

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
October 21, 2017**

**UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
ADMINISTRATION AND CONFERENCE CENTER, THIRD FLOOR  
ST. THOMAS CAMPUS  
EVANS CENTER ROOM 713  
ALBERT A. SHEEN CAMPUS  
BY TELECONFERENCE FROM VARIOUS POINTS  
9:00 A.M.**

**REGULAR SESSION  
MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

St. Thomas Campus

Attorney Henry C. Smock, Chair  
Dr. David Hall, President and Secretary  
Mr. Amiel Brown, Student Trustee  
Dr. Adam Parr, Faculty Trustee  
Ms. Jacqueline A. Sprauve, Alumni Trustee  
Dr. Yvonne E.L. Thraen

Albert A. Sheen Campus

Mr. Alexander Moorhead, Vice Chair  
Mrs. Oran C. Bowry  
Mr. Terrence T. Joseph, Chair, Board of Education

Telephone

Mrs. Jennifer Nugent-Hill  
Rev. Dr. Wesley S. Williams, Jr. (portion of the meeting)

**MEMBER ABSENT**

Dr. Sharon McCollum, Commissioner of Education (excused)

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Dr. Camille McKayle, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (by telephone)  
Mr. Mitchell Neaves, Vice President for Institutional Advancement  
Ms. Sharlene Harris, Interim Vice President for Information Services and Institutional Assessment  
Dr. Frank Mills, Vice Provost Research and Public Service  
Mrs. Nereida Washington, Director of Campus Operations  
Attorney Marie ThomasGriffith, UVI Legal Counsel

## **CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, Chairman Henry C. Smock called the Regular Session of the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Chairman Smock noted the excused absence of Trustee Sharon McCollum. The Chairman took the opportunity to introduce the faculty and student trustee for 2018 academic year. They were Dr. Adam Parr and Mr. Amiel Brown respectively. He also introduced the new chair of the Board of Education, Mr. Terrence T. Joseph.

Chairman Smock requested to amend the Regular Session Agenda. He indicated that one item for discussion, the FY2018 Operating Budget, should be moved to the Executive Session to discuss the following matter which could be reasonably expected to result in the disclosure of information of personal nature wherein public disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, commercial information obtained where public disclosure may cause substantial injury to the competitive position of another to whom the information relates or premature disclosure that would seriously frustrate implementation of the proposed action. Members unanimously agreed to have the agenda amended and have item moved to the Executive Session Agenda.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Trustee Jennifer Nugent-Hill, which was seconded by Trustee Wesley S. Williams, to approve the minutes of the Board Meeting held on June 3, 2017. The vote on the motion was unanimous by all members present. The minutes were approved.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Trustee Yvonne Thraen, which was seconded by Trustee Oran Bowry, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The vote on the motion was unanimous by the members present. The Consent Agenda was approved.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Hall formally introduced Ms. Earlyn Casimir to the members of the Board. She is currently serving as the Special Assistant to Vice President Lake-King, CFO & VP for Administration and Finance.

President Hall highlighted several University activities and achievements covered in his written report and provided updates to the report based on occurrences since the written report was issued. His oral report included the following:

### Student Achievements

President reported that the students were recognized and honored by the Association of Virgin Islands Psychologists:

- Bernetta Browne was awarded the Eldra Shulterbrant Award for Outstanding Public Service.
- Lynette Gumbs was awarded the Eldra Shulterbrant Award for Outstanding Public Service.

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- Shaniqua Hodge was awarded the Nancy Byam Award for Outstanding Research and Critical Thinking by a Graduating Psychology Major.
- Tuwanda Perez was awarded the The Lucia R. DiMeo Award for Outstanding Academic Performance by a Graduate Student in the Master of Arts in Psychology Program.

#### Other Student Achievements

- Shakima Plunkett (MA Psy student), was awarded the The Lucia R. DiMeo Award for Outstanding Academic Performance by a Graduate Student in the Master of Arts in Psychology Program.
- Xhyangha Galloway was accepted and will attend the John Jay College of Criminal Justice to study juvenile delinquency and forensic psychology.
- Alex Cintron was accepted and will attend the University of South Florida to study mechanical engineering with the goal of working for the aerospace industry.
- Dyan Godown, Research Assistant for USDA grant to Cooperative Extension Services “Healthy Youth Leading the Way in the VI,” Spring 2017.
- Julia Julien, Research Assistant for USDA grant to Cooperative Extension Services “Healthy Youth Leading the Way in the VI, spring 2017, Psi Chi inductee, and Student Research Intern at Rutgers University, African American Brain Health Initiative, summer 2017.
- Jerome Philbert, UVI Emerging Caribbean Scientist research intern with Dr. Janis Valmond, Summer 2017.
- Jama Raimer, accepted to National Student Exchange at Yonsei University in South Korea, Fall 2017.
- Che-Reina Warner (Communications major and former Miss UVI) participated in the HBCUChina Network Summer Exchange Program at Chongqing University in Chongqing, China.
- Augustus Laurencin and Kevon Browne (Communication majors) received funding from the V.I. Department of Tourism to participate in the National Association of Black Journalists Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 9-13, 2017.

