

**NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF VISITORS (BOV)
Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 6, 2024**

MINUTES

I. Call to Order/Establish Quorum

Mr. Dwayne R. Blake, Secretary, called the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting to order at 8:39 a.m. A quorum was established with a 5-0 roll call vote.

Committee Members Present

Mr. Dwayne B. Blake, Secretary
Bishop Kim W. Brown, Vice Rector

Mr. Jay Jamison

Committee Members Virtual

Mr. Delbert Parks, Chair
Mr. T. Michael Andrews

The Honorable James W. Dyke, Jr.

Other Board Members Present

Mr. BK Fulton
Mr. Conrad Mercer Hall

Counsel Present

Pamela Boston, University Counsel and Senior Assistant Attorney General

NSU Administrators and Staff Present

Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston, President
Dr. Juan M. Alexander, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management
Dr. Leonard Brown, Jr., Vice President for Student Affairs
Mr. Andrew Carrington, Accreditation Specialist
Mr. Eric Claville, J.D., M.L.I.S., Executive Advisor to the President, Governmental Relations
Mr. Brian K. Covington, Chief of Police
Mr. Curtis Day, NSU Student
Ms. Sher're Dozier, Clerk to the President and BOV
Mrs. Kimberly Early, Executive Administrative Assistant, Student Affairs
Dr. DoVeanna Fulton, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Mrs. Kimberly Gaymon, Scheduler/Financial Specialist
Mr. Christopher Gregory, OIT
Dr. Dawn Hess, Chief Compliance Officer
Dr. Gerald Ellsworth Hunter, Vice President and CFO
Mr. Dennis Jones, Executive Budget Director

Dr. Justin Moses, Vice President for Operations
Dr. Cynthia Nicholson, Associate Dean, School of Education
Mr. Clifford Porter, Vice President, University Advancement
Mrs. Bonisha Townsend Porter, Senior Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
Ms. Tarrye Venable, Assistant to the Vice President, Student Affairs
Ms. Nilah Waller, NSU Student
Ms. Melody Webb, Athletics Director
Dr. Tanya S. White, Chief of Staff
Dr. Aurelia Williams, Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs
Dr. Danielle Williams, Director for Student Support Services, TRiO
Ms. Kerri Williams, NSU Student
Mrs. Saranette Williams, Director for Career Services
Mr. Terry G. Woodhouse, Interim Associate Vice President for Facilities Management

II. Recommend Approval of Electronic Participation

Mr. Delbert Parks, Chair, Mr. T. Michael Andrews, and The Honorable James W. Dyke, Jr. provided their reasons for electronic participation. Bishop Kim W. Brown motioned, seconded by Mr. Jay Jamison, and with a 5-0 roll call vote, the Committee unanimously approved electronic participation of Mr. Delbert Parks, Chair, Mr. T. Michael Andrews, and The Honorable James W. Dyke, Jr.

III. Recommend Approval of the November 16, 2023, Committee Meeting Minutes

The Honorable James W. Dyke, Jr., motioned, seconded by Mr. Jay Jamison, and with a 6-0 roll call vote, the Committee unanimously approved the November 16, 2023, Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting minutes.

IV. Discussion Items

a. Student Affairs Update – Dr. Leonard Brown, Jr., Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Brown began his presentation by introducing three current Norfolk State University (NSU) students, Ms. Kerri Williams, Mr. Curtis Day, and Ms. Nilah Waller. He noted each would share their experience with various support initiatives within the Division of Student Affairs. Dr. Brown then invited Ms. Williams, an NSU sophomore, to share her experience with the Spartan Promise to Persist with Purpose (SP3) summer program.

Ms. Williams provided a brief background to the 7-week SP3 program. She informed of many career and academic themes which were provided during the program, including lessons on public speaking and financial literacy. Through the program, she was able to overcome her fear of public speaking and gain lifelong knowledge on money management.

Dr. Brown further shared that the SP3 program is designed to equip students with the skills to gain internships and be successful in them. Most importantly, it gives students the opportunity to work on-campus during the summer earning money, while gaining skills for their future. Dr. Brown then invited Mr. Day, an NSU senior, to share his experience with Career Services.

Mr. Day discussed how the Career Services Office assisted him with practicing mock interviews, reviewing his resume, applying for internships, and finding a professional mentor. Through the skills he gained, he obtained a paid internship with Dominion Physical Therapy and Associates, as well as an unpaid internship through ABA Therapy.

