**MINUTES**

**Thursday, April 9, 2020**

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

A meeting of the University Council was held on Thursday, April 9, 2020, at 3 p.m. via zoom.

The following members and alternates were present:

**Officers:** President Michael Rao, Gail Hackett, and Holly Alford

**Administration:** Jay Davenport, Gypsy Denzine, Jean Giddens, Karen Helderman, Cindy Kirkwood, Charles Klink, Tomikia LeGrande, Deborah Noble-Triplett, John Ulmschneider, and Don Young

**Faculty:** Ingrid Pretzer-Aboff,Sherif Abdelwahed,Michael Broda,Brian Brown**,** Everett Carpenter, Nancy Jallo, Melissa Jamerson, Jonathan Moore, Katie Logan, Hermine Maes, Donna McClish, Edward Millner, Karen Mullins, Lauren Pamulapati, Carrie Peterson, Christine Remmers, Scott Street, Nancy Stutts, Dong Sun,Christy Tyndall, Matt Wallin, Christine Wynd, and Kristin Zimmerman

**Postdoctoral Scholar:** Sean Koebley

**Classified staff**: Delores Armstrong and Saher Randhawa

**Students**: Sombo Chunda, Alexia Guzman, Jordan James, Udhanth Mallasani, Shay Miller, Michele Olson Pancoast, Sarah Saunders, and Tyler Williams

**Ex-Officio and Guests**: Debra Barksdale, Crystal Coombes, Jana McQuaid, Scott Neubauer, Richard Sliwoski, Gregory Triplett, and James Wiznerowicz

1. **President’s Report**

President Rao provided a brief report that included the following highlights:

He thanked everyone for pivoting to remote instruction on such a short timeline while under great pressure, noting it is notan easy task while we are also making adjustments to our own personal life and family schedules.

VCU is grateful for theFaculty Senate’s thoughtful decision regarding student grading, which isthe best thing to do during this crisis. He also expressed gratitude for our colleagues with VCU Health, noting they include: 1) the very best of humanity; 2) care-providers who are going above and beyond for patients; 3) scientists and researchers that are working nonstop for a cure; and 4) support staff who are coordinated and making sure all needs are met.

VCU is working to address refunds to students and the process started today. Refunds/credits will be issued for housing, dining and student parking permits.

The VCU Student Life and Learning Fund was developed in response to the pandemic. It provides unrestricted dollars to support emergency needs, and students can apply through VCU Student Affairs or VCU Financial Aid.

The VCU Covid-19 Response Fund (administered by VCU Health leadership) was formed specially to cover the many research, medical and clinical costs arising from the pandemic. President Rao stressed that we cannot forget this disease knows no age, race, nationality or religion.Speak up if you hear falsehoods. Accuracy and education is important.

President Rao noted this is not an easy time. We need to take care of ourselves, our families, partners and loved ones. We are in this together and will get through it.

1. **Minutes**

Minutes from the University Council meeting on March 5, 2020 were accepted.

1. **Committee Reports**

The Academic Affairs and University Policy Committee presented the following new programs/programmatic changes and policy proposals:

1. Proposal to create a Doctor of Philosophy in Biosciences – Dr. Scott Neubauer, Ph.D., Associate Professor, College of Humanities and Sciences, discussed the proposal and responded to questions. A motion was made and seconded followed by an electronic poll. The proposal was approved with the following count: Yes-59; No-0; Abstain-2.
2. Proposal to create a Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science – Dr. Gregory Triplett, Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, College of Engineering, discussed the proposal and responded to questions. A motion was made and seconded followed by an electronic poll. The proposal was approved with the following count: Yes-59; No-0; Abstain-2.
3. Proposal to create a Doctor of Nursing Practice – Dr. Debra Barksdale, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, School of Nursing, discussed the proposal and responded to questions. A motion was made and seconded followed by an electronic poll. The proposal was approved with the following count: Yes-64; No-1; Abstain-1.
4. Proposal to create a Master of Brand Strategy and Design – Dr. Jana McQuaid, Assistant Dean of Graduate Programs, School of Business, discussed the proposal and responded to questions. A motion was made and seconded followed by an electronic poll. The proposal was approved with the following count: Yes-65; No-0; Abstain-2.
5. Proposal requesting a name change to the Department of Kinetic Imaging to the Department of Kinetic Imaging and Sound Art – Dr. James Wiznerowicz, Interim Associate Dean, School of the Arts, discussed the proposal and responded to questions. A motion was made and seconded followed by an electronic poll. The proposal was approved with the following count: Yes-62; No-0; Abstain-1.
6. New Animals on University Property Policy – Ms. Crystal Coombes, University Accessibility Administrator, discussed the proposed policy and responded to questions. A motion was made and seconded followed by an electronic poll. The policy was approved with the following count: Yes-46; No-12; Abstain-5.

Mr. Udhanth Mallasani and Ms. Michele Olson Panoast provided a Student Government Association report. Mr. Mallasani noted that elections are in limbo and all activities have been cancelled due to the current COVID-19 situation. Ms. Olson Pancoast discussed highlights, noting that volunteers are being coordinated for the Virginia Medical Association. Also, legislation is not being pursued, but information sessions are being planned. A general discussion followed.

Dr. Nancy Jallo provided a Faculty Senate Report. She noted elections are underway and thanked everyone for their support. A general discussion followed.

Ms. Saher Randhawa provided a Staff Senate Report. She discussed the recent employee appreciation week and noted the annual conference was cancelled and will be rescheduled when it can be held in person. Elections will be held in the spring of 2021, and current officers will remain the same. The next staff senate meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2020. A general discussion followed.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 p.m.