#### Student Participation in the following programs:

- 13D Entrepreneurship Competition
- Acceptance into Post-Baccalaureate Programs
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

#### Highlights from the written report also included;

- Alumni Updates
- Faculty Achievements
- Publications and Papers
- Grants and Special Projects Funded

#### Significant Institutional Achievements

- Middle States Commission Re-Affirms UVI Accreditation
- Online Degrees Approval
- Child Care Centers on Campus

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- UVI Hosts “Great American Solar Eclipse
- Donor gift Charts Innovative Future in Data Science
- UVI Etelman Observatory Makes Scientific History
- Two international conferences at UVI were organized by Astrophysics faculty and the Etelman Observatory

### Campus Update: Hurricanes Irma and Maria Recovery

President Hall provided board members with a full update on damages caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria to the Albert A. Sheen Campus on St. Croix, the St. Thomas Campus and the St. John Academic Center on St. John. He stated that the University suffered severe damage as a result of the storms. He noted that the estimated total loss to buildings and infrastructure was approximately \$51 Million. He reported that the following buildings would need to be rebuilt or significantly renovated:

- Center for Marine and Environmental Studies
- School of Business Building
- Quarters B Administrative Building
- West Hall Residence
- Reichhold Center for the Performing Arts
- Institute for Geocomputational Analysis and Statistics (GeoCAS) and Caribbean Green Technology Center Building
- Faculty West Building
- President’s Guest House
- Research and Technology Park Building
- Residence Halls
- Agriculture Experiment Station and the Aquaponics Facilities

President Hall also provided an update regarding the Information and Technology Services (ITS) Infrastructure, the Academic Plan, and support that has been and continues to be provided to Students and Employees.

President Hall reported that UVI has been an integral part of the community and has assisted in the wake of the aftermath of the storms with the recovery efforts of the Territory. He indicated some of the ways that the University has supported the UVI community and the broader Virgin Islands as noted below:

- The Sports & Fitness Center on the St. Thomas Campus has been repurposed as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Command Center which will provide leadership and support in the Territory’s restoration efforts. The Reichhold Center for the Arts parking lot will be used to house 400 parking spaces for FEMA and other partners.
- Partnered with retired NBA player and local hero Tim Duncan for the St. Thomas Campus to serve as one of the sites for distribution of food and supplies as part of his relief aid and efforts.

- The Soccer Field on the St. Thomas Campus is occupied by the U.S. Military providing on the ground military and other recovery and restorative support for the Territory.
- The University is currently in discussions with the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (WAPA) exploring the availability of extra parking spaces at Reichhold for the additional trucks and equipment that will be on island assisting to restore electricity in our communities and to impacted citizens.
- UVI is working with the V.I. Department of Human Services to serve as one of the authorized sites in St. Thomas for the weeklong Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP) which gives food assistance to approved individuals, not currently on the SNAP program, who have experienced food loss or damage as a result of the hurricanes.
- In conjunction with the V.I. Department of Agriculture, our Cooperative Extension Service has been disseminating information to local farmers on relief benefits available through Florida Organic Growers and other farm organizations.
- Some of our students and employees have served as first-responders, National Guard, National Guard Reserve and volunteers throughout the community, playing critical roles in the restorative efforts of our campuses and the Territory.
- While the institution continues to explore other ways that it can be of support to employees, within the UVI Community, the following services have been made available to employees:
  - Through our medical plan, CIGNA HealthCare offers free 24/7 telephone access to mental health professionals and counseling services to employees and members of their household. Our Human Resources Department has also made additional resources in this regard available.
  - Through the Blue Roof (TARP) Project, impacted employees were able to register for assistance on the St. Thomas Campus.
  - FEMA Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) representatives will be available to register employees on St. Croix on October 16-17 and on St. Thomas on October 26-27.
  - Our Human Resources web portal has been updated to include a listing of available housing and apartment rentals for displaced employees.
  - On the St. Croix campus, disaster assistance food, cases of water and tarps were made available for employees.
  - On the St. Thomas Campus, Red Cross buckets and supplies were provided to our Security and Physical Plant employees who have played such a critical role in reinvigorating our campus.
  - Through our on-campus Cafeterias, UVI provided employees with hot meals for two weeks on each campus free of charge.
  - Through our Center for the Study of Spirituality and Professionalism (CSAP), interfaith gatherings open to employees and students are being hosted to address stress, coping and well-being techniques and moving forward.

