1. CALL TO ORDER
   
   Dr. Tonya Parris-Wilkins, Chair

2. ACTION ITEMS:

   2 minutes (2:00 - 2:02 p.m.)
   
   a. March 21, 2024 meeting minutes
   b. Proposal to create a BS degree in Exercise Physiology in the College of Humanities and Sciences

   Dr. Tonya Parris-Wilkins, Chair

3. REPORT FROM THE PROVOST

   20 minutes (2:02 – 2:22 p.m.)

   Dr. Fotis Sotiropoulos, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

   Dr. Jill E. Blondin, Associate Vice Provost for Global Initiatives

4. REPORT FROM THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR HEALTH SCIENCES

   20 minutes (2:22 – 2:42 p.m.)

   Dr. Joseph DiPiro, Associate Vice President for Health Sciences, Faculty Affairs

5. REPORT FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

   20 minutes (2:42 – 3:02 p.m.)

   Dr. P. Srirama Rao, Vice President for Research and Innovation

6. GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION MANDATES

   30 minutes (3:02 - 3:32 p.m.)

   Dr. Tonya Parris-Wilkins, Chair

   Dr. Fotis Sotiropoulos, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

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1 The start time for the Board of Visitors meeting is approximate only. The meeting may begin either before or after the listed approximate start time as Board members are ready to proceed.
7. OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Tonya Parris-Wilkins, Chair

8. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Tonya Parris-Wilkins, Chair

In accordance with the Board’s operating procedures and in compliance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, there will be no opportunity for public comment at this meeting.
CONFIDENTIAL SUMMARY
ACADEMIC AND HEALTH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS
May 9, 2024

OPEN SESSION

DRAFT

ACTION ITEMS:

- Minutes of March 21, 2024 meeting
- Minutes of April 11, 2024 meeting
- Proposal to create a BS degree in Exercise Physiology in the College of Humanities and Sciences

FOR INFORMATION/COMMITTEE REVIEW:

1) Items that may be action items at upcoming committee meeting:
   - None

2) Items that the board needs to be aware of, but will not require action:
   - None

EXECUTIVE REPORTS:

Report from the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs (20 min.)

- Dr. Fotis Sotiropoulos and Dr. Jill Blondin will provide an update VCU’s international enrollment strategy and progress.

Report from the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs (20 min.)

- Dr. Joseph DiPiro will provide updates on issues pertaining to the health sciences schools and campus.

Report from the Vice President for Research and Innovation (20 min.)

- Dr. Srirama Rao will provide an update on the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation's collaborative efforts to create efficiencies and reduce administrative burden. His presentation will include a specific focus on streamlining processes to enhance human research and clinical trials, and effectively sharing data and informatics. The presentation will also include a brief update on VCU’s 2024 Research Weeks.
Overview
Virginia Commonwealth University seeks approval for a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree program in Exercise Physiology at the Monroe Park Campus in Richmond, VA. The proposed program will be administered by the Department of Kinesiology and Health Sciences in the College of Humanities and Sciences.

The intent of the Exercise Physiology degree is to prepare students to serve as leaders of fitness, health and conditioning programs in corporate, commercial, university, and clinical settings that provide exercise programming for apparently healthy individuals and those with chronic disease. Within the Exercise Physiology Core, students will develop the knowledge, skills, and behaviors to evaluate health habits and risk factors, conduct fitness assessments, write appropriate exercise prescriptions, and motivate individuals to modify negative health habits as well as maintain positive lifestyle behaviors. Students will develop a solid science foundation and understanding of the human body through additional science courses (e.g., Biology, Human Anatomy, Human Physiology, Chemistry, and Psychology) that will support their understanding of Exercise Physiology concepts. Other unique strengths of the proposed BS degree in Exercise Physiology include advanced coursework in both applied and clinical Exercise Physiology, research practices within Exercise Physiology, and career development/job skill acquisition through experiential learning. Additionally, students will be eligible to take the internationally recognized American College of Sports Medicine Exercise Physiologist (ACSM-EP) certification examination during their last semester in the program.

Delivery Format
The proposed program will be offered in a face-to-face delivery format.

Target Implementation Date
Fall 2025

Demand and Workforce Development
The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) shows a growth of 10% for exercise physiologists and 12% job growth for health educators. Similarly, the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) shows growth for both fields, with exercise physiologists demonstrating 12% growth and 14% growth for health educators.

External Competition
There currently are no public institutions in Virginia that offer a degree program in Exercise Physiology. There are six institutions that offer B.S. degrees in Kinesiology and Exercise Science: George Mason University, Hampton University, Longwood University, Norfolk State University, Old Dominion University, and University of Virginia. Additionally, the College of William and Mary offers a B.A./B.S. in Sports, Kinesiology, and Physical Education/Fitness.
**Target Population**
The intended target audience for the program is individuals interested in a broad range of careers such as exercise physiologists and health educators. This degree program is also intended for students who are interested in pursuing advanced degrees in fields such as physical therapy and occupational therapy.

**Impact on Existing Programs**
VCU currently offers a BS degree in Health, Physical Education, and Exercise Science (HPEX) with two concentrations: Exercise Science and Health Science. The proposed degree will replace the concentration in Exercise Science.

**Impact on Faculty**
The Department of Kinesiology and Health Sciences at VCU has eight existing full-time faculty positions (8 FTEs). These faculty will be involved with teaching core and other required courses in the proposed B.S. degree program. The department also has three part-time faculty and two adjunct faculty that will be involved with teaching core and other required courses in the proposed B.S. degree program.

