



**Virginia Commonwealth University**  
**Academic and Health Affairs Committee of the Board of Visitors**  
**Minutes**

Date: December 9, 2016  
Time: 9:20 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.  
Location: James Branch Cabell Library, 909 Park Avenue, Richmond, VA Room 303  
Present: Dr. Carol S. Shapiro, Chair  
Dr. Robert D. Holsworth, vice chair  
Mr. H. Benson Dendy III  
Mr. William M. Ginther  
Mr. Tyrone E. Nelson  
Dr. Shantaram Talegaonkar  
Mr. G. Richard Wagoner, Jr.  
Mr. Steve L. Worley  
Dr. Gail Hackett  
Ms. Elizabeth L. Brooks  
Staff and students from VCU and VCUHS  
Members of the press

The meeting was called to order at 9:22 a.m. by Dr. Shapiro and, on motion made and seconded; the Academic and Health Affairs Committee approved the Minutes of the Meeting held **September 15, 2016**.

On motion made and seconded the following action item was recommended for approval to the full board of visitors:

- Policy: Changing the Designation of an Academic Unit from School to College

The following items were presented for information and after general discussion follow-up requests were made:

Dr. Hackett presented the committee dashboard.



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Drs. Hackett and Rappley, who are co-chairs of the task force that is developing the university's next strategic plan, provided a more detailed timeline.

- The task force will hold its first meeting in January – Jacqueline Stone and I will serve as representatives of the Board of Visitors on the task force.
- Ample opportunities for input from key stakeholders are built into the timeline as are regular reports to the Committee and the full Board.
- The new plan is scheduled to launch in fall 2018.

Dr. Rosalyn Hobson Hargraves provided an update on the Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Action Plan.

- The draft is currently open for review and comments to the university community
- Board members can review the plan and make comments by emailing [inclusive@vcu.edu](mailto:inclusive@vcu.edu).
- There will be another committee report in March and the plan will come before the full Board in May.
- The committee asked for a report at a future meeting on grassroots efforts within the university to promote respect and civility among faculty and students.

Mr. Ed McLaughlin provided the annual update on athletics.

- VCU's student-athletes continue to be strong achievers in the classroom, with a majority earning a GPA of 3.0 or higher and a third with a 3.5 or higher GPA.
- Athletics' reliance on the student fee is steadily decreasing – the student fee currently represents 61% of the budget, down from 80% in 2009.
- President Rao is now in his second year of his term on the NCAA Division 1 Board of Directors.



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Dr. Marsha Rappley led a discussion on the VCU Health System and its role in advancing VCU as one university.

- She noted an exemplary partnership with the provost and vice president for academic affairs and the integration of organizational goals.

Ms. June Nicholson, the faculty representative, reported that the Faculty Senate passed a resolution on their commitment to diversity and inclusion.

- The faculty also sent a book and video link to the full Board highlighting two exemplary programs developed by VCU faculty, Dr. David Coogan and Dr. K.C. Ogbonna, that are benefitting the community.

Ms. Sania Marcoccia, the staff representative, reported that the Staff Senate continues to focus on opportunities to further engage the staff in activities recognizing the significance of their efforts in the university's focus on student success and patient experience.

- VCU's staff hosted a forum of the Virginia Public College and University Staff Leadership in October. Representatives of universities and colleges across the state attended.

Ms. Elizabeth Winslow and Mr. Alan Booth, the student representatives, provided a report on Student Government Association (SGA) activities this quarter.

- The university's SGA is in the process of restructuring to move away from using campus designations and toward student-centric designations.
  - If approved by the student body in January, the SGA will consist of an executive committee led by a president and two senates led by vice presidents – one representing undergraduate students and the other representing graduate and professional students.



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The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.