COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT
Dr. Tonya Parris-Wilkins, Chair
Dr. V. Dale Jones, Vice Chair
Ms. Rooz Dadabhoy
Mr. Steven DeLuca
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. Keith Parker
Dr. Clifton Peay
Mr. P2 Sandhu
Hon. Todd Haymore, Rector

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
Mr. H. Benson Dendy, III
Hon. Peter Farrell
Ms. Ellen Fitzsimmons
Mr. Edward McCoy
Rev. Tyrone Nelson

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.
OTHERS PRESENT
Dr. Michael Rao, President
Dr. Fotis Sotiropoulos, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Andrew Arroyo, Interim Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Dr. Jill Blondin, Associate Vice Provost for Global Initiatives
Dr. Hernan Bucheli, Interim Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management and Student Success
Dr. Joseph DiPiro, Associate Vice President for Health Sciences, Faculty Affairs
Dr. Aaron Hart, Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. Srirama Rao, Vice President for Research and Innovation
Ms. Jamie Stillman, Executive Director of Academic Operations, Office of the Provost
Presidential Cabinet of VCU
VCU students, faculty and staff
Members of the media

CALL TO ORDER
Dr. Tonya Parris-Wilkins, Chair of the Academic and Health Affairs Committee, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The public was able to view the open session of the meeting via livestream at https://mssvideo.vcu.edu/BOV.

ACTION ITEMS
Dr. Parris-Wilkins asked the committee to consider approving three items that were provided in advance for review: the committee meeting minutes for March 21, 2024, the committee meeting minutes for April 11, 2024, and the proposal to create a BS degree in Exercise Physiology in the College of Humanities and Sciences. On a motion duly made and seconded, each of the two items were approved. The meeting minutes are posted at https://bov.vcu.edu/meetings/minutes/. The program proposal brief is attached hereto as Attachment A and is made a part hereof.

REPORTS
Dr. Fotis Sotiropoulos and Dr. Jill Blondin provided an update on VCU's international enrollment strategy and progress. Dr. Sotiropoulos noted that significant progress had been made toward the goal of enrolling 2,000 international students by 2028. Applications and acceptances are up in all degree categories; enrollments will be reported this fall. Dr. Blondin used SCHEV data to provide an overview of the percentage of international students at the five R1 institutions in Virginia. It was noted that SCHEV counts VCU Qatar students as international, while VCU does not. The members requested a definition of international students at a future meeting. Mr. Sandhu and Ms. Dadabhoy offered their support in the recruitment of students from India. Ambassador Lomellin encouraged increasing connections at embassies. A copy of the Drs. Sotiropoulos and Blondin’s presentation is attached hereto as Attachment B and is made a part hereof.
Dr. Joseph DiPiro provided updates on issues pertaining to the health sciences schools and campus. Dr. Parris-Wilkins noted the significance of the new Adult Special Needs Dental Clinic as a vital need in the community and thanked Dr. and Mrs. Roger Wood whose $500,000 gift made the clinic possible. A copy Dr. DiPiro’s presentation is attached hereto as Attachment C and is made a part hereof.

Dr. Srirama Rao provided an update on the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation's collaborative efforts to create efficiencies and reduce administrative burden. The report highlighted streamlining processes to enhance human research and clinical trials, and effectively sharing data and informatics. He also provided a brief update on VCU’s 2024 Research Weeks. As a followup the board requested Dr. Srirama Rao to provide a full report on research institutes and centers at a future committee meeting. A copy of Dr. Srirama Rao’s presentation is attached hereto as Attachment D and is made a part hereof.

GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION MANDATES
Dr. Parris-Wilkins reminded the committee that Rector Haymore said earlier this year that this committee would discuss whether now is the time to add another graduate mandate for our undergraduate students. Specifically, whether incoming students should be required to take one of 12 courses on racial literacy in order to graduate from VCU. She noted that the committee is not discussing the content of the courses, but rather the graduation mandate.

Dr. Parris-Wilkins asked Provost Sotiropoulos to provide additional input. Dr. Sotiropoulos shared his support for the efforts of the faculty in their work to create the requirement and the courses to fulfill it while meeting every policy requirement throughout the four-year process. The faculty secured votes of affirmation and re-affirmation across our governing bodies. Dr. Sotiropoulos acknowledged the board’s authority to determine university graduation mandates.

Dr. Valerie Robnolt, the faculty BOV representative, shared the faculty senate resolution and explained that this mandate was strongly supported by students and faculty and was vetted through the appropriate means. A copy the resolution is attached hereto as Exhibit A. A Some board members expressed concern about whether the board’s involvement in this matter was governance or management. Legal counsel advised that legally the board has the authority, however exercising it is not a legal matter. When asked his position, President Rao acknowledged the board’s authority and shared that he supports the courses. He suggested the provost come back to the board with information about general education requirements.