## President's Appreciation Award

As customary, President Hall recognized UVI employees, or units, that have performed exceptionally with the President's Appreciation Award.

President Hall stated that the true measure of an institution was not how it handles success, but how it handles tragedies, setbacks and unexpected challenges. The mind, heart and soul of UVI were tested through the events of hurricanes Irma and Maria, and the response demonstrated that we are blessed to have a collection of resilient, thoughtful, caring and innovative individuals, who not only weathered the storms, but transformed themselves and the institution in the process. To fully resume classes on both campuses within one month after facing two category-five hurricanes is an historic and astounding accomplishment. As President, I am profoundly grateful to the faculty, staff, administrators and students who contributed to making this achievement possible. UVI has risen and we will become even stronger in the future because of this catastrophic test of nature.

It is for the aforementioned reasons that he presented the President's Appreciation Award to all members of the University community who helped us resume classes in such an historic and creative manner.

Vice Chairman Moorhead took the opportunity to also thank President Hall for his leadership as well before, during, and after the storm.

**DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.....Rev. Dr. Wesley S. Williams, Jr.**

### **Status Report on Fundraising**

Mr. Mitchell Neaves, Vice President for Institutional Advancement provided an update report regarding the University's success and challenges in securing external funding from corporations, foundations and alumni constituents during fiscal year 2017. He reported that the institution fell short of the annual fund and alumni giving goals that were established by the Board.

### **Goal for Fiscal Year 2018**

Mr. Neaves reported that the Development Committee recommended to the full Board that the fiscal year goal for cash donations be set at \$2.5M and the goal for alumni participation be set at 25 percent, with an aspirational alumni participation goal to remain among the top 10 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), and top half for current and aspirational peer institutions.

After Mr. Neaves presentation, Chairman Smock stated that the Executive Committee received the report at its meeting and was recommending that the resolution specifying those goals for Fundraising and Alumni Giving Rate for Fiscal Year 2018 be approved.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Moorhead, which was seconded by Trustee Sprauve to approve the resolution establishing the Fundraising and Alumni Giving Rate Goals for Fiscal Year 2018. The vote on the motion was unanimous by all members present. The resolution was approved.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 10:06am, a motion was made by Trustee Yvonne Thraen, which was seconded by Trustee Adam Parr, to go into Executive Session to address the following matters, which could be reasonably expected to result in the disclosure of information of personal nature wherein public disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, or premature disclosure that would seriously frustrate implementation of the proposed action(s), and for the Board to obtain legal advice on these matters:

1. Approve Executive Session Minutes
2. Receive reports from
  - The Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee,
  - The Executive Committee
  - The Finance and Budget Committee
3. Update on Legal Matters
4. Report on Personnel matters from the President

The Board took a short recess prior to the start of the Executive Session. The Executive Session convened at 10:16a.m.

### **RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

Upon return to the Regular Session of the Meeting at 11:58 a.m., the Chair reported the following: That while it was in Executive Session, the Board

- Approved the minutes of the Executive Session minutes held on June 3, 2017. The vote was unanimous by the members present;
- Approved two persons for the award of honorary degree – one each at the Commencement Exercises in 2018 on St. Thomas and the other at the commencement exercises on St. Croix. The vote on the matter was unanimous by the members present;
- Approved a list of potential commencement speakers. The vote on the matter was unanimous by the members present.
- Ratified the action of the Executive Committee regarding two matters:
  - The Quasi Endowment Fund; and
  - Presidential Self-Assessment 2017 and Presidential Goals 2018. The vote on both matters was unanimous by the members present;

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- Approved the UVI Fiscal Year 2018 Operating Budget. The vote on the matter was unanimous by the members present;
- Received a Report on Personnel matters;
- Received an Update Report on Legal Matters; and
- Authorized the Chairman of the Board to have a discussion with President regarding his employment contract.

The Chairman thanked board members for the cooperation during this particular time of recovery.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to be considered in the Regular Session, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:00 noon.