

BOARD OF VISITORS
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
April 11, 2023

I. Call to Order

Mrs. Mary Blunt, Chair, called the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. A quorum was established with a 4-0 Roll Call vote.

Committee Members Present

Mary L. Blunt, Chair
Conrad Hall
Jay Jamison
Dr. Harold L. Watkins, II

Committee Members Virtual

Heidi W. Abbott (Virtual)
BK Fulton (Virtual)

Committee Members Absent

Gilbert Bland

Additional Committee Members

Katrina Chase

Counsel Present

Pamela Boston, University Counsel and Senior Assistant Attorney General

NSU Administrators and Staff Present:

Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston, President
Dr. Gerald Hunter, Vice President of Finance & Administration
Dr. Justin L. Moses, Vice President for Operations and Chief Strategist for Institutional Effectiveness
Dr. DoVeanna Fulton, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Melody Webb, Athletics Director
Dr. Juan Alexander, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management
Marlisa Sanders, Assistant Director of Admissions for Special Programs
Tiffany Little, Assistant Director of Admissions for Special Programs
Tanya White, Chief of Staff
Christopher Stancil, Office of Information Technology
Inda Walker, Clerk to the University President and Liaison to the Board of Visitors

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II. Recommend Approval of Electronic Participation

Mr. Hall motioned, seconded by Mr. Jamison, and with a 4-0 Roll Call vote, the Committee unanimously approved the virtual participation of Board Member Heidi Abbott and BK Fulton.

III. Recommend Approval of the February 17, 2023, Committee Meeting

Mr. Hall motioned, seconded by Mr. Watkins, and with a 6-0 Roll Call vote, the Committee unanimously approved the February 17, 2023 Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting minutes.

IV. Discussion Items

o Enrollment Management Updates – VCAN Program – Dr. Justin Moses

VCAN (Virginia College Affordability Network – What VCAN has done for Norfolk State University and how we have used this program to ultimately promote open state at the same time promote college access for our students: This program offers a scholarship to students if they live within the city of Norfolk State and Virginia State universities; the requirements are that the student have at least a 2.3 GPA to be admitted as a first year student: have completed their FAFSA, eligible for Pell Grant based on their FAFSA application, live within twenty-five miles of the university (this has been updated in the last several months, that they live within forty-five miles of the universities) with the expansion, more students can take advantage of the scholarship.

- o In the fall of 2020, we had 127 participants in the program, more students came from Newport News, behind that, of course, is Norfolk, Chesapeake, Virginia Beach and a decent amount from Suffolk, Hampton, and Portsmouth. A dissimilar breakdown from fall 2022, we have an increase of 181 students, that breakdown we currently have 308 students between the two cohorts. The upcoming cohort we have 208, that was two weeks ago; this morning, Dr. Alexander shared that we have fifty more students. Two programs are currently at 200 to 250 for the fall, and still counting; so that number may increase.
- o We have a sizable number of our students taking advantage of this program; we are getting more students to access but also for the Commonwealth of Virginia, we have more students that are looking to stay here in this region; that makes Norfolk State a much more viable option. Students can take advantage of this, we can provide them with the financial support that they need, as well as the academic and non-academic support.

Dr. Moses – The money comes from the state as of now we have had \$4.4 million distributed to our VPS. There were six years allocated for the program. The goal is to graduate a total of six hundred students from the VCAN program.

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Dr. Alexander – The geographic area covers as far as close to Charles City, past Smithfield is the furthest distance covered, up to Mathews County.

Dr. Moses - Over the summer we will produce data to see where we are with respect to the student success rates of students; we are confident that we will see substantial numbers. Ms. Tiffany Little and Ms. Marlisa Sanders are two of the VPS specialist and advisors who support our weekend students and really collaborated with them from when they apply and just getting them here onto the campus and providing widespread support whenever it is needed. We would love to be able to say Norfolk State graduated six hundred in the next couple of years. We have support mechanisms here to support these students. We want to show we are doing all we can to support this population and hopefully the program will grow.

