

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MARCH 9, 2024**

**UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
ALBERT A. SHEEN CAMPUS
MEDICAL SIMULATION CENTER
9:30A.M.**

**MINUTES
Regular Session**

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
Mrs. Erica Johnson Creamer
Dr. Donna Christensen
Mr. John P. de Jongh, Jr.
Ms. Jackeima Flemming, Student Trustee
Dr. Bert M. Petersen, Jr.
Dr. John A. Quelch (via Zoom)
Mr. Reginald Vigilant
Dr. Sheena Walker, Faculty Trustee

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Dionne Wells Hedrington, DOE
Dr. Lois Hassell-Habtes

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Camille McKayle, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Ms. Sharlene Harris, VP Information Services & Institutional Effectiveness
Mrs. Nereida Washington (Interim) VP Administration and Finance & CFO
Attorney Marie ThomasGriffith, UVI Legal Counsel

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Smock at 9:38am.

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

Approval of Minutes of October 21, 2023 Meeting

Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting January 20, 2024

Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting February 7, 2024

. 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

- Eight students were selected to participate in the highly selective Quantitative Methods Workshop at the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology from December 31, 2023 to January 7, 2024, in Boston, MA. The Quantitative Methods Workshop is offered annually in collaboration with the National Science Foundation (NSF)-Funded Center for Brains, Minds and Machines. Registration is by invitation only for diverse undergraduate students from across the country and faculty from a limited number of institutions. The workshop is a seven-day intensive workshop designed to introduce students to quantitative tools and programming languages used to analyze experimental data in biology and neuroscience. Students attended lectures on a range of relevant topics, such as modelling activated neurons, machine learning in neuroscience, and gene-sequencing technology. Throughout the workshop, students were exposed to various computational methods and were required to complete assignments through an online course module on the MITx website.

The funding for students was made possible through the UVI NIH/MARC RISE program led by *Dr. Alice Stanford*. Students were accompanied by *Professor Kayla Blincow*. The students were:

- **Lilian Alexander**
- **Annadelle Brown**
- **Brenique Dawson**
- **Denny Gonzalez**
- **Akilah Hodge**

- **Xander Maynard**
 - **Amaia Nicole Saret**
 - **Zorah Williams**
- The Emerging Caribbean Scientists Steering Committee organized and held the 24th Annual Student Research Symposium on September 17, 2023. There were 34 undergraduate research presentations. Graduate students in the Master's in Marine & Environmental Science program, UVI faculty, and staff served as presentation judges. Please find booklet: https://www.uvi.edu/research/emerging-caribbean-scientists-programs/Symposium_Booklet_2023.pdf.

The three best presentations were from:

- **Mia Bruno** (junior biology major, first place)
 - **Akilah Hodge** (senior biology & psychology; second place)
 - **Abigail Rose** (sophomore chemistry, third place)
- Miss UVI **Eunisha Lawrence** competed in the Miss NBCA (National Black Colleges Association) Hall of Fame Competition, which was held in Atlanta, GA. She participated in several preliminary rounds, vying for the championship against other HBCU queens and did an excellent job representing UVI.
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- Ten students in the Bachelor of Science Nursing program traveled to Bradford, MA, from October 22, 2023, to November 1, 2023, to complete clinical rotations at the Whittier Rehabilitation Hospital. Mr. Brian Costa and Mrs. Patricia Burks, Assistant Professors, escorted the students. Greenleaf VI provided funding for this project through the Office of Institutional Advancement. The Office of the Provost and the School of Nursing faculty facilitated this endeavor's success.
 - On October 21, 2023, the UVI Men's and Women's cross-country teams wrapped up their seasons by participating in their first-ever Gulf Coast Athletic Conference championship competition. The men's team finished 7th overall, led by **Nasir Watson**, who finished the 8K race in 35: 17.5. **Ariana Renault**, competing for the ladies, finished the 6K race in 11th place with a time of 29:15.45, narrowly missing the podium.

