

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OCTOBER 22, 2022**

**UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
Administration and Conference Center  
9:00A.M.**

**Regular Session Minutes**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Attorney Henry C. Smock, Chair  
Ms. Oran C. Roebuck, Vice Chair  
Dr. David Hall, President and Secretary  
Dr. Kyza A. Callwood, BOE  
Mrs. Nisha Clavier, Alumni Trustee  
Mr. John P. de Jongh, Jr.  
Ms. Nashant Lindsey-Farrell, Student Trustee  
Dr. Lois Hassell-Habtes  
Dr. John A. Quelch – via Zoom  
Mr. Reginald Vigilant – via Zoom

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Mrs. Erica Johnson Creamer  
Dr. Dionne Wells Hedrington, DOE  
Dr. Sharon Honore, Faculty Trustee

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Dr. Camille McKayle, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Mr. Mitchell Neaves, VP Institutional Advancement  
Ms. Sharlene Harris, VP Information Services & Institutional Effectiveness  
Ms. Earlyn Casimir for VP Administration and Finance & CFO  
Attorney Marie ThomasGriffith, UVI Legal Counsel

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by hairman Smock at 9:16am. He welcomed new members to the Board of trustees and indicated that he looked foer to their contributions.

- **New Commissioner of Education: Dr. Dionne Wells -Hedrington**
- **New Faculty Trustee** – Dr. Sharon Honore, Associate Professor of Communications
- **New Student Trustee-** Nashanta Farrell - Junior- Major is Inclusive Child Care, Current SGA Member

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Trustee Kyza A. Callwood which was seconded by Trustee John P. de Jongh to approve the regular session minutes of June 18, 2022. 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 Lois Habtes to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The vote on the motion was unanimous. The consent agenda was approved.

Submitted by Gail T. Steele

Approved by Board of Trustees: March 2023

## 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

- Ocean and Coastal Observing Virgin Islands, Inc. (OCOVI) announced that three UVI students were awarded funding to help support their marine sciences research and study. The recipients of the 2022 Vembu Subramanian Awards, **Zachary Briggs**, **Dishon Heyliger**, and **Andrew McGregor**, were selected based on the strengths of proposals they submitted related to the mission and work of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) and the Caribbean Coastal Ocean Observing System (CARICOOS)/OCOV
- **Andrew McGregor** received a \$6,000 OCOVI Vembu Subramanian award in August 2022. The award supports Andrew's acoustic telemetry thesis project, in which he will upload collected data into the Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON)/Animal Telemetry Network (ATN) for the Acoustic BioTrack Project.
- **Andrew McGregor**, **Katie Ayres**, and **Maksym Cohen's** work in their spring Seagrass Internship was accepted to the World Seagrass Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, from 7 to August 12, 2022.
- **Allison Holevoet** was recognized for her outstanding work and selected by the American Geophysical Union (AGU) to be a member of the Advancing Earth and Space Science Voices for Science 2022 cohort. Selected from a highly competitive pool, she is among 150 past and present Advancing Earth and Space Science Voices for Science members. The AGU Voices for Science program was launched in 2018 to equip scientists with valuable communications and outreach skills, enabling them to engage with various audiences, from legislators to the public.
- **Allison Holevoet** attended the 15th International Coral Reef Symposium in Bremen, Germany, in July 2022.
- **Dishon Heyliger** and **Zachary Briggs**, UVI Marine Biology students, successfully competed for a Vembu Subramanian Award, funded by NOAA's Integrated Ocean Observing System program and distributed through CARICOOS and OCOVI. As a result, they were able to attend a workshop on Ocean Gliders at Rutgers this summer.
- **Kayla Budd** collaborated with Ian Hewson (Cornell University) in April and August for field and lab work examining the Caribbean Diadema sea urchin die-off. She also attended the 2022 US Regional Caribbean Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease Workshop Rescue & Restoration Session on April 27, 2022. Finally, Kayla completed Advanced Nitrox and Decompression Diving training on June 24, 2022.

