

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JUNE 19, 2021**

**UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
BY ZOOM
9:00A.M.**

**MINUTES
Regular Session**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Attorney Henry C. Smock, Chair
Ms. Oran C. Roebuck, Vice Chair
Dr. David Hall, President and Secretary
Mr. Kyza A. Callwood, BOE
Mrs. Nisha Clavier, Alumni Trustee
Dr. Lois Hassell-Habtes
Dr. Verleen McSween, Faculty Trustee
Dr. John A. Quelch
Dr. Yvonne E. L. Thraen
Mr. Reginald Vigilant
Rev. Dr. Wesley S. Williams, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mrs. Racquel Berry- Benjamin, DOE
Ms. Hadiyah Lang, Student Trustee

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Camille McKayle, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Mr. Mitchell Neaves, VP Institutional Advancement
Ms. Earlyn Casimir for VP Administration and Finance & CFO
Attorney Samuel H. Hall, UVI Legal Counsel
Attorney Marie ThomasGriffith, UVI Legal Counsel

CALL TO ORDER

The presence of a quorum having been determined, Chairman Henry C. Smock called the Regular Session of the meeting to order at 9:35am.

The Chairman formerly welcomed newly appointed trustee Erica Johnson Creamer to the Board. He also took the opportunity to thank the outgoing faculty trustee and student trustee for their service on the Board.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE.....Attorney Henry C. Smock
Election of Officers

Chairman Smock appointed Trustee Yvonne Thraen as Chair pro tem pending the election of officers for the period of 2021-2022.

Trustee Thraen, the Chair pro-tem, reported that the Governance Committee conducted its annual meeting for nominations as outlined in the Nomination Process adopted by the Board of Trustees. She reported that nominations were received for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair. Based on the nominations received, the Committee presented the slate of Henry Smock and Oran Roebuck, for Chair and Vice Chair respectively, to the Board of Trustees for its deliberation and action.

After the slate was presented, the Chair pro-temp opened the floor for nominations from the floor. No nominations were made. Trustee Wesley Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Trustee John Quelch, to close the nominations. The vote on the motion was unanimous by the members present. The nominations were closed.

A motion was then made by Trustee Kyza A. Callwood, which was seconded by Trustee Lois Habtes, to approve the slate of Smock for Chair and Roebuck for Vice Chair for 2021-2022. The vote on the slate was in favor by the members present with an abstention by Chairman Smock. Trustee Thraen then yielded the Chair back to Chairman Smock. Chairman Smock and Vice Chair Roebuck successively thanked the members of the Board for electing them as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.

Approval of Minutes March 6, 2021 Meeting

A motion was made by Trustee Callwood which was seconded by Trustee Williams to approve the regular session minutes of March 6, 2021. The vote on motion was unanimous. The minutes were approved.

Approval of Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Callwood which was seconded by Trustee Thraen to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The vote on the motion was unanimous. The consent agenda was approved.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

The President’s Report for this reporting period is organized into two sections. Part I provides highlights of new and ongoing presidential initiatives and institutional accomplishments since the last report. Part II highlights major accomplishments within the framework of *Greatness Through Innovation*, the University’s current strategic plan.

This framework has been adopted to ensure that all Components and Departments across the University are focused on areas that the University has determined are critical to our future success. I continue to be extremely impressed with the productivity and commitment of our University’s students, faculty, staff and administrators.

Student Achievements

- **Jackeima Flemming** was crowned Miss University of the Virgin Islands 2021-2022 at the 41st Annual Miss UVI Ambassadorial Virtual Competition held on April 24, 2021. Flemming also captured three of the seven judged segments: Most Intellectual Speaker, Best Performing Talent, and Best Ambassadorial Presentation. Four contestants vied for the title to replace Miss UVI 2020-2021 **Raven Phillips**. **Majestik Estrada-Petersen** emerged the first runner up. **Makayda Gustave Contestant** received the Miss Congeniality Award and **Taquanna Baron-Contestant** was awarded for Best Evening Wear.

