MINUTES

I. Call to Order - The Honorable James W. Dyke, Jr., called the Academic Affairs Committee Meeting to order at approximately 1:09 P.M with a 5-0 Roll Call vote.

Committee Members Present:
Ms. Mary L. Blunt
The Honorable Jean W. Cunningham
The Honorable James W. Dyke, Jr.
Mr. Michael J. Helpinstill
Dr. Harold “Harry” L. Watkins, II

Committee Member Absent
Mr. B. K. Fulton, Chair

Other Board Member Present:
Ms. Joan G. Wilmer, Rector

Faculty Senate Representative to the Board Present:
Dr. Anne M. Fernando, Faculty Senate President

Members of the NSU Staff Present:
Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston, President
Dr. Justin L. Moses, Vice President for Operations and Chief Strategist for Institutional Effectiveness
Dr. Leroy Hamilton, Jr., Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Carl W. Haywood, Chief of Staff
Mr. Gerald E. Hunter, Vice President, Finance and Administration
Dr. Deborah C. Fontaine, Vice President, University Advancement
Mr. Harry Aristakesian, Chief Audit Executive
Mr. Ericke S. Cage, Executive Advisor to the President and Board of Visitors for Policy, Compliance and University Ombudsman
Mrs. Dawn E. Cole, Admin. Program Coordinator, Center for Teaching and Learning
Mrs. Kimberly E. Gaymon, Scheduler/Financial Services Specialist
Mrs. April T. Allbritton, Office Manager/Board Liaison

Faculty Members Present:
Dr. Suely M. Black, Professor, Chemistry and Center for Materials Research (CMR)
Dr. Ashley N. Haines, Associate Professor, Biology
II. Approval of the August 2019 Academic Affairs Committee Minutes

A motion was made and seconded with the minutes being unanimously approved.

III. Academic Affairs Discussion Items

Dr. Leroy Hamilton shared the following information for review and discussion:

A. SACSCOC Update

- On December 10, 2019, the Commission will announce whether or not Norfolk State University will be reaffirmed. Prior to the public announcement, the Commission will notify President Javaune Adams-Gaston of its decision.

- The On-Site SACSCOC visit was very successful. There were no core requirements concerns sited. Accolades were extended to the staff, faculty, and various units for putting together a stellar report.

- Norfolk State University will be hosting a couple of sessions at the SACSCOC Annual Meeting and sharing with other institutions its processes as it aligns with the streamline standards and how NSU came up with a successful outcome.
The University expects a favorable outcome. An announcement of the outcome will be distributed to the University-wide community by Communications and Marketing.

B. Teacher Shortage

- To address the shortage of teachers in Virginia and nationally, Norfolk State University is requesting BOV’s approval for two degree programs to be submitted to SCHEV for approval.
  - Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education (Pre-K – 6th grade)
  - Bachelor of Science Degree in Special Education

- Both proposals have been vetted through the University’s approval process, the Department Committee level, the School of Education Curriculum Committee, University-wide Curriculum Committee, and both the offices of the Provost and President.

- Dr. Denelle Wallace, associate dean, School of Education was available to answer any queries regarding the need for the proposed degrees. A few questions were asked to seek clarification between the current offerings and the proposed degrees. Dr. Wallace shared the courses are heavily embedded with pedagogy and andragogy. More time is spent on having students demonstrate how to manage the classroom and deliver the content.

- A motion was made and seconded for the Board to approve moving forward with the proposals to offer the Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education (Pre-K – 6th grade) and the Bachelor of Science Degree in Special Education.

C. Good News

- Spartans Preparing for Academic Rigor in College (SPARC), a summer bridge, residential program that prepares students with getting a jump start with their careers by taking two courses enrolled 95 students. From the 95 students enrolled, 90 students returned to the University for fall semester.

- The Bachelor of Arts Degree in Drama and Theatre Program now offers a concentration in two different areas: Design and Technology and Performance. Norfolk State University is the only public HBCU that offers this degree. Enrollment in this program has exceeded the 5th year goal of 70 students. Currently, 81 students are enrolled.
• The Honorable James Dyke encouraged the University to market this program. Provost Hamilton indicated that a follow up discussion with Communications and Marketing Department would be arranged. President Adams-Gaston concurred.

