**MINUTES**

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL**

September 7, 2017

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Monroe Park Campus, University Student Commons

Virginia Rooms

A meeting of the University Council was held on Thursday, September 7, 2017 at 3 p.m. at the University Student Commons.

The following members and alternates were present:

**Officers:** Michael Rao, Gail Hackett

**Administration:** Kevin Allison, Doug Boudinot, Liz Brooks, Andrew Daire, Joe DiPiro, Cecil Drain, Barry Falk, Sybil Halloran, Charles Klink, Francis Macrina

**Faculty:** Jose Alcaine, Holly Alford, Brian Brown, Vickie Connors, Pat Cummins, Joshua Galligan, Miriam George, Hope Ginsburg, Greg Greenhalgh, Les Harrison, Emily Hurst, Jenny Inker, Chris Jackson, Dianne Jennings, Myung Jin, Chris Lemmon, Susan Lindner, Milos Manic, Libby McDaniel, Victoria Menzies, Nitai Mukhopadhyay, June Nicholson, Joan Pellegrini, Ravi Perry, Ben Plache, Scott Ramsey, Mary Secret, Scott Street, Brian Verrelli, Heinz Roland Weistroffer, Blue Wooldridge, Shijun Zhang, Wei Zhang , Kristin Zimmerman

**Classified Staff:** Valarie Carter, Margaret Edwards, Lauren Katchuk, Stacy Metz, Evandro Moreno, Constance Peyton, Jabari Scott, Eileen Truax

**Students:** Jad Elahmad, Hassan Hafiz, Alexandra Martelli, Kendra Nickerson, Christopher Oltorik, Aime Sankoh, Jerica Santorum, Keith Zirkle

**Postdoctoral Scholar:** Sean Koebley

**Ex-Officio:** Kevin Harris, Deborah Noble-Triplett, John Ulmschneider

**Guests:** Bill Cole, Jacqueline Kniska

1. **Approval of minutes**

Minutes from the University Council meeting on May 5, 2017 were approved.

1. **President’s Report**

President Rao began by providing updates on several University-wide initiatives including the launch of HR Redesign at the beginning of the next calendar year and the Division of Inclusive Excellence’s Building Inclusive Communities training success. Dr. Rao also mentioned progress in the Facility Master Plan as the construction of VCU’s largest facility, the adult outpatient facility, has been approved. The Board of Visitors approved the Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Action Plan and it is now in implementation phase. The Make it Real Campaign has reached over $500 million and we will continue to raise funds. The Provost is closing out the current Quest for Distinction while simultaneously creating the University’s new strategic plan that will focus on VCU’s national prominence and distinction. Other initiatives include the implementation of a new budget model that will function alongside the current model, the development of a university parking and transportation plan, and the establishment of the Vision by Design for VCU Health. Dr. Rao closed with encouraging comments regarding the respect and responsibility we have to our students in the face of controversial circumstances such as the Charlottesville protests and the retraction of DACA. Updates will continue in future meetings.

1. **Membership caucuses**

Attendees were asked to break into their respective groups (Administrators, Faculty, Student, Staff) and sign up for the following committees: Committee on Academic Affairs, Committee on Faculty Affairs, Committee on Student Affairs, Committee on Classified Staff Affairs, and the University Council Bylaws Revision Committee.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.