonwealth University**  
**Delegation of Authority for Banking and Investments Modification**

**Background**

VCU seeks Board of Visitors authorization to modify the resolution regarding delegation of authority for banking and investments on behalf of the university. The existing Delegation of Signatory Authority policy delegates authority to the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer to open and close accounts with financial institutions to enable the operation of payments, receipts, investments, and foreign exchange transactions, among other financial transactions required during normal university operations. Given recent university administrative changes, the resolution requires modification to allow for interim titles.

The following revision would delegate the current stated authority of the (1) Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer and (2) Treasurer to include any individual serving in either of those intended roles on an interim basis or without the Senior Vice President designation:

*WHEREAS, from time to time, personnel changes at the University may result in interim or variations of title from the titles above, but it is the intent of this Board to delegate to the individual, regardless of title, acting in the role of chief financial officer or Treasurer of the university or any person with a similar title that is the CFO, interim CFO, Treasurer or interim Treasurer.*

**Considerations**

The authorization to borrow money is not part of this resolution and remains an authorization required from the Board of Visitors.

**Recommendation**

Authorize modification of the resolution delegating authority for banking and investments on behalf of the university.

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS  
VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY**

**AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN OFFICERS/EMPLOYEES TO TRANSACT  
BUSINESS WITH BANKS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ON BEHALF  
OF THE UNIVERSITY**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 6.1, Title 23 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended (the "Virginia Code") establishes a public corporation under the name and style of Virginia Commonwealth University (the "University" or "VCU") which is governed by a Board of Visitors (the "Board") vested with the supervision, management and control of the University;

**WHEREAS**, VCU is required to routinely transact business with banks and other financial institutions; and

**WHEREAS**, such transactions, including but not limited to, opening, and terminating accounts including credit card agreements, transferring funds, honoring drafts or checks, and managing investments; and

**WHEREAS**, such banking services are governed by Federal, State and University regulations, policies, guidelines and contract laws; and

**WHEREAS**, international banking services (including those related to VCU Qatar) are governed by applicable international or foreign laws, regulations, policies, guidelines and contract laws; and

**WHEREAS**, such transactions with banks and financial institutions are within the purview of the Senior Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer and fall under the assigned duties and responsibilities of those positions; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary for the Senior Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer to appoint and delegate, from time to time, such persons to conduct these transactions on behalf of VCU in accordance with the VCU Board Policy for Delegation of Signatory Authority (as amended from time to time) and shall be considered an attachment thereto; and

**WHEREAS**, the banks and financial institutions with which VCU transacts business routinely require a resolution of the VCU Board of Visitors to attest that the Senior Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer are hereby authorized to effect these transactions on behalf of VCU

**WHEREAS**, from time to time, personnel changes at the University may result in interim or variations of title from the titles above, but it is the intent of this Board to delegate to the individual, regardless of title, acting in the role of Chief Financial Officer or Treasurer of the university or any person with a similar title that is the CFO, Interim CFO, Treasurer or Interim



## **Contract Authorization** **Sentry Force Security, LLC**

### **Background**

VCU seeks Board of Visitors authorization to execute a new contract for security services. External security services have been utilized since Fall 2012 to provide increased security on both campuses, during special events and in specific buildings. The new service provider, Sentry Force Security LLC, and contract will permit the university to maintain the same level of security services currently in force and necessary visibility in strategic locations at the university and health system. To maintain the existing service, deployment under the new contract will begin upon expiration of the previous contract on May 9, 2024.

### **Considerations**

VCU Procurement Services, in collaboration with VCU Police, completed a formal Request For Proposal (RFP) process to ensure compliance with competition requirements. The resulting contract will have a two (2) year initial term and may be renewed for three (3) successive two (2) year periods. The contract will be executed by the university and will be cooperative, benefitting the university and its peer members in the Virginia Association of State College and University Purchasing Professionals (“VASCUPP”).

The Board delegated authority to the university’s Office of the President, as outlined in the Delegation of Signatory Authority policy, to approve and execute contracts with a total actual or anticipated expenditure value under \$5 million. These expenditures are anticipated to exceed \$5 million and will require Board of Visitors authorization for the appropriate university officials to sign any contract amendments or documents necessary to implement the anticipated additional expenditures.

### **Cost**

Costs are anticipated to be \$8 million for the initial two-year contract term.

### **Recommendation**

Authorize execution of a contract for security services with Sentry Force Security LLC.

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS  
OF VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY**

**APPROVAL FOR ADDITIONAL PURCHASES EXCEEDING \$5 MILLION**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Title § 23.1 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Board of Visitors of Virginia Commonwealth University (the Board) has broad legal authority to make regulations and policies concerning Virginia Commonwealth University (the University);

WHEREAS, the Board has the authority to approve and execute of agreements with outside entities that bind the University;

WHEREAS, under the Board's discretion, the Board delegated authority to the University's Office of the President, as outlined in Delegation of Signatory Authority policy, as amended on May 10, 2019, to approve and execute contracts a total actual or anticipated expenditure value under \$5 million;

WHEREAS, since Fall 2012, the University has procured security services from external vendors with an annual cost of approximately \$4,000,000. The University's current contract will expire May 9, 2024 and the University initiated a competitive Request For Proposal (RFP) in August of last year; and

WHEREAS VCU has finalized the RFP process and now recommends an award to Sentry Force Security LLC, which was founded in 2015 and provides guards and part-time security across Virginia, Maryland and Washington, DC.; and

WHEREAS, based on past performance and the University's security needs, Procurement Services has determined that the proposed award and contract is anticipated to be approximately \$8 million for the initial two-year contract term. Upon election of renewals, the University's project spend is estimated at an additional \$24,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the University recognizes the importance of having qualified external security services to support the efforts of its campus police and the necessity of having competent external security for its various campuses and buildings; and

WHEREAS, executing a contract for these services will strongly support the University's mission of creating a safe learning and working environment for our students, faculty, staff and visitors as well as its commitment to public safety;

WHEREAS, the actual expenditures and additional costs for the proposed expansion of services will exceed the University's Office of the President's delegated authority for approval and execution of contracts; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF VISITORS OF VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY, that the Board approves the execution of an initial contract and any required renewals with Sentry Force Security LLC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the appropriate University officials to sign any contract amendments or documents necessary to implement the anticipated expenditure, in accordance with the Delegation of Signatory Authority policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution will take effect immediately upon its adoption.

**Authorization of Acquisition**  
**Siemens Medical Solutions USA, Inc. - Biograph Vision Quadra PET CT SCANNER for**  
**The Stravitz-Sanyal Institute for Liver Disease and Metabolic Health at VCU**

**Background**

In December 2021, Virginia Commonwealth University received an extraordinary \$104 million gift from R. Todd Stravitz, M.D. and the Barbara Brunckhorst Foundation, establishing the groundbreaking Stravitz-Sanyal Institute (the Institute) for Liver Disease and Metabolic Health. This transformative gift empowers VCU to expedite the realization of several key priorities for the new institute, including investments in cutting-edge imaging tools to address both rare and common liver diseases, in collaboration with academic and industry partners globally.

VCU now seeks Board of Visitors authorization for the acquisition of a Siemens Biograph Vision Quadra PET CT SCANNER, which will play a pivotal role in advancing the Institute's research and innovation capabilities, uncover life-changing breakthroughs, expedite patient care, and contribute significantly to realizing the Institute's vision of transforming the lives of individuals with liver disease through innovation. Furthermore, it will play a crucial role in training the next generation of investigators, solidifying VCU's position as a leader in liver disease research and care.

**Considerations**

The Board delegated authority to the university's Office of the President, as outlined in the Delegation of Signatory Authority policy, to approve and execute contracts with a total actual or anticipated expenditure value under \$5 million. This scanner is anticipated to exceed \$5 million and will require Board authorization for the appropriate university officials to sign any contract amendments or documents necessary to implement the anticipated additional expenditures. VCU Procurement Services, in collaboration with the Institute, completed a formal Request For Proposal (RFP) process to ensure compliance with competition requirements. Following comprehensive evaluation, the RFP committee unanimously determined that Siemens Medical Solutions USA, Inc. presented the best-in-class and overall value for the university.

**Cost and funding**

The cost of the equipment and the associated preventative maintenance contract is anticipated to be \$10.5 million and will be paid from the R. Todd Stravitz, M.D. and the Barbara Brunckhorst Foundation gift.

**Recommendation**

Authorize the acquisition of the Siemens Biograph Vision Quadra PET CT SCANNER to further enhance the capabilities of The Stravitz-Sanyal Institute for Liver Disease and Metabolic Health at VCU.

