



VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

**BOARD OF VISITORS
6:00 P.M.
APRIL 7, 2020
ELECTRONIC MEETING**

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY

Mr. Keith T. Parker, Rector
Mr. H. Benson Dendy III, Vice Rector
Ms. Pamela K. El
Ms. Carolina Espinal
Mr. Peter F. Farrell
Mr. Todd P. Haymore
Dr. Robert Holsworth
Dr. Gopinath R. Jadhav
Mr. John A. Luke, Jr.
Rev. Tyrone E. Nelson
Ms. Coleen Santa Ana
Mr. Stuart C. Siegel
Ms. Alexis N. Swann
Dr. Shantaram Talegaonkar
Mr. G. Richard Wagoner, Jr.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Edward L. McCoy, Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY

President Michael Rao
Ms. Chelsea Gray, Assistant Secretary and Board Liaison
Ms. Melinda Hancock, Chief Administrative & Financial Officer of the VCU Health System
Ms. Karen Helderman, Executive Director for Audit and Compliance Services
Ms. Nancy Jallo, Faculty Representative
Dr. Tomikia LeGrande, Vice Provost for Strategic Enrollment Management
Mr. Mike Melis, University Counsel
Ms. Saher Randhawa, Staff Representative
Mr. Scott Street, Faculty Representative
Presidential Cabinet of VCU
VCU students, faculty and staff and members of the public via livestream

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Keith T. Parker, Rector, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Ms. Chelsea Gray conducted a roll call to see who was present. The Rector stated that the meeting was being held in accordance with Va. Code § 2.2-3708.2 (A)(3) that provides “An emergency meeting by

electronic communication means without a quorum of the public body physically assembled at one location is permitted when the Governor has declared a state of emergency in accordance with Va. Code § 44-147.17, provided that (i) the catastrophic nature of the declared emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe to assemble a quorum in a single location and (ii) the purpose of the meeting is to address the emergency.” After consultation with the President of the University, it was determined that it would be both impracticable and unsafe to assemble a quorum in a single location for this meeting.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Michael Rao began his report by addressing that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss COVID-19 and how VCU is responding to and operating in the current emergency. He reminded the group in order to comply with emergency electronic meeting requirements, it is important that the discussion and agenda be limited to VCU's current response and operations, and that those present are conscious of directing the conversation accordingly.

The President addressed that the COVID-19 crisis presents unprecedented challenges in everyone’s lives. VCU Health System is prepared for a surge of COVID-19 patients and has taken a regional leadership role in the health care consortium to manage overflow capacity at the Richmond Convention Center. The President praised all of the faculty, staff, students, our health care team members and our alumni and donors.

President Rao reported that there are two important philanthropic efforts to support the health system and the university in this crisis. An anonymous \$1 million challenge gift to support the COVID-19 Response Fund, to assist the VCU Health System in meeting the community’s needs during this crisis. It provides patient support, research and medical staff and health sciences student support. Also, the VCU Student Life and Learning Fund provides unrestricted dollars dedicated to enriching the life and learning experiences of VCU students or student groups. Funds support the most pressing student needs during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond.

President Rao reported the university earlier that day announced credits and refunds for housing, dining and parking. He continued at this time the university has every intention of starting fall semester on campus as long as it is safe to do so, even if it means shifting the academic calendar to a later start.

He acknowledged that the fiscal situation for the coming fiscal year is challenging at best and reported that the university is monitoring the fiscal situation based on impacts from COVID-19, including a hiring freeze. The university has been in constant contact with state and federal leaders to advocate for funding. The state funding would include about \$12.6 million toward tuition and \$4.4 million for scholarships to maintain tuition at the FY20 level in the next academic year. The University is recommending another year of no tuition increase if the state is able to move forward with the Tuition Affordability Plan. Regardless of the COVID-19 budget impact, undergraduate and graduate tuition rates would not exceed the 0% to 6% range.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

Dr. Gail Hackett, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs reported that the move

to remote instruction was a huge endeavor and faculty rose to the challenge and implementation was fast. It was noted that the faculty were provided access to [Keep on Teaching, which provides guidance for teaching remotely](#). She did provide a caveat that these zoom courses are not the same as what will typically be conducted for online courses. She continued that a temporary policy was put in place for pass/fail, and in recognition of the impact of COVID-19, all courses in summer sessions beginning before July 9 will move to remote instruction (online) to ensure the safety of the students. She concluded by informing the Board that VCU is committed to getting back to its regular course offerings as soon as possible and are making plans to return to on campus instruction for Fall 2020 provided it was safe to do so, even if it means shifting the academic calendar to a later start. She ensured the Board they will continue to be updated as the year progresses.

Dr. Tomikia LeGrande, Vice Provost for Strategic Enrollment Management, discussed enrollment challenges and responses for summer and fall enrollment. She reported the University anticipates the enrollment yield will be lower than previous years, and highlighted several steps to address same including: increasing the pool of qualified accepted students; extending deadlines; and in lieu of VCU Preview Day, the creation of School/College Preview videos. Dr. LeGrande reported that in addition to Keep on Teaching the university has launched a website [Keep on Learning](#) which provides resources to students and will also be launching a website Keep on Pursuing Your Goals.

HEALTH SCIENCES UPDATE

Dr. Peter F. Buckley, Interim Senior Vice President for Health Sciences and CEO of the VCU Health System, provided an update on health sciences.

BUDGET UPDATE

Ms. Karol Kain Gray, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, reported that the budget is still unclear. The university announced today a recommendation of another year of no tuition increase if the state is able to move forward with the Tuition Affordability Plan, but looking at 0%, 2%, 4%, and 6% undergraduate and graduate tuition rates. She will be presenting fiscal year 2020-2021 tuition, fees, and budget for the Board's approval at the May 8, 2020 Board meeting.

VCU HEALTH SYSTEM UPDATE

Dr. Peter F. Buckley, Interim Senior Vice President for Health Sciences and CEO of the VCU Health System, presented a video that had been put together by VCU and VCU Health System. The video can be found at the following link: <https://youtu.be/Ncu-ksxhKM0>. The number of internal COVID-19 tests increases daily. VCU Health System continues its research and clinical trials on experimental drugs.

Ms. Melinda Hancock, Chief Administrative & Financial Officer of the VCU Health System, provided an update on the VCU Health System. Her presentation focused on the deployment framework. A copy of Ms. Hancock's presentation is attached hereto as *Attachment A* and is made a part hereof.

Virginia Commonwealth University
Board of Visitors Meeting
April 7, 2020 Minutes

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Parker, Rector, adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.