- UVI Communication students won top awards at the 70th Annual Southern Regional Press Institute (SRPI) virtual conference in February 2021. The conference, hosted by Savannah State University, also included participants from Bethune Cookman University, Georgia Highlands College, Augusta University and North Carolina Central University. The UVI winners were also featured in the Marketplace Excellence's Caribbean Report news regional updates at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-xaAFgpYvOE>.

Jada Roberts, **George Francis**, and **Kalya Nielson** received third place for Best Public Service Announcement for their video presentation on the Jerusalema Dance Challenge

Kendrekus Jackson received third place for Best Radio Podcast

M'Kayla Sullivan received second place for Best Photograph in a feature story

- The Division of Student Affairs on St. Thomas hosted the 2nd Annual Student Engagement And Leadership Awards Ceremony to recognize students' achievements in leadership, service, and global engagement at UVI and in the wider community. Award categories and winners include:

- Organization Appreciation Award: Golden Key International Honor Society and Sailing Club
- Advisor Appreciation Award: *Dr. Joyce Campbell*, Sailing Club
- BUCS Spirit Award: **Sherwin Williams**
- Community Partners Award: UVI Cooperative Extension Services and VI Crawl
- Student Employee of the Year 2020: **Shaunte Rawlins**
- Student Employee of the Year 2021: **LeAnn Horsford**
- Advocacy Award: **Mary-Alice Prosper**
- Housing Director's Award for Social Responsibility: **Keturah Harrigan**
- Housing Director's Award for Distinguished Service: **Shirmarro O'Garro**
- Dean's Impact Awards: **Jackeima Flemming**, **Brandon Chambers**, **Raven Phillips** and **Celestial Dazle**

- Five UVI students will participate in the National Student Exchange Program for the upcoming academic year (2021-2022). They will study at the following institutions:
 - **Elizabeth Ferguson**- North Carolina State University (All year)
 - **Esonica Charles**- Florida A & M University (Fall 2021)

- **Dai'sha Webster**- Virginia State University (Fall 2021) and Louisiana State University (Spring 2022)
- **Kaniel Richardson**- Florida International University (Fall 2021) and Texas State University (Spring 2022)
- **Khaysaun Vanterpool**- Florida A & M University (Fall 2021), Florida International University (Spring 2022)

The President also reported on other achievements to included:

- Student publications and Conferences
- Other Student Achievements
- Alumni Updates
- Faculty and Staff Achievements

SIGNIFICANT INSTITUTIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- UVI Celebrates Class of 2021 with Impressive Virtual Ceremony
- Orville E. Kean Campus Sign Unveiling
- UVI Serves as Community Vaccination Centers
- Employee Service Awards Celebration Goes Virtual
- UVI Students Awarded \$47,000 In 13D Entrepreneurship Business Launch Competition
- Development Of A Territory-Wide Comprehensive Agriculture Plan
- Donald Sussman's \$6 Million Donation Anchors Vision For UVI Medical School
- COVID-19 Relief Act Funding Assist Students
- UVI Collaborates With Office Of The Governor And Microsoft Corporation On Technology Summit

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

As reported above, the special joint Commencement Committee developed and produced an impressive online ceremony to celebrate the Class of 2021 on May 14, 2021. The Committee also previously produced in December 2020, the University's first virtual joint Commencement Ceremony for the Class of 2020. Both ceremonies were meaningful and impactful for graduates, their families and honored guests. The ceremonies and social media coverage also garnered significant viewership when combined of over 100,000 views and impressions including the graduate stories, graduate degree frames featured in the ceremonies of participating students, and the related press releases regarding commencement.