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS  
OF VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY**

**APPROVAL FOR ADDITIONAL PURCHASES EXCEEDING \$5 MILLION**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Title § 23.1 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Board of Visitors of Virginia Commonwealth University (the Board) has broad legal authority to make regulations and policies concerning Virginia Commonwealth University (the University);

WHEREAS, the Board has the authority to approve and execute agreements with outside entities that bind the University;

WHEREAS, under the Board's discretion the Board delegated authority to the University's Office of the President, as outlined in Delegation of Signatory Authority policy, as amended on May 10, 2019, to approve and execute contracts a total actual or anticipated expenditure value under \$5 million;

WHEREAS, in December 2021, the University's Stravitz-Sanyal Institute for Liver Disease and Metabolic Health (Liver Institute) was established;

WHEREAS, one of the key priorities of the Liver Institute includes collaboration between academic and global industry partners and investment in cutting-edge imaging tools that aid the detection and treatment of both rare and common liver diseases;

WHEREAS, the University initiated a competitive Request For Proposal (RFP) in December 2023 for a state-of-the-art PET CT Scanner, which would offer next level technology for accurate and comprehensive imaging and tracer kinetics; and

WHEREAS the University has finalized the RFP process and now recommends a Scanner manufactured by Siemens Medical Solutions USA, Inc. be procured for the Liver Institute as this particular imaging scanner facilitates streamlined information sharing, high level image quality and clarity, and unparalleled performance; and

WHEREAS, Procurement Services has determined that the Scanner Agreement will be a one-time equipment purchase and that the Agreement will include preventative maintenance at an estimated cost of \$10,500,000; and

WHEREAS, the University recognizes the importance of having state of the art imaging and diagnostic equipment that supports its vision of uncovering life changing breakthroughs, expediting patient care and improving lives through treatment innovation; and

WHEREAS, the actual expenditures and additional costs for the proposed expansion of services will exceed the University's Office of the President's delegated authority for approval and execution of contracts.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF VISITORS OF VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY, that the Board approves the execution of an initial contract and any required renewals with the selected vendor for the state-of-the-art PET CT Scanner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the appropriate University officials to sign any contract amendments or documents necessary to implement the anticipated expenditure, in accordance with the Delegation of Signatory Authority policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution will take effect immediately upon its adoption.

**Amendment to the 2024-2030 Six-Year Capital Plan  
Resolution to Authorize the Initiation of a Capital Project  
Approval of Project Plans  
Scherer Hall Renovations**

**Background**

VCU seeks BOV authorization to amend the 2024-2030 Six-Year Capital Plan, authorization to initiate a capital project (as required by VCU's Management Agreement), and approval of project plans for renovations in Scherer Hall.

Constructed in 1910, Scherer Hall is a five-story, 23,141 gross square foot brick building in the West Franklin Street Historic District of VCU's Monroe Park Campus. The facility is experiencing significant HVAC maintenance issues due to both the age and design of the equipment. Controls for the mechanical system are obsolete and no longer serviceable. Additionally, uneven floor conditions must be addressed to prevent impacts to the building's structural integrity and a backflow preventer needs to be installed. The last renovation to Scherer Hall was completed in 1989.

**Considerations**

Scherer Hall occupants will temporarily relocate to 700 W. Grace Street in Summer 2024 while renovations are underway. Construction is anticipated to take approximately 10 months, with occupants moving back into Scherer Hall by Summer 2025.

The repairs needed in Scherer Hall meet the criteria for use of maintenance reserve funds. The Commonwealth of Virginia limits the use of state-appropriated maintenance reserve funds to \$2M or less, but provides an exception to the \$2M limit on a case-by-case basis. The university requested and is waiting for approval of an exception for the Scherer Hall project.

**Cost and funding**

The total cost for the renovations are estimated to be \$4.3M to \$4.5M and will be funded by state-appropriated maintenance reserve funds.

**Recommendation**

Authorize an amendment to the 2024-2030 Six-Year Capital Plan at a cost not to exceed \$4.5M, approve the resolution to authorize the initiation of a capital project, and approve project plans for renovations in Scherer Hall.

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS  
VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY**

**AUTHORIZATION TO INITIATE A MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECT FOR SCHERER HALL  
RENOVATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 6.1, Title 23 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended (the "Virginia Code") establishes a public corporation under the name and style of Virginia Commonwealth University (the "University") which is governed by a Board of Visitors (the "Board") vested with the supervision, management and control of the University; and

**WHEREAS**, Title 23 of the Virginia Code classifies the University as an educational institution of the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, by Chapter 10, Title 23.1 of the Virginia Code, the University entered into that certain "Management Agreement By and Between the Commonwealth of Virginia and The Rector and Visitors of Virginia Commonwealth University" (the "Management Agreement") which was enacted as Chapter 594 of the Acts of Assembly of 2008 which, as amended, classifies the University as a public institution of higher education and empowers the University with the authority to undertake and implement capital projects, which include the acquisition of any interest in land, improvements on acquired land, capital leases, new construction, and building improvements and renovations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Management Agreement requires the Board of Visitors to authorize the initiation of each Major Capital Project (as defined in the Management Agreement) by approving its size, scope, budget, and funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has been presented with the plan to initiate a Major Capital Project titled/consisting of Scherer Hall (the "Project"); and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of the Project is estimated at \$4.3M (the "Project Cost") but shall not exceed \$4.5M; and

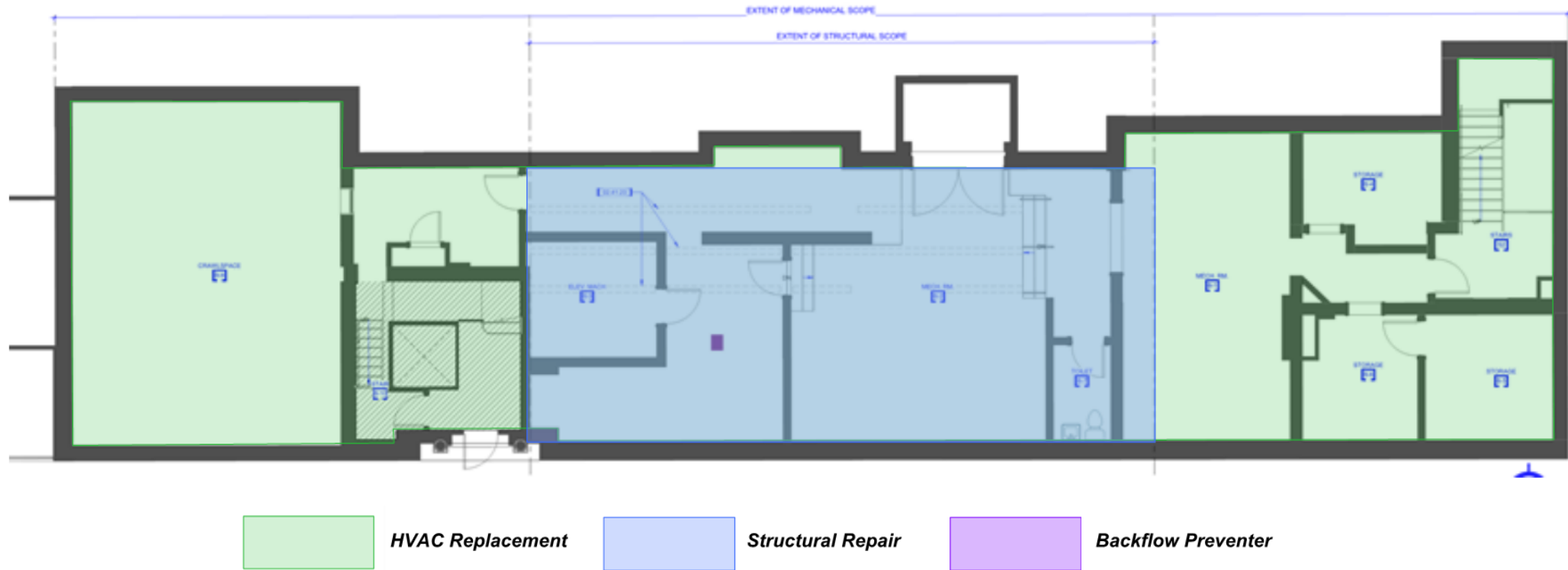
**WHEREAS**, the Board has determined it is desirable to authorize the initiation of the Project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board hereby authorizes and approves the Project, including the size, scope, budget and funding of the Project, as described in the materials presented to the Board; and

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that, upon approval, this action shall take effect immediately.