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- **Natasha Bestrom** presented preliminary thesis results at the International Coral Reef Symposium in Bremen, Germany, in July 2022. She also visited Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution for training on microbial sample processing in August 2022 and visited The Nature Conservancy in St. Croix for a learning exchange between TNC and VI Reef Response on in-situ coral gamete collection in May 2022.
- **Race Stryker** received the National Climate Adaptation Science Center Diverse Knowledge Systems Fellowship from USGS for \$10,000 for his project, "Including Traditional Knowledge to Design Reef-Safe Landscapes in the US Virgin Islands." Race also received the Frontiers in Hydrology Meeting Travel Grant for \$1,000 to attend 2022 Frontiers in Hydrology Meeting on June 19-24 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- **Rebecca Gibbel** was selected to be a conference reviewer for the International Coral Reef Symposium in Bremen, Germany, in July 2022. Her written review of the conference and selected presentations will appear in ICRS's *Reef Encounter*, to be published later this fall. The publication by the 2019 cohort on their capstone project, **S.V. Costa, S.J. Hibberts, D.A. Olive, K.A. Budd, A.E. Long, S.S. Meiling, M.B. Miller, K.M. Vaughn, C.I. Carrión, M.B. Cohen, and A. E. Savage**. Diversity and disease: The effects of coral diversity on prevalence and impacts of stony coral tissue loss disease in Saint Thomas, US Virgin Islands. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, p.747, has been cited 8 times.
- The Fall Student Research Symposium took place on August 28 in the Elridge W. Blake Sports & Fitness Center on the St. Thomas campus. The theme for the symposium was Resilience in Research and featured Dr. Esther Ellis, the Territory's epidemiologist, as the keynote speaker. Undergraduate and graduate students presented oral and poster presentations and participated in interactive skill-building workshops and STEM-related demonstrations.
- National Science Foundation Scholarships in Science, Technology, and Mathematics (NSF S-STEM) were awarded to 13 students in the MMES program. The annual scholarships provide each scholar with financial support for tuition, research supplies and boat use, memberships to scientific organizations, and conference travel expenses. The current scholars include **Adeline Shelby, Alexandra Cormack, Avery Coble, Arelys Chaparro, Danielle Olive, Davis Strobel, Elizabeth Harris, Gregory O'Neill, Jendahye Antoine, Kayla Halliday, Kevin Daniel, Madison Miele, Sierrah Mueller, Taylor Brunson, Zachary Gregory**.
- Additional support in the form of teaching assistantships, research assistantships, scholarships, and fellowships for MMES students for fall semester 2022 comes from various programs, including the Strong Coasts fellowship-training program awarded to **Natasha Bestrom, Jenna Cheramie, Lindsay Dade, Allison Holevoet**, and **Naomi Scott**. The National Save the Sea Turtle Foundation supports **Katie Ayres, Sabrina Sorace**, and **Natalie Monnier**. The Baird Fellowship supports **Andrew McGregor** and **Corinne Johnson**. In addition to the four teaching assistants, **Naomi Scott, Kevin Daniel, Natalie Monnier**, and **Sabrina Sorace**, who offer instructional support in CSM, MMES student **Nicole Krampitz** was hired as a grader to assist in an MMES course. Four students, **Lila Uzzell, Zachary Gregory, Amanda Badai**, and **Laura Palomino** participated in the Bridge to Ph.D. program at Pennsylvania State University this summer.

## DOCTORAL AND THESIS DEFENSES

- **Gregory Buschman** was the latest to defend his dissertation, marking the completion of his studies. His dissertation is entitled: "Investigating relationships between intergenerational preferences, path-goal leadership styles, and Foursight™ Creative Thinking preferences."

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## **SIGNIFICANT INSTITUTIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

- UVI CELEBRATES UNVEILING OF STATE-OF-THE ART MEDICAL SIMULATION CENTER
- U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT RANKS UVI AMONG TOP SOUTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGES
- MODIFICATION IN FREE TUITION MODEL PLACES UVI AMONG TOP INSTITUTIONS IN THE NATION
- INCREASE IN FALL 2022 OVERALL ENROLLMENT AND NEW FRESHMEN AND TRANSFERS
- UVI LAUNCHES NEWLY REDESIGNED WEBSITE
- UVI SPORTS & FITNESS CENTER NAMED AFTER LEGENDARY V.I. SPORTS & COMMUNITY HERO ELRIDGE BLAKE
- REOPENING OF SCHOOL OF BUSINESS BUILDING
- UVI-CELL PROGRAM GRADUATES MORE THAN 50 CERTIFIED PUBLIC MANAGERS
- UVI SET TO LAUNCH INAUGURAL CUSTOMER SERVICE WEEK
- MEDICAL SIMULATION CENTER HOSTS EMT TRAINING FOR LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS
- STUDIO CREATED TO ENHANCE MUSIC CURRICULUM
- ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GOAL EXCEEDED

## **PRESIDENTS APPRECIATION AWARD**

During this critical period, under the leadership of Dr. Pamela Moolenaar-Wirsiy and David Wuinee, the former leader, our Access & Enrollment Services (ACES) Department, which also includes the Center for Student Success, worked diligently to ensure that the University saw a 2% increase in total enrollment for the Fall 2022 semester. The University also saw notable increases in New Freshmen at +13% and New Transfers of +3%, reversing a previous trend of low enrollment. The ACES Department launched the most aggressive and comprehensive student outreach campaign to ensure that as few students as possible were purged from the University's system due to payment related issues. In addition, ACES worked diligently to ensure that as many purged students as possible were reinstated and worked creatively to ensure that as many students as possible received financial aid resources.