CONFERENCES WHERE STUDENTS PRESENTED

- Twenty-two undergraduate and graduate students, alumni, staff and faculty, traveled to Portland, OR to attend the 27th Biennial Conference of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF), Nov. 12-16. Their participation was funded by four National Science Foundation (NSF) grants awarded to UVI to support individuals from the Territory in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), as well as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Nineteen of these individuals presented at the conference. UVI undergraduate student, **Miranda Goad**, won third place among all undergraduate oral presentations for her talk entitled, "Analysis of animal activity within mangrove wetlands on St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands."

- *Awika, Henry O., Yvonilyn Lawrence, Jessica Ewer, Thomas Zimmerman, Johnson Southwell and Donna Gonzalez* (2023). Spectrometric estimation of total flavonoids, anthocyanin, and fiber in the leaf and root tissues of radish (*Raphanus sativus* L.) under different irrigation regimens. ASA/CSSA/SSSA. November 1, 2023. St. Louis, MO.
- *Awika, Henry O., Yvonilyn Lawrence and Donna Gonzalez* (2023). Machine-learning of Leaf derived vegetation indices that can predict the content of water, flavonoids, and carotenoids in carrot roots. ASA/CSSA/SSSA. November 1, 2023. St. Louis, MO.

OTHER STUDENT ACTIVITIES

(Students' names are bolded. Alumni names are bolded, italicized. Faculty names are italicized.)

- *Ayopha Stalliard* (lead), *Trevesia Queeley Richardson*, *Dr. Marissa Johnson Rogers*, and **Sheldon Henry** (student researcher) participated in Georgia Tech SOUTH BD HUB SMART-DART: Supporting minority & regional training in Data & A.I. for Researchers of Tomorrow program in Atlanta, GA, September 13-16, 2023.
- ECC Student Researcher, **Sheldon Henry**, submitted an abstract and poster on Changes in Migration Patterns between the USVI and the U.S. Mainland from 2012 to 2020, co-authored by *Dr. Lawanda Cummings and Resa Berkley*.
- Local media company Vivid Streaming recognized and interviewed top-performing UVI basketball student-athletes every Wednesday during their morning shows near Crown Mountain studio. The following student-athletes have appeared on the show since the start of the season in November: **Naythan Shaw-Clark, JerMikal "Jalen" Monroe, Kashay Bass, Maurice Smith, and Ashukamayah Phillips**.
- Junior women's basketball player **Jordan Carter** was named GCAC Newcomer of the Week on December 12, 2023, after performing in conference games at Southern University at New Orleans and Dillard University. She appeared on the conference's weekly podcast, "The 5th Quarter," on December 17, 2023, to discuss her performance and receiving the award.
- **Lamani Santiago**, a senior student, created all the illustrations for *Amy Jo Dreves* and **Laura Martin** peer-reviewed publication titled, "How to Store Pesticide Products in Tropical Environments" University of the Virgin Islands, School of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service; Extension Bulletin UVI-SOA-CES-IPM # 000b4.
- **Lamani Santiago**, a senior student, created all the illustrations for *Amy Jo Dreves* and **Laura Martin** peer-reviewed publication titled "Reasons Why a Pesticide Product is Not Working, University of the Virgin Islands, School of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service; Extension Bulletin UVI-SOA-CES-IPM # 000b5.
- **Lawrenz, W., Bryan, S., Stevens, E., Wilson, Z., Mathurin, D., Greene, A., Carlos, S., and Ehinmowo, O.** 2023. "Building stronger communities: The social impact of Agricultural Cooperatives." 52nd Annual Agriculture and Food Fair of the USVI. 2024 (AGRIFEST).

SIGNIFICANT INSTITUTIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- School Of Nursing Groundbreaking Ceremony Fulfills Promise Of Cutting-Edge Facilities For Nursing Students And Faculty
- Thurgood Marshall College Fund President Visits And Tour Campuses And Engages With Student Leaders
- UVI Nursing Students Make Local Impact And Continue To Excel On National Standardized Exam
- UVI Alumni Giving Rate Exceeds National Average
- UVI Passport To The World Program Explores Colombia And Panama
- Skeleton Of Rare Whale Studied By UVI Marine Scientists To Be Prepared For Display
- Renovations Of Marine Science Center Building On St. Thomas Completed
- Creation Of Essential Needs Pantry For Students
- Agriculture Business Centers Launched At UVI To Support Farmers
- Eye On Uvi Magazine Spring 2024 Edition Highlights Key Initiatives And Stories
- Firstbank Donates Medical Equipment To VIUCEED To Assist Disabled Community
- UVI 13d Innovation Center To Host Second Annual Technology Innovation Lecture Series
- UVI Set To Celebrate Its 62nd Charter With Grand Celebration
- UVI To Host Its Prestigious Student Convocation Series With U.S. Senator Reverend Dr. Raphael Warnock