# Approval of Project Plans

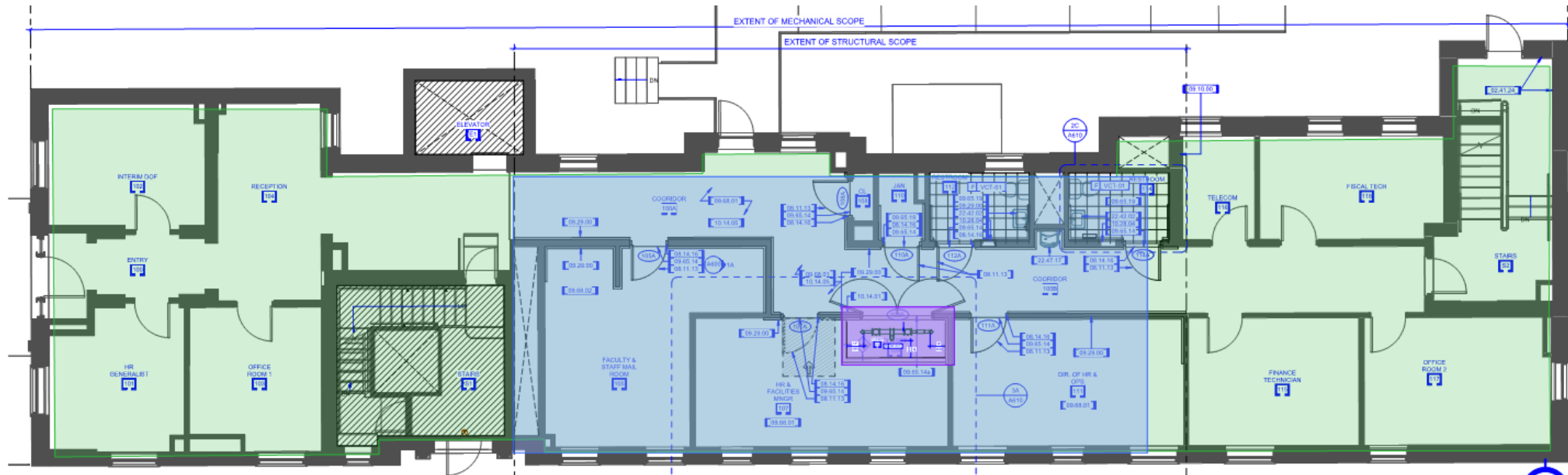
## Scherer Hall Renovations



Basement Floor Plan

# Approval of Project Plans

## Scherer Hall Renovations

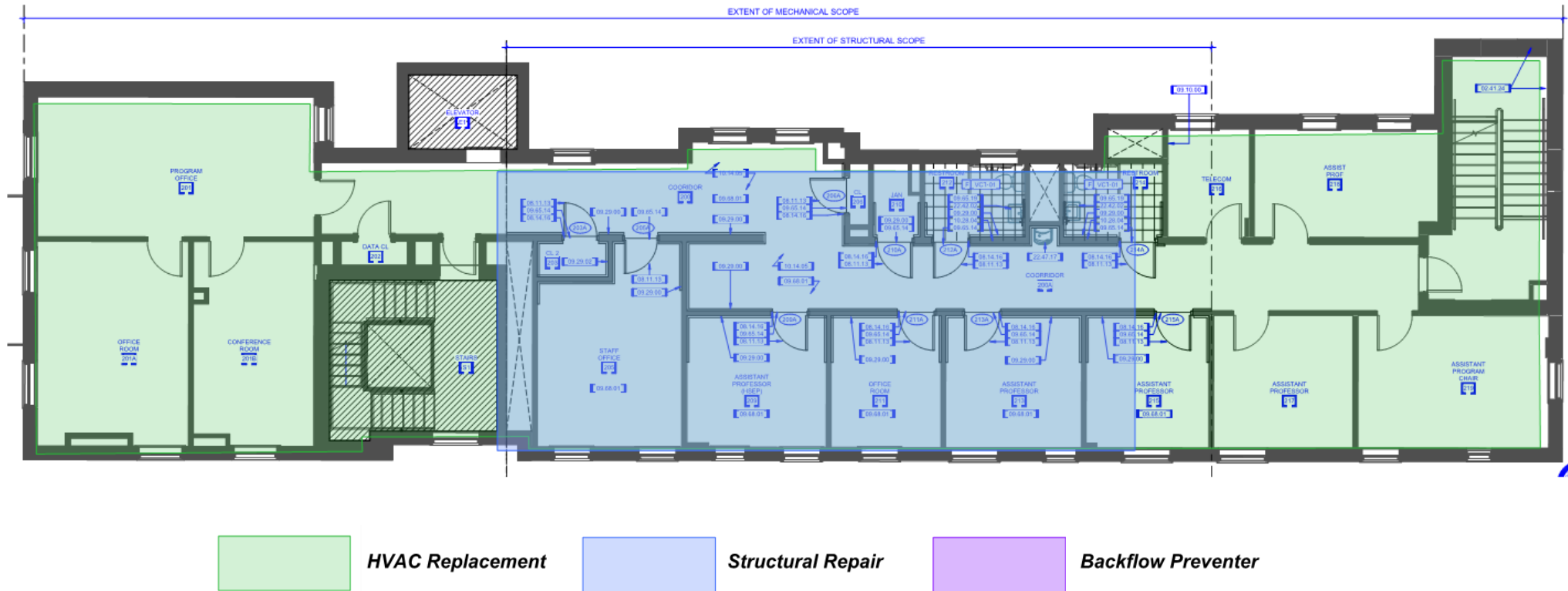


### First Floor Plan



# Approval of Project Plans

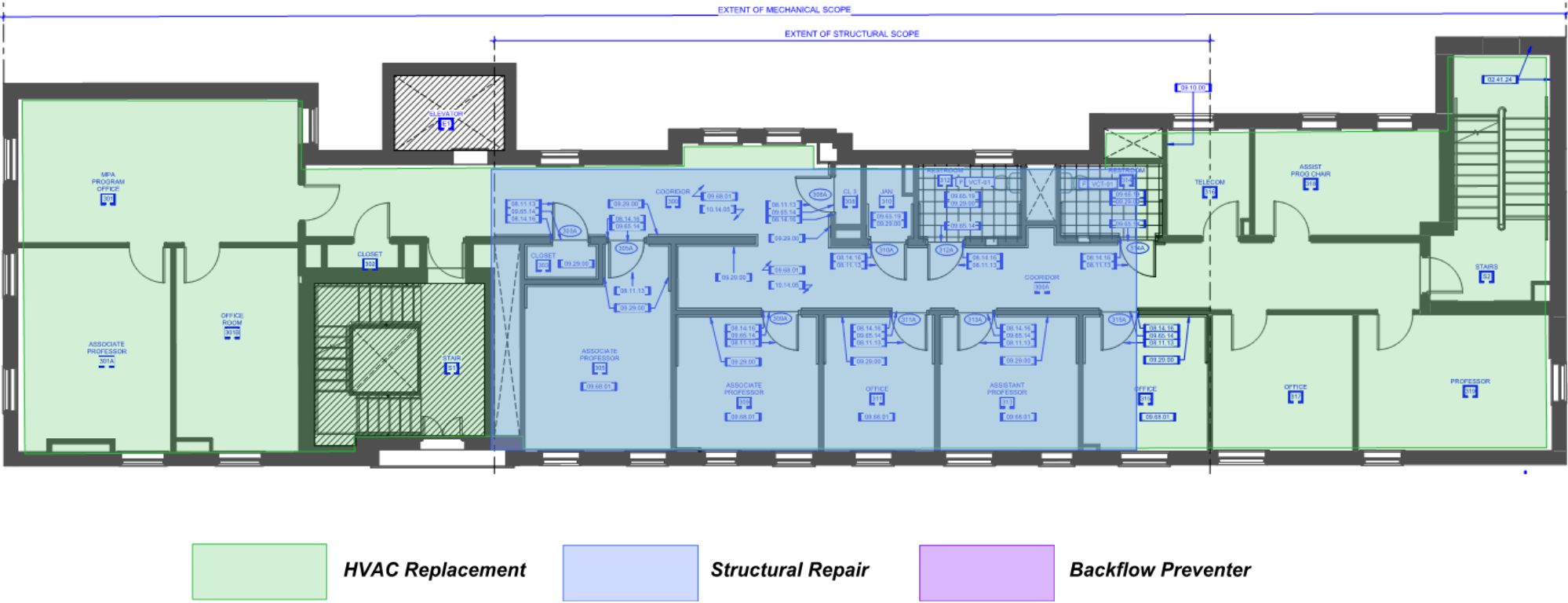
## Scherer Hall Renovations



Second Floor Plan

# Approval of Project Plans

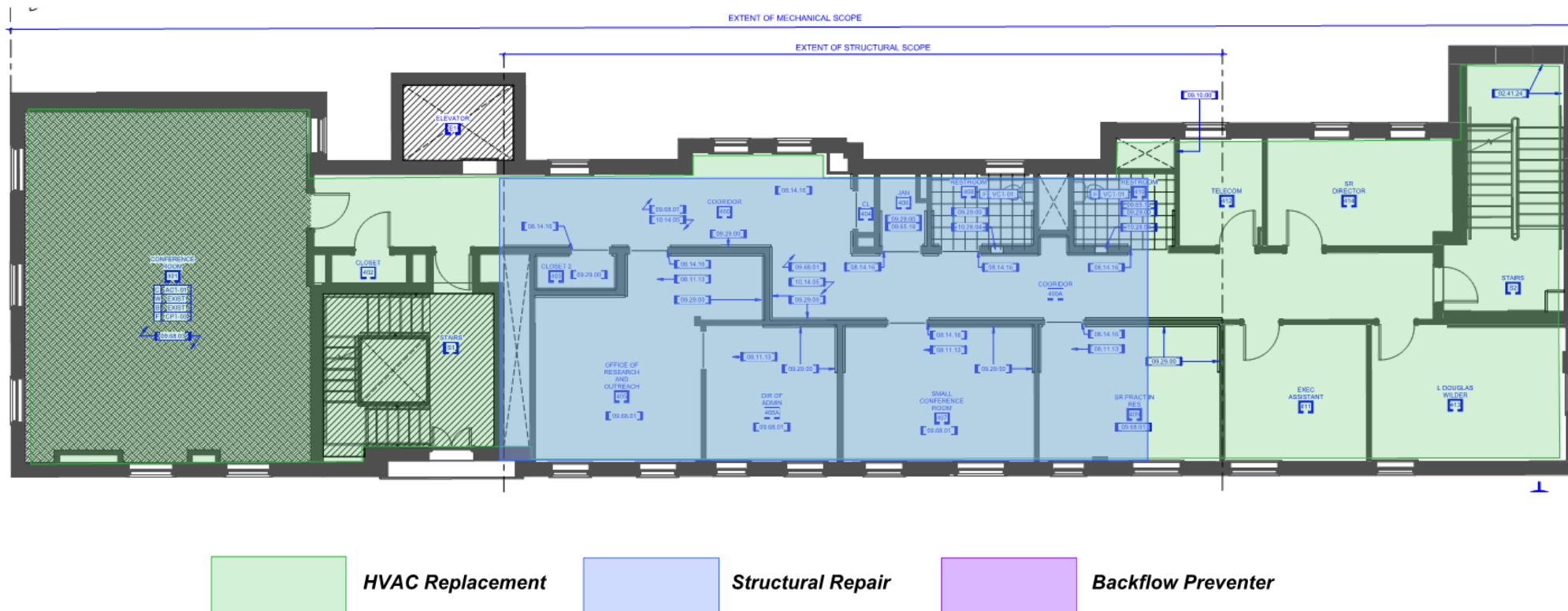
## Scherer Hall Renovations



Third Floor Plan

# Approval of Project Plans

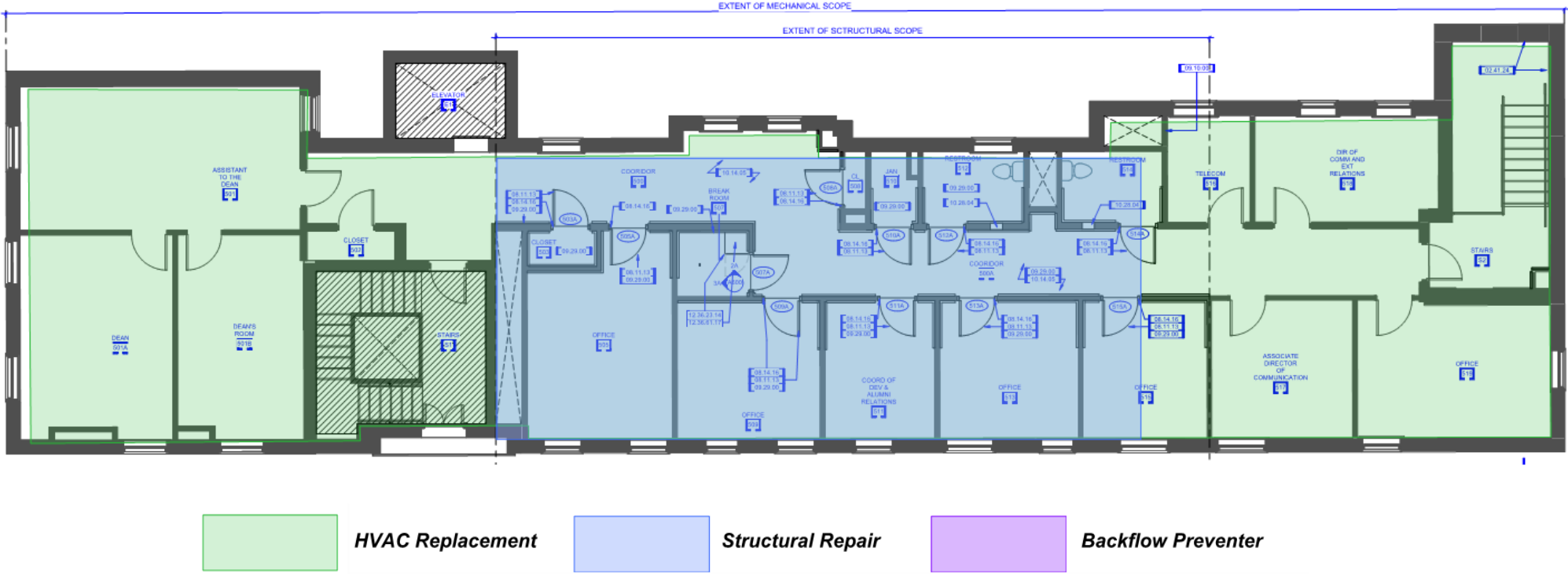
## Scherer Hall Renovations



### Fourth Floor Plan

# Approval of Project Plans

## Scherer Hall Renovations



Fifth Floor Plan

## **Amendment to the 2024-2030 Six-Year Capital Plan**

### **West Grace Street Housing Project**

#### **Background**

The ONE VCU Master Plan identified the need for additional student housing. This need has been compounded by the closing of Johnson Hall and increasing undergraduate housing demand. As a result, VCU seeks authorization to amend the 2024-2030 Six-Year Capital Plan to include the West Grace Street Housing Project, a new undergraduate residential housing facility.

#### **Considerations**

On-campus housing provides an affordable, supportive living and learning environment for new and returning students and continues to show a positive impact on student success. This past year, 85.7% of on-campus first-year students continued to their sophomore year as compared to 81.9% of off-campus first-year students, and on-campus residents at every level (first-year, sophomore, junior and senior) outperformed their off-campus counterparts academically. A new residential housing facility will replace the 518 beds in Johnson Hall and provide additional beds to meet increased demand.

#### **Size and scope**

The university will issue a request for proposals to deliver approximately 1,000 to 1,250 semi-suite and apartment style beds. Once complete, size, scope and cost information will be brought to the Board of Visitors along with a request for authorization to initiate the project.

#### **Funding**

The project will be paid with student housing payments.

#### **Recommendation**

Authorize the amendment of the university's 2024-2030 Six-Year Capital Plan to include the West Grace Street Housing Project.

# ATTACHMENT B

# BOV Student Representatives **Fall 2023** **Discoveries**

Leila Griffin

Undergraduate  
Student  
Representative



# Undergraduate Student Concerns

- Cost of tuition
- Housing
- Graduation timelines
- Budget cuts





**Division of  
Student Affairs  
(DSA)**

**Strategic  
Enrollment  
Management  
and Student  
Success  
(SEMSS)**

**Student  
Government  
Association  
(SGA)**

**Committee on  
Student Affairs**

**Board of  
Visitors (BOV)**

**Graduate &  
Professional  
Student Senate  
(GPSS)**

# Introduction of Proposal

1. Examination of Current Communication Methods
2. Gap Analysis
3. Shared Governance
4. Increased Transparency with University Decisions

# Timeline

**December 8, 2023**

- Introduction of Proposal

**March 22, 2024**

- Student Leadership Reports
- Progress Update on University & Student Data

**May 10, 2024**

- Presentation of Proposal



# Progress Regarding Official Proposal

- **Student Referendums**
  - Binding/ Non-binding
- **Effective Campus-wide Town Halls**
- **Requirement of Public Comment**
- **Consistent Solutions**

# Why ask for this?

Front Door: Cary & Harrison



Elevate support for the student body by not only ensuring their needs are securely met, but also offering students a swift and efficient avenue to address their concerns.

Front Door: Broad & Belvidere

Front Door: Franklin & Shafer

# How will this benefit VCU students?

- Fosters a **nurturing environment** where students can genuinely sense that their perspectives on VCU are not only acknowledged but **actively addressed**.