o **Athletics – Melody Webb – A brief update on Athletics**

- o If you were to ask a student athlete what they think success is, I am sure you can get many different answers. I am also just as certain if you were to ask a fan, a spectator, or an alum what success is, it will also look different from the student-athlete response. Success has made different responses, but it is up to us how we define it for Norfolk State University. As much as we speak of success we must also speak of failure. Failure is not only okay, but it is necessary because it teaches essential lessons that will help student-athletes find success and encourages patience, persistence, and perseverance. It teaches them how to overcome adversity, which is the greatest lesson in sports.
- o A few more P's I would like to use are **Process**, **Progress**, and **Performance**. Following the **Process**, and demonstrating progress leads to outstanding performances. It is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes that makes everything look easy. That is why I give our student-athletes, coaches, and staff so much praise. All athletes may see success at some point whether it is an individual achievement, team achievement, game by game or seasonal accolades but few enjoy the journey of achieving it.
- o Many will never see the success of conference championships throughout their tenure across the country. Ex. – Howard won the men's basketball championship this year, which was the first time they won in thirty years. Many think it should be easy, but championships are few, far, and in-between. One of the greatest coaches of all time, Coach K, coached fortyseven seasons and only won thirteen championships. Results matter but the journey is just as instrumental.
- o The academic calendar year as we begin to round out, the department overall has done some amazing things and produced some outstanding athletes:
 - We secured the cross-country championship.

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- We secured the men's track and field championship 3 X and praying for the 4th we compete on May 10th on campus.
- We secured the women's basketball championship. 2nd time in DI history and 1st time since 2002. Finished for the first time in the Top 25 Mid Major Poll.
- We had three runner-up finishes with MBB with a heartbreaking loss. Then our Women's Cross Country and Women's Track and Field also secured runner up and took second place.

In addition to championships, we had a host of player and coach accolades...

- We had three Coach of the Year, MEAC Player of the Year, National HBCU Player of the Year, 1st Team All-Conference Honors, and a slew of other accolades that accompanies such feats.
- One that I am extremely proud of is how we are continuing to tell our story. NSU Athletics has been ranked top 100 the last few months and waiting on the official ranking for March. With our best ranking being 78 out of approximately 363 DI institutions.

We are doing great things and how we tell our story would continue to allow us to celebrate our amazing student-athletes and coaches. We are on our way but with all things, it takes a little time to ensure we are continuing to grow in the right areas to ensure sustainability and to ensure we are competitive and not just fielding a team.

Data: Title IX compliance can be measured in multiple ways, including whether the overall program's gender breakdown is proportionate to that of the general student body. And yet, the study found Division I athletics could not match that standard when examining data from 2020; women accounted for 54% of the undergraduate student body in Division I compared to that aforementioned 47.1% rate.

V. Closed Meeting

Motion was read by James Jamison, that the Committee adjourn and reconvene in Closed Meeting pursuant to: Section 2.2-3711(A) 1 and 8 of the Code of Virginia, for the following purposes, pursuant to the noted subsections:

(1) To discuss personnel matters, including more specifically, discussion of assignment, appointment, promotion, salaries, performance evaluations, as well as the promotion of, and granting tenure to certain university employees; and

(8) Consultation with legal counsel regarding specific matters requiring the provision of legal advice; along with any necessary consultation with legal counsel regarding matters noted in this motion; and further that the following remain for or attend, when called, the Closed Meeting: the President, the Provost, University Legal Counsel; and any non-committee member of the NSU Board of Visitors who would like to listen, but not participate or vote. Motion was seconded by Mr. Hall and with a 6-0 Roll Call Vote the Committee unanimously agreed.

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VI. Open Meeting

Mary Blunt, Chair read the motion: Having reconvened in Open Meeting, we will now take a roll call vote on certification that (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting by the Committee of the Board. Any member of the Board Committee who believes that there was a departure from the requirements as stated above, shall so state prior to the vote, indicating the substance of the departure that in his, or her judgment, has taken place.

Motion was read by Dr. Watkins: Madam Chair, having heard, considered, and discussed in closed meeting the qualifications, attributes and recommendation by the Provost and President of the candidates for promotion and tenure, I recommend that this Committee approve the recommended candidates for tenure and promotion, as discussed in closed meeting, and that these recommendations and approvals be provided to the Full Board of Visitors at its next meeting for consideration and potential approval. Seconded by Mr. Hall, and with a 4-0 Roll Call Vote, the Committee unanimously approved.

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VI. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Justin L. Moses, Committee Lead
Vice President for Operation and Chief
Strategist for Institutional Effectiveness

Mary L Blunt, Chair
Academic and Student Affairs Committee