PRESIDENT’S APPRECIATION AWARD

The President’s Appreciation Award for this term is presented to Dr. Beverley A. Lansiquot, Dean of UVI’s School of Nursing, and the faculty of the School of Nursing. UVI’s nursing program is nationally accredited, and our nursing students consistently rank above average on the rigorous national standardized licensure exams. During this past period alone, 100% of our Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) graduates on the Albert A. Sheen Campus on St. Croix passed the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX) on the first sitting. Dr. Lansiquot's leadership and the dedication of the faculty have greatly contributed to the success of the nursing program at UVI. The President's Appreciation Award recognizes their outstanding commitment to excellence in nursing education. With the construction of the new School of Nursing building on the St. Croix campus, UVI's nursing program will have state-of-the-art facilities to further enhance the learning experience for students and continue to produce top-tier nurses that can not only compete in this community but regionally and on a national scale.

This award also recognizes the long-standing service of Dr. Lansiquot, who began her career as a nursing student at the College of the Virgin Islands over 50 years ago. She will be retiring at the end of July 2024. Her advocacy for the nursing program was instrumental in ensuring that the institution received funding for a Bachelor of Science Nursing program on the Albert A. Sheen Campus. Dr. Lansiquot's dedication to the nursing program has left a lasting impact on the institution, and her legacy will continue to inspire future generations of nurses.

Board Committee Items

Academic, Research, Student Affairs.....Dr. John A. Quelch

A. Associate of Arts degree program in General Studies

Dr. Patricia Harkins-Pierre presented the Associate of Arts degree program in General Studies to the ARSA Committee. The program supports needed workforce development in the Territory and provides students with multiple fields of study to choose from while working towards a bachelor’s degree. It also provides an opportunity for students that are dually enrolled to earn a degree along with

their high school diploma.

The ARSA Committee voted unanimously to approve the Associate of Arts degree program in General Studies. The committee’s recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for review and action at its meeting on March 9, 2024. A motion was made by Trustee Callwood which was seconded by Vice Chair Roebuck. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. Professional Science Master’s degree program in Marine and Environmental Science

Dr. Donna Nemeth presented the Professional Science Master’s degree program in Marine and Environmental Science to the ARSA Committee. The program supports needed workforce development in the Territory and the broader need for STEM professionals both regionally and nationally. It offers educators, natural resource managers, ecotourism specialists, and others with a bachelor’s degree (minimum) an opportunity to enhance their professional skills, acquire new skills, and develop a working understanding and experience in marine and environmental science research.

The ARSA Committee voted unanimously to approve the Professional Science Master’s degree program in Marine and Environmental Science. The committee’s recommendation is being forwarded to the full Board for review and action at its meeting on March 9, 2024.

A motion was made by Trustee Roebuck which was seconded by Trustee Callwood to approve the Professional Science Master’s degree program in Marine and Environmental Science as presented. The vote on the motion was unanimous. The program was approved.

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

FY2025 Government of the Virgin Islands Appropriations Request

The Finance and Budget Committee voted to recommend for approval by the Board of Trustees of the University of the Virgin Islands the University’s FY2024-2025 appropriations request of \$38,951,293 to cover salaries, benefits, equipment, supplies, and incidental expenses of the University for its operations and programs.

A motion was made by Trustee Callwood which was seconded by Trustee Christensen to approve the FY2024 Operating Budget as presented. The vote on the motion was unanimous. The FY2024 Operating Budget 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 report from the Administration
3. Receive an Update on Personnel Matters
4. 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
- 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.