- Cultivates emerging **leaders** and empowers students to seize control of their **education, creativity, exploration, and services**.
- Guarantees **inclusive representation** in administrative decisions, ensuring **equitable opportunities** for students from diverse backgrounds.

Front Door: Linden & ...

Front Door: Cary & Harrison

Thank you! Any Questions?

Front Door: Broad & Belvidere

Front Door: Franklin & Shafer



# ATTACHMENT C



# VCU

## Faculty Senate

VCU Board of Visitors  
Faculty Senate Report  
March 22, 2024

Greetings from the faculty, Rector Haymore, Vice Rector Florance, President Rao and all members of the Board of Visitors. I'm Valerie Robnolt and honored to represent the faculty. Thank you for the opportunity to share an update about what is happening with the Faculty Senate and faculty in general. The Faculty Senate hosted the annual faculty meeting with President Rao on February 6 and we enjoyed an extensive question and answer session with President Rao and Provost Sotiropoulos, including updates about the Repositioning Task Force recommendations. Many faculty participated in town halls with Provost Sotiropoulos to discuss the recommendations and share feedback about them and the impact they will have on their schools and colleges. We appreciate the time that President Rao took for the faculty meeting and Provost Sotiropoulos for the town halls to hear and respond to the faculty questions.

During this very busy time of the semester, faculty are working on submitting midterm grades for undergraduate students that are due today, in addition to the other tasks they must complete for their courses and other support they give students. This is the time of year when many faculty are asked to write recommendation letters because students are applying for jobs or graduate school. One group of faculty who are asked to write many letters are the Focused Inquiry faculty because they teach almost all of our undergraduate students; due to the small size of Focused Inquiry classes, these faculty get to know our students very well and build strong relationships with them as they help them adjust to being in college and providing the foundation of academic expectations that they will take with them throughout their college careers. As President of Faculty Senate last year, I sent an email on May 10 to you, the Board of Visitors, President Rao and Provost Sotiropoulos to share the Resolution of Support to Maintain Focused Inquiry Faculty that was supported by 95% of the Faculty Senate. The resolution provided documentation and points about the value of the Focused Inquiry classes and the need to keep the full-time faculty because of their positive impact on student success. I also shared in the email that I had the opportunity to attend the ConnectEd Symposium in early May during which the keynote speaker, Dr. Kate McConnell, Vice President for Curricular and Pedagogical Innovation at the American Association of Colleges & Universities, specifically addressed the institutional analysis of the 3-course Focused Inquiry sequence that has shown a positive and strong impact on students when she was praising the strengths of the VCU GenEd/ConnectEd curriculum and our innovative programs. The faculty continue to fully support keeping the full-time Focused Inquiry who have been effectively teaching these critical courses to our undergraduate students. In addition, we truly believe in the shared governance process for faculty to be the decision-makers about curriculum and the future of the 3-course sequence that has proven to have a positive impact on students. One of our Faculty Senate



committees, Academic Programs and Research, chaired by Ryan Cales of University College, is working on a resolution to reinforce this role of faculty. Our Governance committee, chaired by Nora Alder of the School of Education, is working on revising the University Shared Governance statement to specifically include the role of faculty voices in decision-making.