**Funding**
The proposed degree program will therefore require a total of 10.5 FTE by the target year 2028-2029. No additional faculty will be needed for this degree program, therefore no additional resources are needed. 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 B.S. degree in Exercise Physiology aligns closely with VCU’s stated institutional mission. At its core, Exercise Physiology is a “translational” academic discipline that fosters integration of multidisciplinary basic and applied research to “improve the quality of human health”. The proposed degree core will seek to build on a strong science foundation (i.e., biology, chemistry, human anatomy, human physiology, and psychology) to support our students’ understanding of the complex, integrative aspects of the acute responses and chronic adaptations to an exercise stimulus. Exercise Physiologists, and therefore the field of Exercise Physiology, benefits from historical and current “interdisciplinary collaborations”, that have continued to improve our understanding of the role of exercise in improving the human condition with a focus on the most effective ways to “preserve and restore health for all people”. For the proposed degree this will be accomplished through a curriculum with "core values of diversity, inclusion and equity that provide safe, trusting and supportive” classroom experiences that exceed the needs of our diverse study body. Additionally, the program will provide “real world” internship opportunities “that furthers civic engagement, inquiry, discovery, and innovation”

**Next Steps**
- April 25 – University Committee on Academic Affairs (UC-AA) Meeting
- May 2 - University Council (UC) Meeting
- Electronic Vote - President's Cabinet
- May 10 - Board of Visitor's Meeting (BOV)
VCU's Enrollment Strategy: International Segment
Academic and Health Affairs Committee
May 9, 2024

Fotis Sotiropoulos, Ph.D.
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Jill E. Blondin, Ph.D.
Associate Vice Provost for Global Initiatives
By **2028** VCU will **double** our international student enrollment.

**VCU International Enrollment Strategy**

- **Fall 2022: Baseline**
  - 999

- **Fall 2028: Goal**
  - 2,000

**Investments are making a difference**
International Admissions:
Year-to-Date (as of April 19, 2024)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall 2022</th>
<th>Fall 2023</th>
<th>Fall 2024</th>
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<tr>
<td>Applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Offers Accepted</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>3,000</td>
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VCU
Launching international enrollment strategies

In the past year, VCU has elevated international enrollment internally

- Addressed barriers
  - I-20 process moved to GEO
  - Internal Transcript review VS asking applicant to apply externally
  - English language requirements updated

- Facilitated innovation
  - Graduate Education Innovation Program with a special tuition rate
  - Assist academic units with application process
  - Focus on knowledge acquisition through GEO-led workshop series

- Elevated collaboration
  - Hired Director of Global Partnerships & Outreach
  - Increased Embassy engagement
  - Engaged VCU leadership
Collaboration

The collective and enhanced commitment of units across VCU's Richmond campuses and VCU Qatar has provided critical momentum.
International enrollment plan moving forward

Next Steps

1. Use international partnerships as enrollment drivers
2. Identify and implement partnership-driven recruitment pipelines
3. Improve performance-based funding models for internationalization
4. Enhance and coordinate communication and yield efforts
5. Consider special tuition rate for visiting international students
6. Continue building infrastructure and improving enrollment processes
7. Expand the number of non-thesis master’s degrees
8. Improve global rankings
Creating efficiencies and reducing administrative burden in human research

P. Srirama Rao, Ph.D.
VCU Research is growing exponentially

Since 2018: 72% growth in sponsored awards ($464M)
An update on VCU’s research expenditures

- $235M in FY2016
- $246M in FY2017
- $255M in FY2018
- $283M in FY2019
- $364M in FY2020
- $406M in FY2021
- $479.9M in FY2023 reported to the NSF

95% increase since FY2018
Since 2013, there has been a **172% increase** in total regulations and policies adopted/modified that affect federal research.

Source: Council on Governmental Relations
Reducing Burden
Streamlining Process
Managing Secure Data and Informatics (Health)
2024 VCU Research Weeks
Streamlining processes for human research and clinical trials

HUMAN RESEARCH AND CLINICAL TRIALS INITATIVE

CO-CHAIRS

Arturo P. Saavedra, M.D.
Dean,
School of Medicine

Gerry Moeller, M.D.
Associate vice president for clinical research, OVPRI

SUB-COMMITTEES

STRATEGIC

REGULATORY

BIO-INFORMATICS

OPERATIONS

Committee recommendations to be delivered in Fall 2024
Improving VCU IRB turnaround time

**AAHRPP median: 42 days**
VCU median: 9 days

**AAHRPP median: 18 days**
VCU median: 6 days

**AAHRPP median: 10 days**
VCU median: 6 days

*Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs*
Managing secure data and informatics

PROTECTED DATA

REGULATIONS/POLICY

PROCESSING/STORAGE

PROTECTED DATA

HIPAA

FDA

VDI

VCU

VCU Health.

Processing/Storage

R

Google
Secure sharing of data and informatics

Research Computing Environment Review Committee

CO-CHAIRS

Jim Ward
Assistant vice president for research computing, OVPRI

Alex Henson
Chief Information Officer, Technology Services

- Inventory of Institutional Computing Services
- Optimal Structure for Data Sharing
- Promoting Computing Initiatives and Services

Committee recommendations will be delivered in Fall 2024
50+ Research Weeks events across our campuses in April 2024

VPRI's State of the Research (R)

Keynote address by 19th CDC director (L)

Engineering Research Showcase (L)

Graduate (L) and undergraduate (R) poster symposiums
Thank you!
P. Srirama Rao, Ph.D.