President Hall indicated that he was deeply appreciative of their efforts and sacrifices, and presented the Access & Enrollment Services Department with the Presidential Appreciation Award for this term.

After his report, Chairman Smock thanked President Hall for his report.

## **CHAIRMAN COMMENTS**

## **BOARD COMMITTEE ITEMS**

**Academic, Research, and Student Affairs.....Dr. John A. Quelch**  
**Associate of Applied Sciences in Construction Management Degree**

At the invitation of Trustee Quelch, chair of the ARSA Committee, Dr. Kendra Harris, Dean, and Director of the School of Business presented the proposal for the Associate of Applied Science degree program in Construction Management as approved by the faculty.

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The program is designed to provide students interested in construction management with the requisite knowledge to support their interests and career goals. The students would be required to complete 25-26 credit hours of general education coursework and 40 credit hours in required courses, including design and construction, construction safety, planning and management-advances and financial accounting.

Trustee Quelch indicated that the ARSA Committee voted unanimously to accept the proposal to approve the Associate of Applied Science in Construction Management. The committee’s recommendation was being forwarded to the full Board for review and action at its meeting on October 22, 2022.

A motion was made by Trustee Quelch which was seconded by Trustee Callwood to approve the Associate of Applied Science in Construction Management . The motion was approved unanimously.

**Development Committee.....Ms. Erica Johnson-Creamer.**  
**Status Report on Fundraising**

An update report was given regarding the Fundraising effort at the UVI. I was reported that Total contributions to date for fiscal year 2022 (Oct 1, 2021 – September 11, 2022) \$4,397,326.72

It was also reported that the Committee discussed the strategy employed by the University to secure charitable contributions during fiscal year 2022 from private donors. Most private funding is being donated by corporations and foundation funders. However, UVI alumni contributed the majority of gifts received by the university. The University experienced a 51% increase over FY21 and 133% in FY2020 in the number of donors supporting the University. President Hall provided the Committee with the strategy going forward with the UVI School of Medicine initiative and provided an overview of plans for the grand opening of the 13D Research & Strategy Innovation Center that is now scheduled to take place in early 2023.

**Goal for Fiscal Year 2023**

A resolution was presented which recommended to set the fiscal year goal for donations at \$4.5M and alumni participation goal at 20 percent.

A motion was made by Trustee Creamer which was seconded by Trustee Callwood to set the fiscal year goal for donations at \$4.5M and alumni participation goal at 20 percent.  
The vote on the motion was unanimously approved.

**Finance and Budget Committee.....Ms. Oran C. Roebuck**  
**FY2023 Operating Budget Revision Number One**

Trustee Roebuck reported that the Finance and Budget Committee voted to recommend to the Board of Trustees the approval of the FY2023 Operating Budget consisting of total operating revenues of \$49,945,004 and total expenditures and transfers of \$49,945,004.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Roebuck which was seconded by Trustee De Jongh to approve the resolution approving Revision to the FY2023 Operating Budget consisting of total operating revenues of

\$49,945,004 and total expenditures and transfers of \$49,945,004. The vote on the motion was unanimously approved.

**Planning Committee.....Dr. Lois Hassell-Habtes**  
**Key Performance Indicators**

The Board of Trustees received a report on the KPIs as linked to UVI's Strategic Plan: Greatness Through Innovation. The report focused primarily on VI Incoming Freshmen, Enrollment, Retention and Persistence Rates, NSSE – High Impact Practices, and Development Indicators.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 10:33am, a motion was made by Trustee Callwood and seconded by Trustee De Jongh to move into Executive Session discuss 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, 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(s), and for the Board to obtain legal advice on those matters:

1. Approve Executive Session Minutes
2. Receive a report from the President regarding the Vaccination Policy
3. Receive a report from the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee
4. Receive an Update on Personnel Matters
5. Receive an Update on Legal Matters

The motion was approved unanimously. The Chairman stated that meeting would take a ten minute break and then continue in Executive Session.

The Executive Session convened at 10:43am.

Upon return to the Regular session at 11:46am, the Chair reported the following:

- The Board approved Executive Session Minutes from the October 22, 2023 Meeting
- The Board approved two candidates to receive Honorary Degrees
- The Board approved a list of persons for President to select from for Commencement Speaker
- The Board approved revision to Vaccination Mandate to eliminate requirement of vaccine for persons seeking employment subject to confirmation from the Department of Health.
- The Board received an update regarding the Presidential Search Committee and the Ad Hoc Medical School Committee
- The Board received an update on personnel matters
- The Board received an update on Legal matters.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Having no other business, a motion was made by Trustee Callwood which was seconded by Vice chair Roebuck to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 11:50am.

Submitted by Gail T. Steele

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