

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OCTOBER 21, 2023**

**UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
VIA ZOOM
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
Dr. Dionne Wells Hedrington, DOE
Mrs. Nisha Clavier, Alumni Trustee
Mrs. Erica Johnson Creamer
Mr. John P. de Jongh, Jr.
Ms. Jackeima Flemming, Student Trustee
Mr. Reginald Vigilant
Dr. Sheena Walker, Faculty Trustee

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Lois Hassell-Habtes
Dr. John A. Quelch

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Camille McKayle, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
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 Chairman Smock at 9:07am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Trustee Kyza A. Callwood which was seconded by Trustee de Jongh to approve the regular session minutes of June 24, 2023. 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 de Jongh 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.

Highlights of the President's report included student achievements, faculty achievements, institutional achievements, and the Presentation of his Presidential award.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Michael Bell** and **Jackeima Flemming** were selected to the 9th White House HBCU Scholar cohort. They were chosen from a competitive pool of 300 applicants and were recognized along with 102 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students from 29 different states and countries for their accomplishments in academics, leadership, and civic engagement. In addition to a myriad of professional opportunities, Bell and Flemming will collaborate with other scholars on ideas to commercialize technology derived from NASA intellectual property. In September, they traveled to the 2023 HBCU Week National Annual Conference in Virginia and the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland to present their IP ideas in-person. They also served as ambassadors to the White House Initiative on HBCUs.

- **Ky Odlum, Alina Adriel, and Angela Thomas** were accepted into the Boston University (BU) Early Medical School Selection Program. They spent the summer taking classes and shadowing physicians at BU. They will continue their studies at BU during their senior year.
- UVI students participated in the Shadowing Program established with Schneider Regional Medical Center physicians under the leadership of **Dr. Lavidia Rogers**. **Reem Mohammad** (psychology major) rotated with Dr. Nicolette Howells and Dr. Lori Thompson. **Savannah Carroll** and **Cedricia Jeffers** will be working this fall with Dr. Danielle Commisiong. Interested pre-health students work with the pre-health advisor to communicate with physicians to secure a shadowing experience. Students are also required to complete hospital orientation before shadowing.
- **Alex Cormack** (Master's in Marine & Environmental Sciences (MMES) student) has been selected as a Women in Ocean Science Ambassador for the academic year 2023-2024 (<https://www.womeninoceanscience.com/university-ambassadors>). The purpose of the program is to aid university students on their path to becoming emerging professionals and early-career researchers by providing them with access to a global community, a support system, and a safe space. She was also selected as a Coastal and Estuarine Federation Rising Toward an Inclusive, Diverse, and Enriched Society (TIDES) fellow (CERF). This program aims to inspire and motivate students from backgrounds underrepresented in coastal and estuarine disciplines to pursue careers in coastal and estuarine science and management.
- **Nayeli O'Shaughnessy, Kayla Fontaine, and Elayna Joseph**, UVI Music majors, worked with Kevré Hendricks, UVI Alumnus and Chair of Music, at the St. Croix Educational Complex High School in conducting a Summer Music Program. Eight (8) students from the St. Croix Educational Complex High School participated in this program. June 5-7, 2023.
- The UVI Student Association of Black Journalists (UVIABJ) had the notable distinctions:
 - **Michael Bell** and **Jackeima Flemming** attended the 23rd National Association of Black Journalists Conference (NABJ), From Revolution to Evolution in Birmingham, Alabama with financial support from the Office of Institutional Advancement and the Office of the Provost. August 2-6, 2023.
 - **Michael Bell** and **Kyra Edwards** were featured on the PBS radio show, "Analyze This," hosted by Neville James. May 3, 2023.

- **Michael Bell** and **Ariel Paul** each received \$1,500 scholarships for their journalistic efforts at the NABJ Region 3 Conference in Jackson, MS. August 15, 2023.
- UVIABJ's PR Coordinator, **Shugga Rosenbloom's** independent short film, "Trust your GPS?" was presented at the 2023 Student World Impact Film Festival. June 2023.
- The 24th Annual Fall Student Research Symposium, titled "A STEM Show and Tell," was recently hosted by the Emerging Caribbean Scientist (ECS) program in the College of Science & Mathematics. The event occurred on Sunday, September 17, 2023 at the UVI 13D Research and Strategy Innovation Center. The Symposium enables students to engage in research projects that receive funding from various sources, such as the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The students who collaborated with UVI scientists on the island, as well as scientists from various universities and research centers across the US, had the opportunity to showcase their research findings. The research topics covered a wide range of areas, including agriculture, cybersecurity, healthcare, education, and the Territorial marine and terrestrial environments. The student winners were:
 - First Place: **Mia Bruno**
 - Second Place: **Akilah Hodge**
 - Third Place: **Abigail Rose**
- This semester the University is hosting through the National Student Exchange (NSE) program five students on the Albert A. Sheen Campus and eighteen students on the Orville E. Kean Campus
Placement (Outgoing) - Three UVI students for the OEK campus are participating in the NSE Program for Fall 2023. They are studying at the following institutions. The following UVI students are participating in the program this semester at the below universities:
 - **Gidal Williams** University of Alaska at Anchorage
 - **Marya Hussein** Texas A&M University- Kingsville
 - **Joleen Buchanan** Brock University
- New officers were elected for the Student Government Association on both campuses. The new SGA presidents are **Tamia Grant** on St. Thomas and **Abdallah Abdallah** on St. Croix.

INSTITUTIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- UVI'S MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM ACHIEVES NATIONAL ACCREDITATION
- FALL 2023 ENROLLMENT INCREASES SHOW POSITIVE TRENDS IN NEW FRESHMAN AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS
- UVI EMPLOYEES TO RECEIVE THREE PERCENT RAISE
- CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOL CLASSROOM BUILDING
- SUCCESSFUL HURRICANE RESTORATION OF CAMPUS BUILDINGS
- CAMPUS HIRES FILL CRITICAL GAPS

PRESIDENT APPRECIATION AWARD

The President's Appreciation Award for this term was presented to Dr. Kimarie Engerman, Dean of UVI's College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and the faculty and leadership of the Master's in Social Work (MSW) Program, for achieving national accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education's (CSWE) Board on Accreditation through June 2031. This is a major achievement for this program and the University. The accreditation by CSWE's Board on Accreditation is a testament to the exceptional quality of education and training provided at UVI. It not only validates the University's commitment to excellence but also highlights the program's ability to meet rigorous national and best practice standards in preparing future social work professionals.

While the MSW Program does not directly lead to licensing, it seeks to equip graduates with the academic foundation required for licensure throughout the United States, in the Territory and abroad. Most states mandate a Bachelor of Social Work or Master of Social Work degree from a CSWE-accredited program for social work licensure. The MSW Program was initially funded so that the U.S. Virgin Islands would have more licensed social workers, from an accredited program, who could serve the people of this Territory. This national recognition affirms that UVI graduates are suitably prepared to pursue licensure and make a meaningful impact in their communities as competent social work professionals. This recognition also demonstrates the commitment of UVI to providing high-quality education and training that not only addresses the educational but pressing social needs in our community.

Board Committee Items

Development Committee.....Erica Johnson Creamer Status Report on Fundraising

It was reported that total contributions to date for fiscal year 2023 (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023) **\$4,336,439.12**. President Hall provided a summary on the overall contributions as of September 30, 2023 (FY2023). Most of the funding was contributed by Research & Technology Park (RTPark) and EDA companies. 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 5% decrease in the number of supporting donors between FY22 and FY23. In addition, President Hall provided the Committee with the strategy going forward with the UVI School of Medicine initiative.

Goal for Fiscal Year 2024

The Committee recommends, for consideration by the full Board, to set the fiscal year goal for donations **at \$4.5M** and **alumni participation goal at 20%**.

A motion was made by Trustee Callwood which was seconded by Trustee de Jongh to approve the Goal for Fiscal Year 2024. The vote on the motion was unanimous. The goal for 2024 was approved.

Finance and Budget.....Oran C. Roebuck

HBCU Capital Financing Loan Drawdown Request

The Finance and Budget Committee voted to recommend to the Board of Trustees to authorize the Administration to request a drawdown of \$3,097,224 against the proceeds of the \$29M 2023 Loan funded through the HBCU Capital Financing Program for the purpose of cover additional costs incurred for Quarters B and the MacLean Marine Science Center and furniture, fixtures, and equipment for the Medical Research and Training Center.

A motion was made by Trustee Roebuck which was seconded by Trustee de Jongh to approve the HBCU Loan Draw Down as presented. The vote on the motion was unanimous. The HBCU Loan drawdown was approved.

FY2024 Operating Budget

The Finance and Budget Committee voted to recommend to the Board of Trustees the approval of the FY2024 Operating Budget consisting of total operating revenues of \$51,166,352 and total expenditures and transfers of \$51,166,352.

A motion was made by Trustee Roebuck which was seconded by Trustee de Jongh to approve the FY2024 Operating Budget as presented. The vote on the motion was unanimous. The FY2024 Operating Budget was approved.

TIAA Investment Review Committee

The Finance and Budget Committee voted to recommend to the Board of Trustees the establishment of the Teacher Insurance and Annuity Association (TIAA) Investment Review Committee to choose and monitor plan investment menu options and in this capacity to serve as a designated fiduciary in accordance with the University's investment policy statement.

A motion was made by Trustee Roebuck which was seconded by Trustee de Jongh to approve the TIAA Investment as presented. The vote on the motion was unanimous. The TIAA Investment was approved.

Planning Committee.....Dr. Lois Hassell-Habtes

Key Performance Indicators

The Planning Committee received a report on the KPIs as linked to UVI's Strategic Plan: Greatness Through Innovation. The report focused on VI Incoming Freshmen, Enrollment, Retention and Persistence, and Development Indicators.

Executive Session

At 10:45am, a motion was made by Trustee Vigilant which was seconded by Trustee Callwood 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 an Update on Personnel Matters
3. Receive an Update on Legal Matters

Return to Regular Session

Upon return to the Regular Session of the meeting 11:23am, the Chair reported the following actions taken by the Board in Executive Session:

- Approved Executive Session Minutes
- Approved recommendations for honorary degrees recipients
- Approved list for commencement speaker
- Received Update re Personnel Matters
- Received update re 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 11:25am.