Another issue that is critically important to faculty is academic freedom. The faculty fully supports the racial literacy requirement and we are encouraged by the number of courses that have been submitted for approval to increase capacity to meet this important requirement. We are concerned with Governor Youngkin requiring a review of the syllabi for courses related to diversity and that this could impact the progress we have made to make the racial literacy requirement a reality for the benefit of our students.

I would like to share information from the faculty perspective in response to an exchange during the Board of Visitors meeting in December when the Honorable Peter Farrell asked Dr. Srirama Rao, Vice President for Research and Innovation, a question after Dr. Rao's presentation to the Board. Hon. Farrell inquired to Dr. Rao about how faculty benefit from the research revenues presented to the Board. Dr. Rao explained that faculty who have patents make a certain percentage of the patent profits. In fact, yesterday, many of you were able to see presentations by my esteemed colleagues whose inventions are now becoming business enterprises. However, very few research projects lead to patents and few patents lead to revenues; most faculty do not benefit monetarily from their research and scholarship, above and beyond their salary. When a faculty member submits and receives grant funding, they can allocate more time to research by using grant funds to buy-out a percentage of their teaching time, usually teaching one less course. If the faculty member is on a 9-month contract, they are able to earn summer salary to perform the research proposed on the grant. Much of the research and scholarship that faculty do is not funded by grants, partly because not all fields of study have grant funding available or they are collecting data to support a grant proposal, so they conduct their research and scholarship as part of their effort as a full-time faculty member and do not receive teaching load reduction or summer salary.

In addition, to keep current in their area of scholarship faculty attend and present at professional scholarship/research conferences. Most departments have an allotted amount of travel money each year for each faculty member, often not covering full travel expenses. In my case, I receive \$1500 per year for travel which does not cover the cost of one trip to a national conference, so the rest of the money comes out of my pocket. Faculty who receive grant funding are allowed to allocate a defined percentage of the grant funds for travel related to the funded research, including presentations at national and international conferences. The limited amount of travel funds provided by VCU can limit the research and scholarship productivity of the faculty.

Thank you for your support of faculty, staff and students. This concludes the Faculty Senate report.

Respectfully submitted,  
Valerie Robnolt, Ph.D.  
Faculty Representative to the Board of Visitors  
Maria Rivera, Ph.D., FLS  
Faculty Senate President and Alternate Faculty Representative

# Staff Senate Updates **ATTACHMENT D**



March 22, 2024

# Overview of Topics

- New Vice President
- Staff Morale Updates
- Career Development Conference Update
- Awards of Excellence Update
- Executive & Senator Elections
- Goals for this semester



# VCU HR RESPONSE TO STAFF SENATE RESOLUTION

Staff Senate Resolution	HR Response
Remove SVP approval for 10% or more Exceptional ratings	✓
Remove SVP approval for consecutive years of Exceptional ratings	✓
Work with Staff Senate to create a survey for employees and managers following this year's evaluation cycle	✓
Compile school/unit performance rating distribution, using this data for analysis and targeted information sharing in relevant schools/units	✓
Eliminate the Request for Exceptional rating form completed by managers	Retain

# Career Development Conference



# Career Development Conference



Ace Callwood  
Director, Envoy  
*VCU Alumni*



Sidney Edwards  
Associate Vice President of  
Equity Advancement,  
YMCA of Greater Richmond

# Awards for Excellence



# Awards for Excellence





# Executive & Senator Elections

## Senator Terms

1. How long do you think Senator terms should be?(Single Choice)

2 years 53%



3 years (current) 48%



Your answer: 3 years (current)

# Goals for the Semester

## Merit Raise Change

1. Are you in favor of merit raises that are 2% or less being applied equally and not merit based?(...



Your answer: Yes

## Communication Frequency

1. How often do you communicate Staff Senate updates/information back to your department/d...



Your answer: Never

## CEO Remarks VCU Board of Visitors

Marlon Levy, M.D., MBA  
Interim Senior Vice President, VCU Health Sciences  
Interim Chief Executive Officer, VCU Health System

3/21/2024



# CEO Topics

## Open Session

1. Patient Access Improvements
2. Financial Highlights
3. One Year Anniversary of CHoR Tower Opening
4. VCU Health CMH Residency Match
5. VCU Health Tappahannock Three Year Anniversary

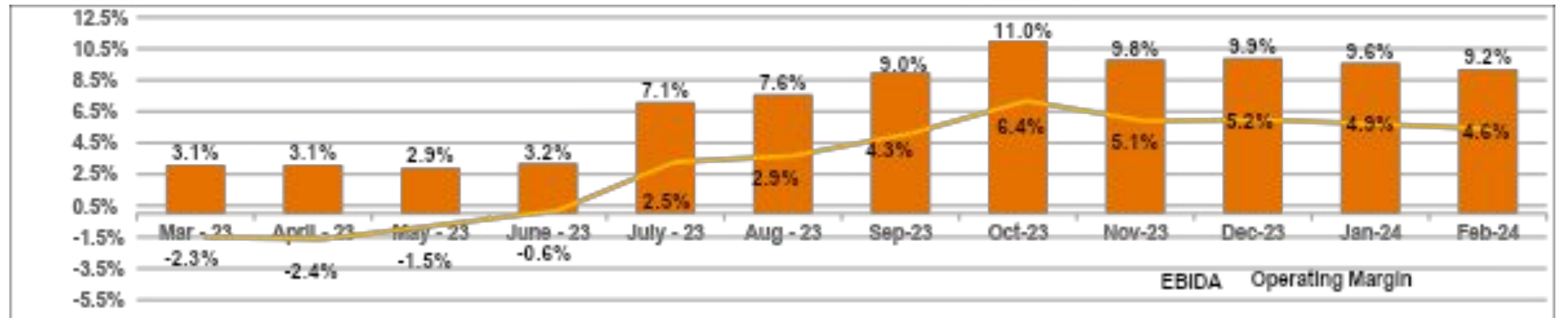


## Improving Patient Access

# VCUHS – Consolidated Operating Margin & Liquidity

For the eight months ending February 29, 2024, with 12-month Trending Performance

(\$s in 000s)	Actual FY21	Actual FY22	Actual FY23	Budget Feb YTD FY24	Actual Feb YTD FY24	S&P AA-Medians	Moodys Aa3 Medians
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	\$ 2,553,422	\$ 2,778,395	\$ 3,063,278	\$ 2,121,840	\$ 2,245,023	N/A	N/A
<b>Income for Operations</b>	\$ 46,774	\$ (53,321)	\$ (19,549)	\$ 25,477	\$ 102,608	N/A	N/A
<b>Operating Margin %</b>	1.8%	-1.9%	-0.6%	1.2%	4.6%	-0.9%	1.1
<b>Operating EBIDA</b>	\$ 160,734	\$ 98,357	\$ 133,857	\$ 105,571	\$ 207,448	N/A	N/A
<b>EBIDA %</b>	6.3%	3.5%	4.4%	5.0%	9.2%	5.0%	4.9%
<b>Debt to Capitalization</b>	18.6%	21.7%	20.6%	19.4%	19.1%	28.1%	25.2%
<b>Days Cash on Hand</b>	339	234	225	229	239	233	262
<b>Unrestricted Cash to Debt</b>	337%	221%	238%	254%	270%	214%	241%
<b>Maximum Annual Debt Service Coverage</b>	4.9	2.3	3.4	3.4	6.2	3.4	5.7





# Children's Tower 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday!!! April 30<sup>th</sup>

- Occupancy **93%**
- Room turnover rate **115** pts per bed
- Emergency Department **92** pts per day
- Surgeries **7000+**
- **Unmatched Patient experience “Top quartile”**

□ Likely to recommend

88  
%

□ Communication with Doctor

86  
%

# VCU Health CMH Residency Match

- Inaugural VCU Health CMH Family Medicine Residency Program
- Three resident spots filled







VCU Health Tappahannock Hospital  
Three Year Anniversary

Stravitz-Sanyal Institute  
for Liver Disease  
and Metabolic Health

**ATTACHMENT F**

# Status Report

Arun J. Sanyal M.D.



**VCU** School of Medicine

WE ARE **UNSTOPPABLE**

# The Stravitz-Sanyal Institute of Liver Disease and Metabolic Health – DOB: February 22, 2022



**Vision:** to be the leading center for liver-learning and liver-related health care *worldwide*.

**Mission:** to promote liver learning and translation of scientific discovery to improve liver-related health by radical innovation and integration of *education, research, technology, and clinical care*.