Dr. Brown explained that we continue to see an increase in student participation and employer participation at our Career Expos hosted by Career Services. In addition, he shared that through a partnership with University Advancement, as well as through connections with several corporations, funding has been obtained to assist students with needs like transportation, ensuring internships are attainable. Next, Dr. Brown invited Ms. Waller, an NSU senior, to share her story on Student Support Services – TRiO.

Ms. Waller focused on the impact that TRiO had on her during her time at NSU. She noted the program fosters a sense of belonging and community amongst first-generation and low-income students. It also offers tools for academic success through tutoring, mentoring, and academic resources, assisting students with navigating coursework, so they excel in their studies.

Dr. Brown shared that TRiO is part of a Department of Education Grant. For over 50 years, NSU has been provided with the grant, which is one of the largest given by the Department of Education, in

terms of what NSU receives each year. Currently, there are 400 students in the program and the hope is to expand it to more first-generation students.

Dr. Brown concluded his report by thanking the students for sharing their experiences.

b. Academic Affairs Update – Dr. DoVeanna S. Fulton, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Fulton provided updates on academic affairs' leadership and faculty searches. There are currently 50 faculty searches posted in 20 national venues, as well as on the Commonwealth of Virginia's jobs website. In total, 305 individuals have submitted applications. Dr. Fulton noted that applications are not equally distributed across positions, and recruitments with smaller applicant pools will run a little longer. She still anticipates having most first-round interviews completed before the end of February. Additionally, there are three searches for leadership positions in academic affairs, including the vice provost for research and innovation, the dean of the college of liberal arts, and the dean of the school of business. She shared that each of these positions are being recruited for by national search firms. Dr. Fulton then introduced Associate Dean of the School of Education, Dr. Cynthia S. Nicholson, to give a presentation on addressing mental health inside and outside the classroom.

Dr. Nicholson began her presentation by emphasizing the changes in the landscape of education surrounding students' mental health. She spoke of Mental Health First Aid, and I Am My Spartan's Keeper. Dr. Nicholson explained that almost half of adults or 46.4%, will experience mental illness in their lifetime; one in five U.S. adults will experience mental illness each year; and 1 in 20 U.S. adults experience serious mental illness. Additionally, 1 in 6 U.S. youth, aged 6 to 17 years of age experience a mental health disorder each year, with 50% of all mental illnesses beginning by age 14 and 75% by the age of 24. Dr. Nicholson commended NSU on their mental health efforts, highlighting the Division of Student Affairs' Counseling Center, the TimelyCare application, and the NSU Health and Wellness Committee lead by Dr. Vanessa Jenkins and Dr. Ernestine Duncan. Dr. Nicholson shared she is partnering with Dr. Tim Gold on a research study titled, Mental Health First Aid for Community Partners in Hampton Roads. The study focuses on how we can provide Mental Health First Aid responders on campuses, trained to assist with those first actions that deescalate situations. Dr. Nicholson explained the I Am My Spartan's Keeper initiative, which provides that we are only as good as the faculty and staff on campus. Therefore, we want to be sure we have funding for these mental health initiatives. She concluded her report by asking that we continue to train our Mental Health First Aid Instructors on campus, ensuring each unit has the tools in place to help one other.

Dr. Fulton concluded her report by noting that not only are we providing mental health resources to our students and staff, we are offering education through our Masters in Counseling Services and the new Masters in Mental Health Education. Additionally, our teacher education programs provide students with the awareness and need to attend to mental health issues as part of their profession.

c. Enrollment Management Update – Dr. Justin Moses, Vice President for Operations and Chief Strategist for Institutional Effectiveness

Dr. Moses began his report with an update on enrollment. He noted we are up about 4% from last year at this time, with around 5,188 students. Dr. Moses then provided a breakdown of enrollment for each of the colleges for the Spring 2024 semester, noting most colleges saw growth, apart from slight decreases in the College of Business and the School of Social Work. He drew attention to the significant increase in enrollment in the College of Science, Engineering, & Technology (CSET). This trend began in the Fall 2021, which was the first year in which CSET was the largest college by enrollment on NSU's campus. The trend aligns with the increased interest in STEM fields across the

country. Overall, NSU graduated 343 students at the conclusions of the Fall 2023 semester. He completed the enrollment report by highlighting that FTE is positive across the board, with more students being enrolled in more classes.