Dr. Clifton Peay made a motion to delay the implementation of the mandated requirement and have senior leadership provide more information with regard to unanswered questions. The motion was seconded and then there was deliberation. Multiple board members said that they needed more information and that leadership should share this information at the June meeting.
The Provost shared that the bulletin for courses was launched in March and students have begun registering, so it is important to make a timely decision.

Mr. Steve DeLuca then made a motion that the university incorporate racial literacy courses as options within the existing Areas of Inquiry section of the General Education curriculum. After continued conversation Mr. DeLuca withdrew his motion.

Dr Peay then moved that the matter be postponed so that the full board can engage in conversation around the topic at the full Board of Visitors meeting on May 10, 2024.

**ADJOURNMENT**
There being no further business, Dr. Parris-Wilkins adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.
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.

Investments are making a difference

- **Fall 2022: Baseline**
  - 999

- **Fall 2028: Goal**
  - 2,000
International Admissions:
Year-to-Date (as of May 3, 2024)

Applications
- Fall 2022: 0
- Fall 2023: 500
- Fall 2024: 1,000

Acceptances
- Fall 2022: 1,500
- Fall 2023: 2,000
- Fall 2024: 2,500

Offers Accepted
- Fall 2022: 2,000
- Fall 2023: 2,500
- Fall 2024: 3,000
Percentage of International Enrollments

VA R1 schools

Average International Enrollment for all VA 4-yr. Publics:
7.1%

Fall 2023, source: SCHEV
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
The collective and enhanced commitment of units across VCU's Richmond campuses and VCU Qatar has provided critical momentum.
Snapshot of VCU International Partnerships
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
9. Create a culture of care
Discussion
Report from Health Sciences

Joseph DiPiro, PharmD
Associate VP for Health Sciences

For
Marlon Levy, MD, MBA
Interim Senior Vice President for Health Sciences and CEO VCU Health

VCU
Highlights

Former Director of CMS, Don Berwick featured as Parrott Lecture Speaker March 21st at CHP urging for a reorientation towards values-driven policies and actions to promote health equity and well-being.

Nearly 250 VCU Health physicians and related medical professionals recognized as “Top Docs”

Health Professions fundraising record for FY24 at $4.2M

Residency Match Day

Medicine – 99% match rate, VCU, Hopkins, YNHH, UVa, Vanderbilt, WF Baptist, Georgetown, NYU

Pharmacy – 88% match rate, VCU, Hopkins, UPenn, Georgetown, UPitt, Emory, NY-Presb, Duke, St. Jude

Dentistry – Nation leading 97% clinical board pass rate
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<td>national rankings (#17 in NIH funding)</td>
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Student Wellbeing

- Focus on food and housing insecurity
- Gather data on student needs in each of the schools
- Subject of recent health sciences retreat with Dr. Aaron Hart’s team
Health Sciences Enrollment

• Positive 5-year growth, particularly in undergraduate programs
• Stable enrollment in first-professional programs
• Opportunity for further growth in undergraduate enrollment in Health Professions, Pharmacy, and Nursing
Accreditation

• Rehabilitation Counselling received full 8-year reaccreditation by CACREP

• Medicine – awaiting preliminary report, June LMCE meeting review
Organization Growth and Realignment

• Health Sciences Pathways
  • Expand accelerated / guaranteed admissions to graduate and professional programs
• BS Pharmaceutical Sciences approved by SCHEV
• School of Medicine:
  • Precertification MS in Anatomy
  • Renaming Anatomy & Neurobiology to Neuroscience
  • Merging Physiology & Biophysics, Human & Mol Genetics, Biochem & Mol Biology into one department
• School of Dentistry: Establishing Adult Special Needs Dental Clinic ($500,000 gift from Dr. and Mrs. Roger Wood).
Recruitment and Appointments

- Mary K. Daly, MD, Chair, Department of Ophthalmology
- Huiping Zho, PhD, Interim Chair of Microbiology and Immunology
- Fadi Salloum, PhD, Interim Chair, Physiology & Biophysics
- Updates on Dean searches:
  - College of Health Professions
  - School of Nursing
  - School of Population Health
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

95% increase since FY2018

$479.9M in FY2023 reported to the NSF

Research expenditures
Public ranking

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

Source: Council on Governmental Relations
Streamlining processes for human research and clinical trials

**HUMAN RESEARCH AND CLINICAL TRIALS INITIATIVE**

**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**
Managing secure data and informatics
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

VCU Research and Innovation
Thank you!
P. Srirama Rao, Ph.D.