*The goal is to grow VCU research to transform lives and enhance VCU as a research institution and VCUHS as a center of excellence in liver and metabolic health-related care*



**VCU**

School of Medicine

# Clinical Update – 2024

## This is what it means for liver patients in Virginia:

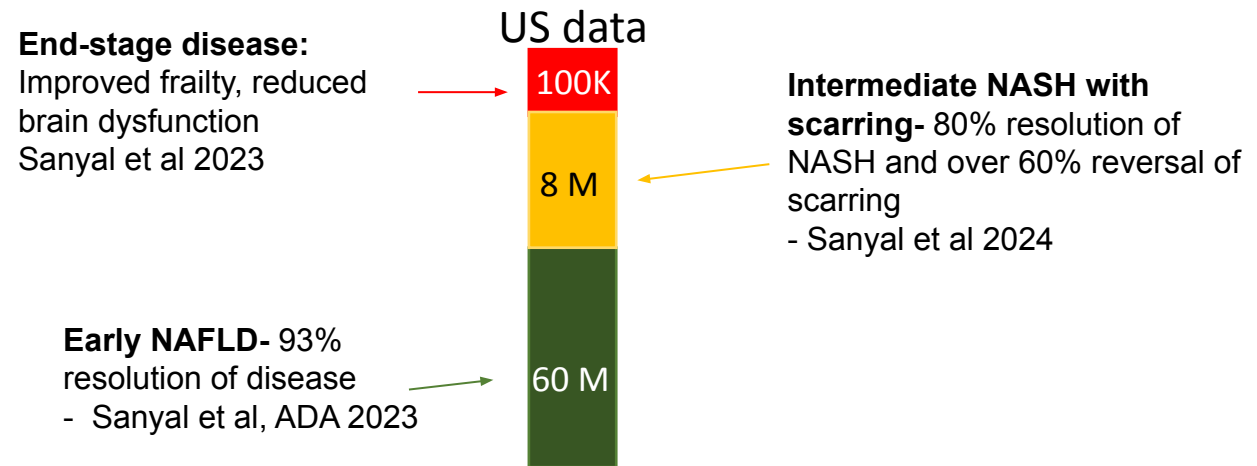
How SSLI promotes VCU and VCUHS local mission

- Exceptional growth in clinical capacity (exceeded national trend 8-fold)
- 206 liver transplants (ranked in the top 5 programs)
- ~900 patients with liver cancer managed in HCC clinic
- Multi-disciplinary clinics for metabolic health created

## This is what it means for human health worldwide

(1 billion individuals have MASLD):

How SSLI promotes the larger mission of VCU

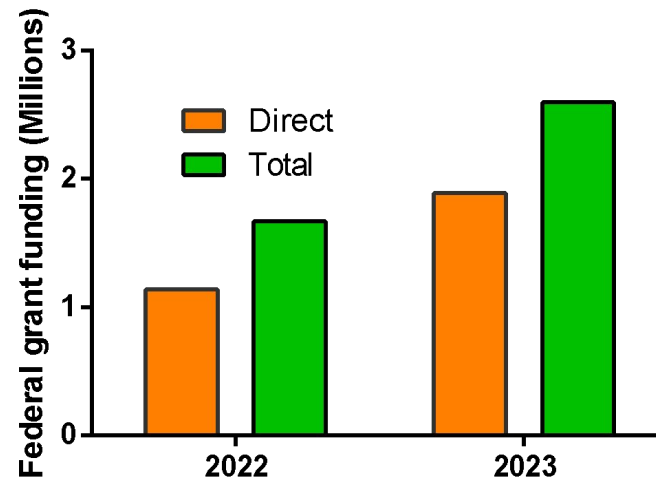


Alcohol-related liver disease- Larcusterol reduced death in US cohort- 2023, molecule developed by VCU-McGuire VAMC GI-Hepatology faculty

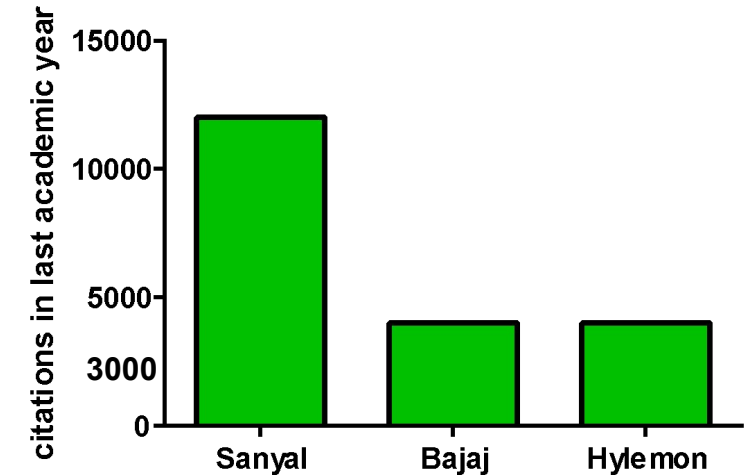
# Research Update – 2024

- 135 published papers
- 175+ presentations
- NEJM: n= 1
- Nature Medicine n=1
- JAMA n=1

Growth in annual federal (NIH) funding  
(current total NIH \$ - approx. 10 M)



Most cited faculty at VCU



Dr. Saul Karpen brings \$ 10.3M with him to VCU

Fundable scores for program project, Awaiting scores for 3 NIH grants

## VCU research picked up by news worldwide:

- Clearance of liver disease by Retatrutide – Sanyal – Post, ADA, Reuters, BBC, WSJ, CNN
- Liver disease as a cause of dementia – Bajaj – BBC, NY times- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w3ct4pf8>

# Education and Mentorship Update – 2024

## At VCU

- Fellowship
  - Transplant Hepatology
  - NIH Training grant plans initiated
- Med Students for GI/Hep interest group
- Mentor Clinic
- Visiting professor program – Dr. Katherine Stauffer, Professor, University of Vienna
- Visiting medical student – Helen Huang from University of Dublin

## MASH School

- 15 senior heads of departments of liver disease from different universities in Brazil
- Two days of intense training in metabolic health and liver disease
- March 28-29, 2024

# Building Infrastructure – Research Imaging Core

## Novel tools at VCU

3T-MRI with brain-heart-abdominal capabilities

PET-CT with multi-organ functional imaging

Radiochemistry “hot” laboratory

## What it will deliver:

- Ability to image multiple organs simultaneously
- Ability to image physiological processes that were not previously possible:
  - Metabolism
  - Inflammation
  - Fibrosis

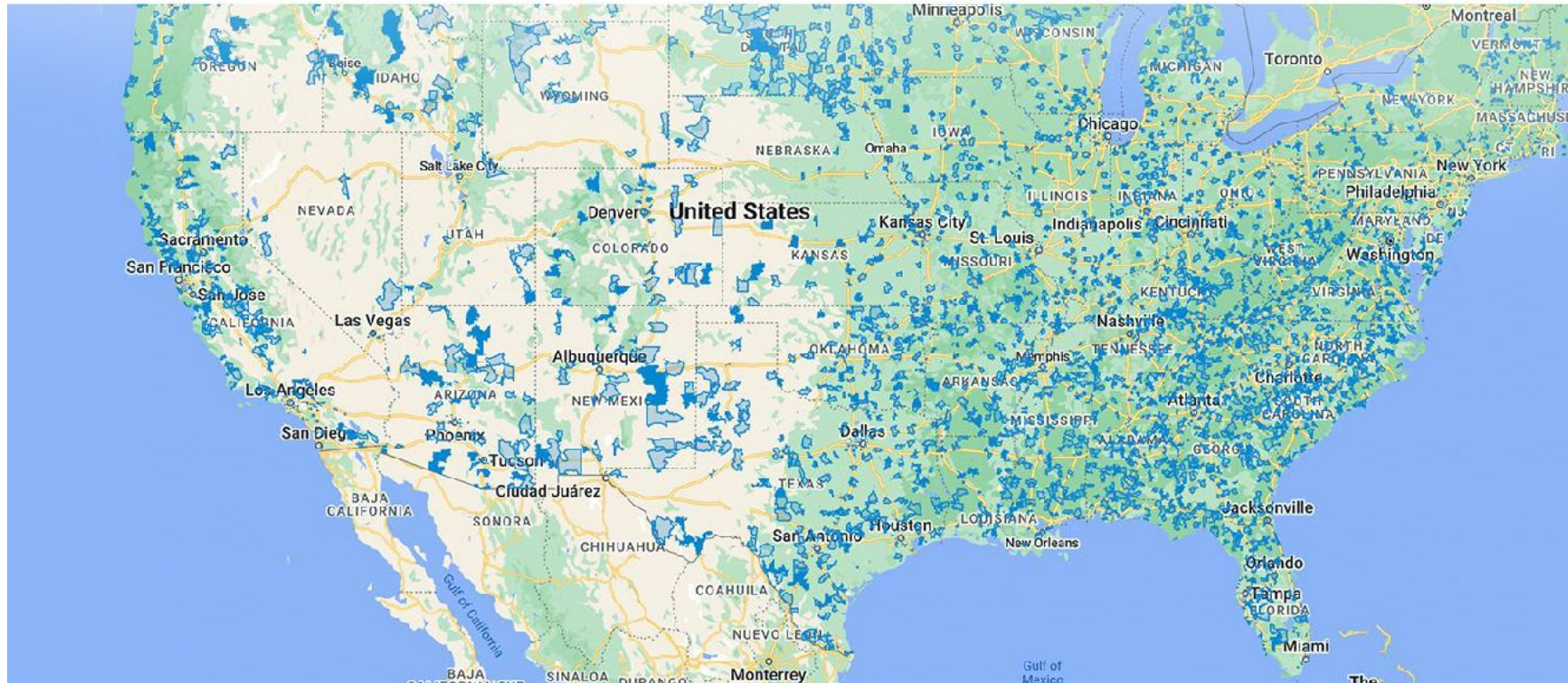
## Strategic value:

- Technical differentiator
- Opportunities for NIH funding
- Pre-clinical to early clinical proof of mechanism phase 1-2A- *ongoing discussions with Takeda and Novo Nordisk for strategic partnerships*