For the aforementioned reasons and many others, the Presidential Appreciation Award is presented to the below Special Commencement Committee:

- Jana Austrie
- Francisca Barry
- Una Dyer (Co-Chair)
- Anyha Lord
- Dr. Paul Flemming
- Denise Humphrey

Submitted by Gail T. Steele

Approved by board of Trustees: October 2021

- Monifa Potter
- Gail Steele (Co-Chair)
- Dahlia Stridiron
- Dannica Thomas
- Tamika Thomas Williams
- Nereida Washington (Co-Chair)
- Silene Prentice, Class of 2021 Representative
- Kayla Francis, Class of 2021 Representative

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS

The Chairman welcomed all board members and thanked President Hall for the report and all the great things that were happening despite the pandemic. He looked forward to the time that the board could meet in-person. President Hall took the opportunity to advise the Board that at the Chairman's virtual birthday, he presented him with an "honorary" degree in celebration of his birthday. Chairman Smock thanked him once again and stated he was happy to Officially have a UVI degree.

BOARD COMMITTEE ITEMS

ACADEMIC, RESEARCH AND STUDENT AFFAIRS.....Dr. Yvonne E. L. Thraen

Associate of Applied Science degree in Horticulture

Upon the invitation of the Chair of the Committee, Dr. Usman Adamu, Dean of the School of Agriculture, presented the proposal for the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Horticulture as approved by the faculty and presented the proposal for the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Agroecology as approved by the faculty.

The **Associate of Applied Science degree program in Horticulture** is a two-year program designed to prepare students with the knowledge and skills for a successful career in the horticulture industry. In addition to providing a solid science foundation for propagation, production, and managing plants, the coursework will provide students with critical hands-on experience, both in the Lab and the field. Courses in Soils, Plant Diseases, Vegetable Production, and Tropical Horticulture are integral components of the program. On completion of this program, students have the opportunity or option to transfer to a Bachelor of Science program in areas such as Horticulture, Plant and Soil Sciences, and Agri-Business. A total of 64 to 65 credit hours are required to complete the Associate of Applied Science Degree, including General Education, Required, and Elective Courses.

Trustee Thraen indicated that the ARSA Committee voted unanimously to accept the proposal to approve the **Associate of Applied Science degree program in Horticulture**. The committee's recommendation was being forwarded to the full Board for review and action. A motion was made by **Associate of Applied Science degree in Agroecology**

Dr. Usman Adamu, then presented the Associate degree of applied science degree in Agroecology.

The **Associate of Applied Science degree in Agroecology** is a two-year interdisciplinary program that will investigate the science and social impact of agroecology in the tropics. The terms agroecology and sustainable agriculture will be explained in detail and defined, and applications of the agroecological perspective to the ecosystems and agriculture unique to the tropics will be discussed. A total of 61 to 63 credit hours are required to complete the Associate of Applied Science Degree, including General Education, Required, and Elective Courses. Students will be expected to complete 9 required courses and 1 elective course, a total of 30 and 3-4 credit hours, respectively. All the required courses will be available for class delivery within the School of Agriculture, except ENV 200 and BIO 223.

Trustee Thraen indicated that the ARSA Committee voted unanimously to accept the proposal to approve the **Associate of Applied Science degree program in Agroecology**. The committee's recommendation was being forwarded to the full Board for review and action at its meeting.

After the presentations, a motion was made by Trustee Thraen which was seconded by Trustee Callwood to approve both the Associate of Applied Science degree program in Horticulture and the Associate of Applied Science degree program in Agroecology. The vote on the motion was unanimous by all members of the board present.

FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE.....Oran C. Roebuck

Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax – Form 990

Vice Chair Roebuck, Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee reported that the Committee voted to recommend to the Board of Trustees to accept the completed IRS form 990 for the year 2020 as presented to the Finance and Budget Committee. Said form 990 asks whether the University provided its governing members with a complete copy of the form prior to filing the form with the IRS. A resolution was presented for approval. A motion was made by Trustee Vice Chair Roebuck which was seconded by Trustee Callwood to approve the 990 form for the year ending September 30, 2020 for the University. The vote on motion was unanimous. The resolution was approved.

