



VCU

**BOARD OF VISITORS
ACADEMIC AND HEALTH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
9:20 A.M.
September 14, 2017
JAMES BRANCH CABELL LIBRARY
901 PARK AVENUE, ROOM 303, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Carol S. Shapiro, Chair
Dr. Robert D. Holsworth, vice chair
Mr. H. Benson Dendy III
Mr. William M. Ginther
Mr. Tyrone Nelson
Dr. Shantaram Talegaonkar
Mr. Steve L. Worley

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Mr. G. Richard Wagoner, Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT

Ms. Elizabeth L. Brooks, Associate University Counsel
Dr. Gail Hackett, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Marsha Rappley, Vice President for Health Sciences and CEO VCU Health
Ms. Jamie Stillman, Director of Strategic Communications, Office of the Provost
Staff and students from VCU and VCUHS

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Carol Shapiro, Chair of Academic and Health Affairs Committee, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made and seconded, the Academic and Health Affairs Committee approved the Minutes of the meeting held **May 12, 2017**. A copy of the minutes can be found on the VCU website at the following webpage <http://www.president.vcu.edu/board/committeeminutes.html>.

REPORTS

Dr. Hackett presented the committee dashboard, providing in-depth discussion of VCU's research numbers. She noted that the University received \$275M in FY2017, a \$4M increase over the past year. It was reported that more than half of the funds received were Federal Funds including funding from the National Institutes of Health in the Addiction and Neuroscience fields, which have received national rankings.

Dr. Hackett also provided a brief update about graduation rates, noting a 1% increase in the 6-year graduation rate taking it to 63% (the equivalent of 38 additional students graduating) for the fall 2011 entering cohort (3,775 full-time, first-time students). It was also noted that while graduation rates are up, the University does have some challenges as follows: a) total enrollment is down slightly (by 744 students), b) low enrollment of international, out-of-state, and transfer students has led to renewed focus on recruitment in those groups, and c) Master's level enrollment is low. It is expected that the new budget model will provide incentives for academic units to enhance and expand masters programs.

Dr. Hackett then led a discussion around the broader issue of higher education in the United States. It was reported that the national goals suggest that 60% of the populace can and should have a post-secondary degree within the next 10 years, while many colleges and universities tend to focus only on the top two economic quartiles, which have historically seen growth in attainment over the past decades. She continued that the University proudly serves the lower quartiles which affects the University's rankings. The Committee members then discussed possible ways of communicating the University's compelling information to a broader audience, specifically including positioning VCU as a thought leader in this area and communicating this information to our internal audiences including students, faculty and staff.

Dr. Rappley, vice president for health sciences and CEO VCU Health, provided a brief update of the Health Equity Plan, highlighting two upcoming steps in the plan: 1) mapping the problem or exploring the social determinants affecting health and 2) solving the problem through Training and Education, Research and Scholarly Activities, Patient Care Services, and Community Engagement. Committee members expressed interest in this initiative and how the City of Richmond, specifically VCU, fairs within the community when compared to other cities/counties. It was noted that Richmond does not rank high when compared to the health of other places, but this fact only encourages the need for our budding community partnerships.

Ms. Holly Alford, the faculty representative, introduced the new Faculty Senate president, Dr. W. Scott Street IV, associate professor in the Department of Statistical Sciences and Operations Research in the College of Humanities and Sciences. Ms. Alford also expressed the Faculty Senate's involvement and support in various university initiatives including the university's next strategic plan, the human resources redesign, the new budget model and the Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Action Plan. They will continue to work with the University administration to help educate and fully inform the VCU community about the roles and responsibilities of faculty as part of concerns raised in the current environment, and the intersections of free speech and academic freedom. The Faculty Senate offered thanks to the Office of the President, for placing the University Council's Philosophy of Shared Governance on the presidents' website. The Senate fondly remembered Dr. Wanda Mitchell with a resolution.

Ms. Lauren Katchuk, business manager in the Office of the Vice Provost for Student Affairs and the staff representative, introduced herself as the new Staff Senate president, as well as the other members of the Staff Senate Executive Committee. Ms. Katchuk explained the current structure of the Senate and expressed the Senate's support of shared governance in the face of the HR Redesign.

Ms. Sarah Izabel and Ms. Katherine Pumphrey, the student representatives, introduced themselves and discussed several events being hosted by students. They also discussed the merger of the two campuses' student government associations into one VCU SGA and its success.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Dr. Carol Shapiro, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.