# A Commitment to Diversity

## Collaboration with Onkai (agreement with VCU in development)

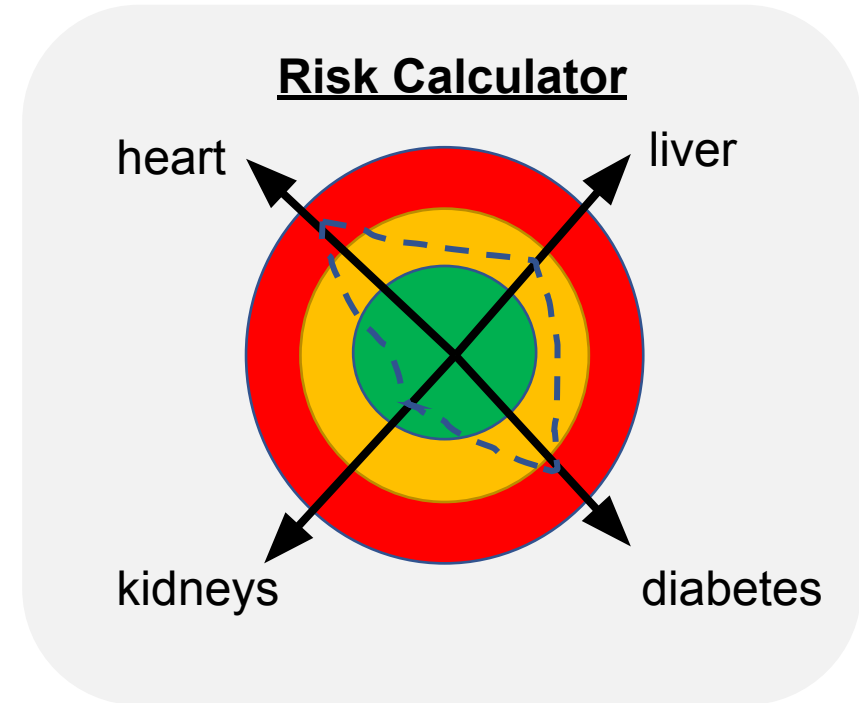
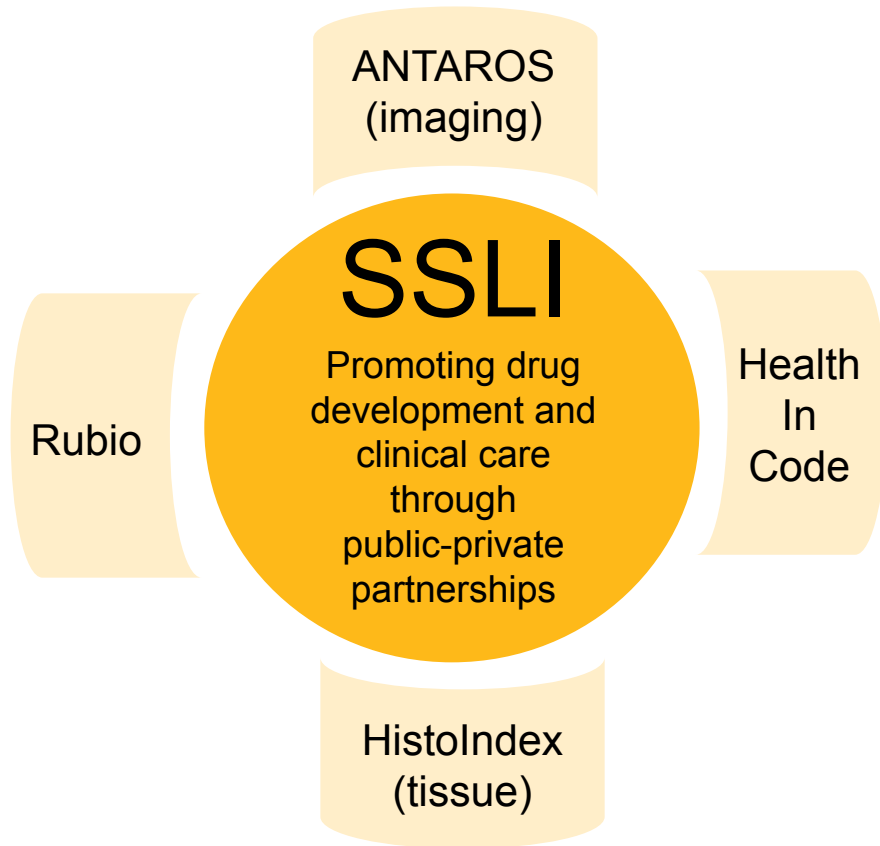
- Currently 10,000 clinics serving under-served populations (n=30 million)
- Telemed consults
- Trial bridge to provide access to underserved populations





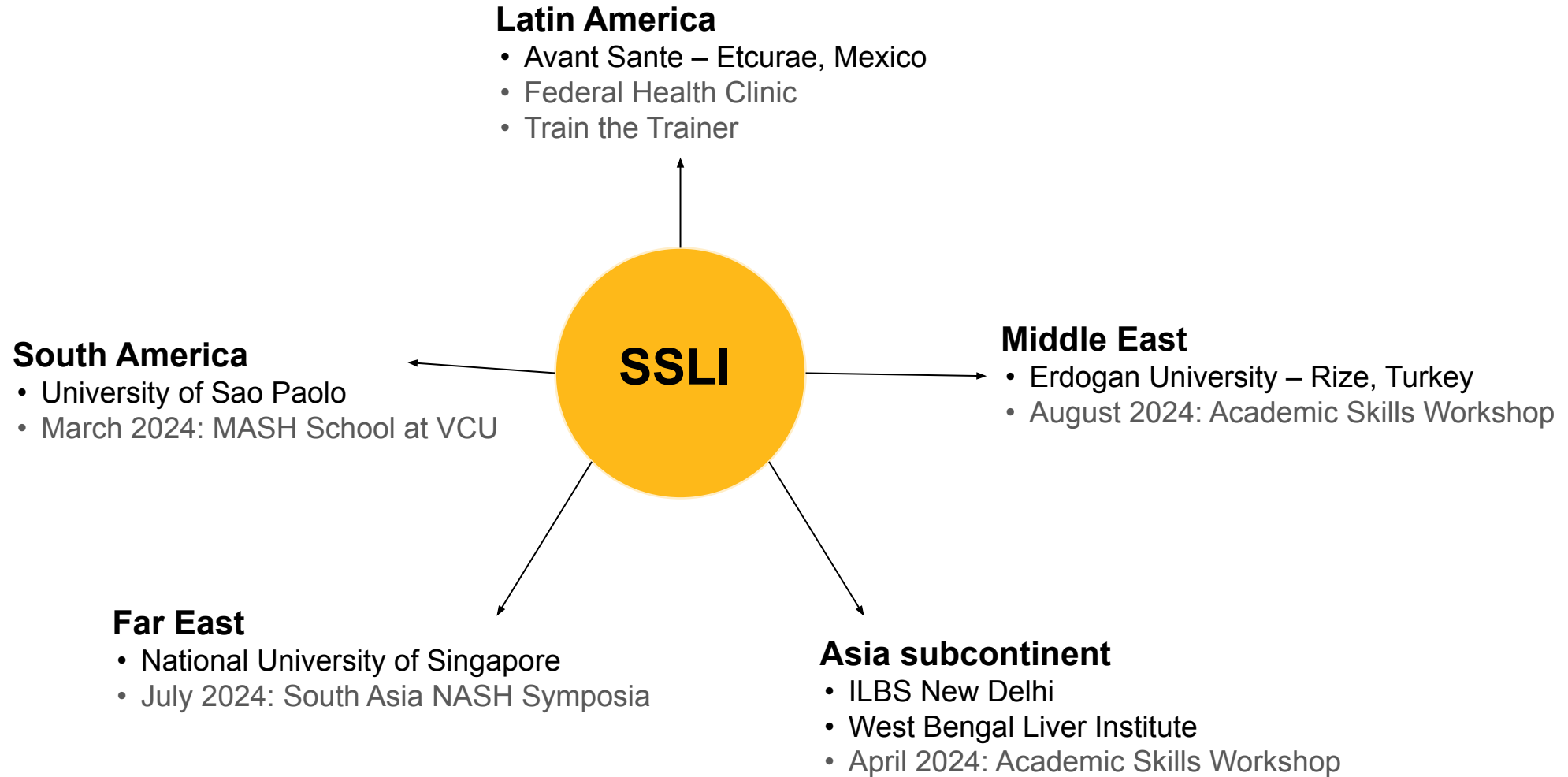
# Impact on the Health Industry in VA

*Building a biotech hub, creating jobs to prepare for tomorrow's medicine*



# Building a Global Workforce

## *Academic Collaborations*



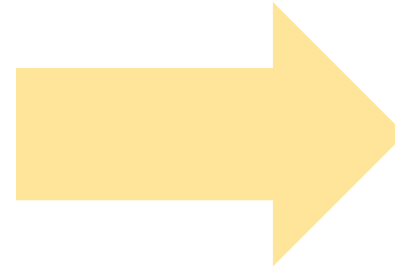
# Defining Success

## *Vision for the Future*

### **Workforce –**

Better training to prepare for tomorrow's needs  
*(metrics exceeded)*

Needs/barriers  
1. Structural  
2. Functional



- Greater access to care (worldwide)
- Better and safer care
- Novel approaches to care
- Better outcomes
- Building the workforce for tomorrow

### **Investigator/Provider –**

Making it easier to do research  
and provide care with more options  
*(metrics on track)*

### **Patient –**

Easier access *(metrics exceeded)*  
Reduced burden of diagnostics and  
therapeutics  
Better outcomes



**VCU**

School of Medicine

# **ATTACHMENT G**

## **MARCH BOV OPEN SESSION COMMITTEE REPORTS**

## **Audit, Integrity and Compliance Committee**

The Audit, Integrity and Compliance Committee heard from Mr. David Litton, Interim Executive Director for Audit and Compliance Services on the results of two recent audits involving Service Contract Management and SCHEV reporting. There were no Board level findings.