Dr. Moses then provided an update on admissions, noting that Admitted Student Day will happen on April 6, 2024. Application numbers are trending upward and currently there are over 11,568 applications, a 15.23% increase over last year. To date, we have 6,289 first-time freshman students admitted for the Fall 2024 semester, a 2.64% increase over last year. Dr. Juan Alexander, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, shared we typically yield around 17-19% in the number of students that we admit. Additionally, he provided the total number of admitted students as of February 6, 2024, was 6,524, with just over 12,000 applications. Dr. Moses concluded his report following Dr. Alexander's updates.

d. Athletics Update – Ms. Melody Webb, Athletics Director

Ms. Webb began her presentation by speaking about athletics' transformation over the last few years. Student athlete needs have evolved, and the NCAA has shifted responsibility back to the memberships. She shared court challenges and state legislation have impacted the landscape for college sports, and a one-size-fits-all model has shifted to the haves and have nots. Ms. Webb provided emphasis on key athletics initiatives to include academic and athletic excellence, financial stability, brand management, and external engagement, noting we continue to focus on holistic student athlete experiences and compete for championships.

Ms. Webb then explained that there are several questions we must ask ourselves to ensure student athletes are provided with a fair, inclusive, holistic environment, where they can thrive academically and athletically. NSU's transformation process is focused on three areas for student athletes: elevating their mental, physical, and academic well-being, enhancing their performance and competitive experience, and building a sustainable external strategic model. Ms. Webb informed holistic development is focused on attestation and education surrounding mental health, nutrition, financial literacy, career readiness, name, image, and likeness, personal development, and DEI.

She discussed recent accomplishments including NSU's participation in the Name, Image, and Likeness Summit, hosted on campus at NUS, where 15 student athletes were given name, image, and likeness (NIL) deals on the spot. In January an NSU student athlete was 1 of 4 students from 1,100 institutions in attendance to speak about his experience with NIL to the NCAA membership.

Ms. Webb then shared metrics surrounding each of athletics key initiatives. Metrics for enhancing the holistic student athlete development included measuring academic achievement, student athlete wellness, graduation, and post-graduation success. Metrics surrounding academics encompassed scholarships, degree completion, graduation success rate, and academic performance. Lastly, enhancing the visibility of the department and brand by maximizing competition schedules to include regional, national, international, and cross-country. Ms. Webb noted this year, NSU secured an NCAA grant for \$100,000 and recently received an additional grant for \$15,000 for academic initiatives. She then provided information on the decentralization of rules and governance in the NCAA, as well as ways in which NSU works with our conference to ensure compliance.

Ms. Webb concluded her report with updates on programming. Recently, the men's and women's cross-country teams secured the MEAC Cross Country Championships. Additionally, NSU will be competing for the Indoor Track and Field Championships in February, with the MEAC Basketball

Championship following in March, where both teams are currently in 1st place. Finally, she shared that the North Carolina Central versus NSU game will be aired on an ESPN platform.

V. Public Comment

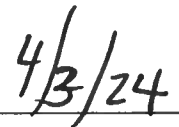
There was no public comment.

VI. Adjournment

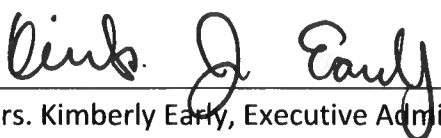
There being no further business, Mr. Delbert Parks adjourned the meeting at 10:09 a.m. With a motion by the Honorable James Dyke, and a second by Mr. Mike Andrews.



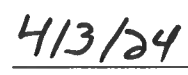
Mr. Delbert Parks, Chair



Date



Mrs. Kimberly Early, Executive Administrative Assistant



Date

**NSU BOV ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTE
 FEBRUARY 6, 2024, 8:30 A.M.**

Item	Mr. Delbert Parks (Chair)	Mr. Mike Andrews	Mr. Dwayne Blake	Bishop Kim Brown	The Honorable James Dyke	Mr. Jay Jamison	Mr. B K Fulton	Mr. Conrad Hall	Totals
Quorum			Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	5-0
Recommend Approval of Electronic Participation			Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	5-0
Approval of the Minutes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	5-0