Online Degree Program Tuition Increase Proposal

The Finance and Budget Committee voted to defer the approval of the proposed Online Program Tuition Increases to the Board of Trustees for action. A resolution was presented to the board to approve increases in the Online Degrees Program Tuition Rates and Faculty Compensation Rates. A motion was made by Vice Chair Roebuck which was seconded by Trustee Callwood to approve the resolution as presented. The vote was unanimous. The motion was approved.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE.....Attorney Henry C. Smock

Nomination for Trustee Elected by the Board

The Governance Committee, in accordance with Article II, Section(c) of the UVI ByLaws, is submitting candidate to fill one of the positions of Trustee Elected by the Board. The Governance Committee is recommending the election of Hannibal "Mike" Ware for a five-year term beginning June 2021 – June

Submitted by Gail T. Steele

Approved by board of Trustees: October 2021

2026. Members were reminded that they received his bio and other pertinent information. A motion was made by Trustee Callwood which was seconded by Vice Chair Roebuck to elect Hannibal “Mike” Ware to be the Board elected trustee. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

PLANNING COMMITTEE.....Dr. John A. Quelch

Peer Review

The Planning Committee received a report on Peer Review where the USNEWS Rankings and HBCU Peer Analysis was discussed. The Planning Committee proposed Aspirational Peers were reported by the Chair. After the discussion, Trustee Williams made a motion to accept the recommendation of the administration and Planning Committee with reference to peer institutions. The motion was seconded by Trustee Lois Hassell-Habtes. The vote on the motion was unanimous by all members present at the meeting.

Key Performance Indicators/Greatness Through Innovation

The Planning Committee received a report on the KPIs as linked to UVI’s Strategic Plan: Greatness Through Innovation. The report focused primarily on Retention Rate and Graduation Rate, Degrees Awarded, DFW Rates, NSSE High Impact Practices, Financial Aid, and Development Indicators.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 11:45 a.m., a motion was made by Trustee Habtes, which was seconded by Trustee Roebuck, 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 Minutes of the Executive Session of the last meeting of the BOT
2. Receive an update Report regarding COVID-19
3. Receive a report from the ARSA Committee
4. Receive a report from the Planning Committee
5. Receive an update on Personnel Matters
6. Receive an Update on Legal Matters

There was a fifteen-minute break and then the Executive Session convened at 12:05 pm.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Upon return to the Regular Session of the Meeting at 2:09pm, the Chairman reported that while in Executive Session, the Board approved the following:

Submitted by Gail T. Steele

Approved by board of Trustees: October 2021

- Approved unanimously Executive Session Minutes of the March 6, 2021 meeting of the Board
- Received an update report on the Plan of Action for the University for Fall 2020 regarding the COVID-19,
- Approved a vaccine mandate for all employees and students at the University of the Virgin Islands and to amend the Travel Policy to reflect no use of University funds for travel for unvaccinated employees and students, pending notification to Governor and Senate President.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

Trustees voting **YES**: Henry C. Smock, Oran C. Roebuck, Dr. David Hall, Dr. Lois Hassell-Habtes, Dr. Yvonne E. L. Thraen, Reginald Vigilant, Rev. Dr. Wesley Williams and Kyza A. Callwood

Trustees voting **NO**: Nisha Clavier and Erica Johnson Creamer

Trustee **ABSTAINING**: Dr. Verleen McSween

Trustees: **ABSENT** from meeting: Racquel Berry Benjamin, Dr. John A. Quelch and Hadiyah Lang

- Approved unanimously the granting of Faculty Emeritus to two faculty members
- Approved unanimously tenure posthumously for a faculty member
- Approved unanimously UVI Next submitted by the ARSA and Planning Committees
- Approved unanimously updates to UVI Risk Assessment Plan
- Had a discussion with President regarding personnel matters
- Received an update on legal matters from Legal Counsel

The Chairman thanked Board Members for their participation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to be considered in the Regular Session, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.