Ms. Suzanne Milton, Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer provided an Ethics and Compliance update. She noted the volume of reported concerns for the first six months of fiscal year 2024 is steady or trending down, 21 percent of the reported concerns were made anonymously compared to 30 percent over the same period last year (a positive trend), and 17 percent of reported concerns have been substantiated compared to 36 percent over the same period last year. She highlighted the results of the new conflicts of interest and commitment disclosure process which is 82% complete, including over 800 disclosures recorded by faculty and staff for review in response to the questionnaire. She also described the new integrity survey which will launch to faculty and staff in April to gather information on employee's perception of VCU's culture. Finally, she reported on VCU's work to improve the process for reporting Clery data, including implementing the suggestions of an external consultant and responding to a Department of Education audit of VCU's process.

Dr. Michael Bourgeois, Associate Vice Provost of Institutional Research and Decision Support provided a report including a definition of data governance, what an analytic-informed institution looks like, where VCU is on the maturity spectrum and what strategies VCU needs to implement.

Mr. Alex Henson, Chief Information Officer updated the committee on major projects including the new technology operations center, Generative AI, VCU Alert changes, Mobile App redesign and Research Computing review. He also provided updates on Information Security, and Audit and Compliance activities.

Finally, Ms. Cleo Magwaro, Associate Vice President of Equity and Access Services provided information and data concerning VCU's compliance programs related to: civil rights; Americans with Disabilities Act and accessibility; Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Office; protection of minors; and sex-based discrimination (also referred to as Title IX).

### **Action Items:**

The committee approved the December 7, 2023 committee minutes.

All materials can be found in BoardEffect and posted online under agendas.

## **Facilities, Real Estate, and Administration Committee Report**

Dr. Meredith Weiss, Interim Vice President for Finance and CFO and Vice President for Administration, discussed with the Facilities, Real Estate, and Administration Committee the ONE VCU Master Plan Implementation covering current projects and future projects. She also gave a preview of the ONE VCU Sustainability Plan, including the draft goals and recommendations.

As outlined in the Facilities, Real Estate and Administration Committee Charter and Meeting Planner, Mrs. Alison Miller, Interim Assistant Vice President of Human Resources, talked about the organizational evolution of VCU Human Resources, shared how they provide strategic support and operate efficiently across the university.

The committee also received two information items, a Capital Projects Update and Safety Training Update.

### **Action Items:**

The committee approved the December 8, 2023 committee minutes. The committee approved and are recommending the following action items to the Board of Visitors for approval:

- Amendment to the 2024-2030 Six-Year Capital Plan, Authorization to Initiate a Major Capital Project and Design Review and Approval of Project Plans, Scherer Hall Renovations
- Authorization to Amend the 2024-2030 Six-Year Capital Plan, West Grace Street Housing

All materials can be found in BoardEffect and posted online under agendas.

## **Academic and Health Affairs Committee Report**

The Academic and Health Affairs Committee heard three reports:

- Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Fotis Sotiropoulos provided a report on the progress of One VCU Academic Repositioning Initiative.
- Dr. Marlon Levy, Interim Senior Vice President for Health Sciences and CEO of the VCU Health, provided an update on issues pertaining to the health sciences schools and campus.
- Dr. Sriram Rao, Vice President for Research and Innovation, provided a brief update on VCU's research enterprise and also introduced a panel of faculty inventors and entrepreneurs who discussed their innovations and the processes towards commercialization.

### **Action Items:**

The committee approved the December 7, 2023 committee minutes. The committee approved and are recommending the following two academic program proposals:

- To discontinue the current MS degree program in Nursing
- Proposal to establish a new MSN degree program in Nursing

All materials can be found in BoardEffect and posted online under agendas.

## **Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee met to review the action items listed below.

### **Action Items:**

The committee approved and are recommending the following to the Board of Visitors for approval:

- Nominations for Rector for FY25
- Nominations for Vice Rector FY25
- Nominations for Secretary FY25

All materials can be found in BoardEffect and posted online under agendas.



## **Governance and Compensation Committee**

The Governance and Compensation Committee met briefly to review the action item listed below.

### **Action Items:**

The committee approved the December 8, 2023 committee meeting minutes.

The committee approved and are recommending the Mandatory Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Training Resolution to the Board of Visitors for approval.

All materials can be found in BoardEffect and posted online under agendas.

## Finance and University Resources Committee

The Finance and University Resources Committee were provided three reports:

- A government relations update from the Vice President for Government and External Relations Matt Conrad and the Vice President for External Affairs and Health Policy for VCU and VCU Health Karah Gunther. They provided an update on the budget and legislative outcomes of the 2024 General Assembly session. Legislation and the budget bill will now undergo review by the Governor, and the team will have further updates on any changes at the next BOV meeting. The Government Relations team will again host a federal reception alongside Virginia Tech on April 30th, which board members are encouraged to attend.
- The university's budget from the Interim Vice President for Finance and CFO and Vice President for Administration Meredith Weiss, who shared an overview of the university budget, focusing on how resources are purposefully aligned to drive VCU's success and value. She discussed the importance of accessibility, affordability, and innovation and presented the university's anticipated budget needs to meet critical/inflationary costs as well as to drive investments in academic and research excellence, transformative applied learning, and AI in teaching and learning.
- An update from the Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Jay Davenport, who shared fundraising totals for the current fiscal year and campaign progress to date. Mr. Davenport shared fundraising totals for the current fiscal year and campaign progress to date. He presented findings from the CASE Insights on Voluntary Support of Education (VSE) survey and highlighted VCU's growth in higher ed fundraising rankings from FY22 to FY23. In addition, he provided updates on campaign branding, campaign volunteer leadership engagement, and plans for campaign reporting leading up to the public launch.

Miscellaneous Reports were noted as pre-reads for the board's awareness that did not require action - Second Quarter Performance Analysis, the Treasurer's Report, the Committee dashboard, FY23 Financial Statements and Internal Control Report, a VCU Health System and Financial Operations update and the VCU Intercollegiate Athletics Programs for the year ended June 30, 2023 report.

### **Action Items:**

The committee approved the December 8, 2023 committee minutes. The committee approved and are recommending the following action items to the Board of Visitors for approval:

- Delegation of Authority for Banking and Investments Modification
- Contract for Security Services
- Authorization for Acquisition for the Liver Institute (MRI)

All materials can be found in BoardEffect and posted online under agendas.

## **Report from Vice President and Director of Athletics**

The Intercollegiate Athletics Committee meeting scheduled for March 21, 2024 was canceled as the VCU men's basketball team plays in the National Invitation Tournament and VCU women's basketball teams plays in the Women's Basketball Invitation Tournament. Go Rams!

Below are updates on VCU Intercollegiate Athletics.

### **Success stories**

- VCU Athletics recorded its highest semester academically ever in the fall of 2023 with a 3.448 cumulative GPA
  - 81% of VCU student-athletes posted a 3.0 or higher
  - 59% recorded a 3.5 or higher
  - 96 recorded a perfect 4.0 GPA
- Women's indoor track and field won the 2024 Atlantic 10 Indoor Championship, VCU's eighth in the last 10 years (third consecutive), with senior Eryn Byrd being named Field Performer of the Meet and senior Simone Pierre being named Track Performer of the Meet
- Junior women's indoor track and field thrower Gudrun Hallgrimsdottir earned First Team All-American honors at the 2024 NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championship, finishing fourth in the throws event (VCU's highest finish ever at the event)
- Men's golf won two of its first three tournaments of the spring season, climbing to number 39 in the NCAA rankings and joining men's tennis in the top 40 nationally

### **NCAA future model**

- President Charlie Baker sent a general letter to the NCAA membership in December that proposed radical changes to Division I membership within the NCAA.
- None of the ideas have pending legislation, but the model could change to include increases to athletic scholarships, significant additional deregulation, a trust fund for student-athletes.
- The letter also proposed some potential bi-furcation of those institutions that invest at a certain level annually (\$75m cited) and those that invest below that level.
- VCU Athletics remains one of the highest-resourced basketball-centric departments in the entire country and VCU remains confident that it will compete at the highest level.

### **Name, Image and Likeness ("NIL")**

- NIL remains the most discussed issue and the most important one for VCU to remain competitive.
- Mr. McLaughlin visited Capitol Hill in December with VCU'S Office of Government Relations to meet with federal representatives and legislative staff (five congresspeople and both senators) to discuss NIL and VCU Athletics.
- It looks unlikely for federal legislation from either the Senate or House to put some guardrails around NIL for 2024.
- VCU worked with UVA, VT, ODU and JMU to rewrite Virginia NIL state code in order to provide more opportunities for VCU student-athletes and to remain competitive in other states so VCU does not lose student-athletes either through the recruitment process

or the transfer portal.

**Challenges**

- VCU must remain competitive, aggressive and forward-thinking in NIL opportunities.
- Timing on Athletic Village.
- Financial uncertainty around what new NCAA model could look like as a result of any deregulation changes and financial planning for those changes.