• Dr. Newby-Alexander shared a few of the program successes, the numerous sold out performances, and the scheduling adjustments being made to accommodate theater attendees. She also shared the concept of creating a Film and Humanities Institute. Discussion ensured relative to developing various revenue streams, and Rector Wilmer commended Dr. Newby-Alexander on the “Amazing” job she did with the 1619 Conference.

• The Masters of Health Care Administrations Online Degree Program, which was presented to the Board in December 2018 and approved by SCHEV in May 2019 was launched Fall 2019. The program will begin in January 2020, and seventeen applicants have enrolled.

• In response to various questions, Dr. Marie St. Rose indicated the Masters in Health Care and Administration, which is offered in the Department of Nursing and Allied Health, College of Science, Engineering, and Technology is not a clinical.

• Six-Year Plan Initiatives
  
  o The First Day Success Program, approved by the Board of Visitors, is a cost savings’ initiative for the University’s students. The University has saved 1.1 million dollars in direct cost savings for the students.

  o The Center for Teaching and Learning had its ribbon-cutting ceremony on August 20. Dr. Dorothy Jones indicated the mission of the Center to provide evidenced-based professional development opportunities to support faculty in the areas of teaching, research and service. Various workshops are conducted on high-impact practices and infused-technology to ensure active student engagements.

  o The Center for Integrated Science and Technology was created to fill the shortage of teachers in the STEM area. Dr. Berkley King indicated the Center initiatives will focus on the research and engineering skill sets on the K-12 levels, through state, regional, and national science fair competitions and the potential for launching graduate programs in science education.
D. Report/Remarks from the Faculty Representative to the Board

- On behalf of the Faculty Senate, Dr. Anne Fernando thanked the Board for the opportunity to share the voice of the faculty. The following information was highlighted.

  o Excellent leadership and communication from President Adams-Gaston to NSU faculty, NSU community and the Faculty Senate. Dr. Adams-Gaston spent time with the Faculty Senate on Thursday, October 10.

  o Excellent support, leadership and vision for the NSU community and faculty from the BOV.

  o Strong communication and collaborative relationship between the Faculty Senate and NSU administrators.

  o Faculty Senate Goals

    1. Improved Shared Governance – The Faculty Senate wish to have as much involvement in these initiatives, beyond what is possible as they want to be a part of implementing them for ensuring the success of student retention, on time graduation, robust student experiences, increased faculty effectiveness, and stronger technology infrastructure.

    2. Improved Faculty Development – The Faculty Senate wish for the culture of the future to have more involvement from the initial steps as they want to have a more collaborative communicative culture and that the success of the initiative be measured by the benefits garnered by the state holders of that initiative. Research support, release time, conference support, training and modern pedagogy for faculty, conference and international experiences, internship support for NSU students. The Center for Teaching and Learning is going to be a part of meeting this goal.

    3. Enhanced Faculty Opportunities – Full time faculty lecture and the corresponding adjunct roles in department be examined in supporting student centered learning. Excellent teachers that may not have Ph.D. and great adjunct and will play a big part of fulfilling NSU mission with the face to face interaction with the students and want it recognize and considered them to be unsung heroes.
Classes capped at 49-45, especially at introductory level.

Hiring of more adjuncts, increased adjunct pay, and increased campus presence. Release the faculty from having to teach overloads.

Address salary compensation

4. Improve the Faculty Evaluation Process - Update faculty instrument Stronger mediation to avoid grievance.

5. Faculty involvement in six-year plan.

6. Uniform annual faculty evaluation of chairs and deans.

7. Support of leadership development among deans, chairs, faculty, staff, and students.

• Concluding remarks: The Faculty Senate is very excited about President Adams-Gaston. Abundant positive changes are taking place at NSU. The energy of the BOV and executive administration is resulting in a lot of positive movement at the institution. We are very grateful. We do not take it lightly. We believe in our mission. We want to see the students thrive.

• Remarks from Rector Joan Wilmer: The presentation was very well put and synced. What was mentioned is very doable. The majority of them are managed directly through the operations of the University. She encouraged Dr. Fernando to move on and do what needs to be done for the university and reminded her that the BOV is not operations.

IV. Adjournment – The Academic Affairs Committee meeting adjourned at approximately 2:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Leroy Hamilton, Jr. Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

The Honorable James W. Dyke, Jr.
Academic Affairs Committee, Affairs Committee