

Minutes of Meeting August 28, 2007

University Council convened at 9:00AM in the University Center Cypress Room

I. Welcome and Update (President Zaccari)

- A. Welcome of Dr. Kristina Cragg, Assistant to the President for Strategic Research and Analysis
 - VSU is continuing the search for a replacement for Ruth Salter's former position.
- B. The importance of Enrollment
 - Current enrollment as of August 28th stands at approximately 11,231 with an approximate freshman class of 3,309 students.
- C. Trip to USG in Atlanta
 - President Zaccari addressed Representative Bob Smith's questions regarding MMR, Capital Improvements, and the strategic plan. President Zaccari later met with Tom Daniel to review responses that were submitted to Representative Bob Smith.
 - On September 11th there will be a meeting with 14 presidents of doctoral universities.
 - President Zaccari asked USG for clear definitions, goals, and directions for each of the three types of institutions with in USG: 2-year, comprehensive, and research.
 - President Zaccari mentioned that VSU would be taking creative directions and making partnerships with 2 year schools and technical schools to increase the service the region. Since Georgia is the fourth fastest growing state in the nation, an increase in students in the region is expected.
- D. Vice President of University Advancement
 - VSU continues the search for the Vice President of University Advancement. Currently, President Zaccari is serving as the interim Vice President. The position is expected to be filled by January 2008.
- E. USG Board Meeting
 - On October 9th the University System of Georgia will hold its Board Meeting at the University of West Georgia. President Zaccari will assist with addressing the current state of advising. Student Advisement is one of the Chancellor's top concerns.
 - President Zaccari will work with all relevant constituents at VSU to provide workshops to disseminate the most current information on academic advising, work with SGA and Dr. Keppler to educate students of the advising model, and communicate the importance of student advising with faculty members.
 - In three to five years there will be a well defined model for advising. Consideration is taking place to use a software called DegreeWorks.
- F. Fence on the Front Lawn
 - President Zaccari is working with the Environmental Issues Committee (EIC)
 - Ray Sable is ready to send out the bid
 - There was open discussion for feedback regarding the pedestrian crossings: Council members mentioned that while jay walking has decreased, there is still an issue with pedestrian crossings at one-mile branch and the church located across from the West Hall lawn.
- G. Construction Updates
 - Hopper Hall demolition should be complete by Friday, August 31st.
 - Other demolition projects include the house located next door to University Advancement, and the warehouse which may become a restaurant.
 - While construction takes place for the two new parking decks students will park on the 12 acres across the street from South Georgia Medical Center.
 - If the SPLOST referendum is passed, revenue from SPLOST will provide a joint parking facility with VSU and South Georgia Medical Center.
- H. VSU Connection
 - The VSU Connection will be distributed every two weeks instead of monthly.
 - Thressea Boyd will hand Charles Harmon's former responsibilities. The communication office will be located in West Hall to the right of the rotunda.
- J. President's Lecture Series
 - President Zaccari would like to have the U.S. Secretary of Education or a representative from her office come and address the campus during the lecture series in the Spring.
 - Langdale College of Business Administration is also working on a speaker for the series.

II. Environmental Policy Preamble (President Zaccari)

President Zaccari mentioned that he had a good meeting with Richard Carter and made revisions to some of the wording in the document to focus on partnerships and trust. The document will be updated with the discussed revisions.

III. Diversity Audit (Ms. Maggie Viverette)

A. Overview of the upcoming Diversity Audit

- The diversity audit will be conducted by the National Multicultural Institute.
- Three components, one-on-one telephone interviews, focus groups, and a campus-wide online survey, will be used to collect data.
- Data collected by the audit will report baseline information and reveal how VSU currently handles diversity.

B. How you can participate

- Complete the online survey yourself; encourage participation with the campus-wide online survey; allow your students or members of your organizations the time to participate in focus groups; reassure the VSU community of the confidentiality of the survey; have a representative from the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs and Multicultural Affairs come and extensively discuss the diversity audit.

IV. Strategic Planning (Dr. Coons Yates)

A. FY08 Planning

- The FY08 Planning Timeline was distributed to present council members and is available to everyone online at www.valdosta.edu/planning/planningprocess
- Everyone is asked to provide quarterly status updates on their goals, strategies, and action plans in the database.
- There are new planning website features on the Strategic Planning website. The new features include process improvement audit resources, trainings scheduled for this year, featured initiatives, and a listing of approved one-time initiatives from FY07

V. University Council Discussion Opportunities (Dr. Coons Yates)

A. Open Discussion Format

- In the future incorporate a forum for open discussion of items that come from individuals members but have an overall community concern. Members should send possible agenda items and request for discussion to Dr. Christy Coons Yates (cbcyates@valdosta.edu) or Gala Jackson (gjjackso@valdosta.edu)
- Council members should use University Council as a opportunity to be heard, share relevant information, and address concerns that affect the campus community.

B. Open Discussion

- A question regarding where VSU and City of Valdosta are regarding the coordination of public transportation was raised. President Zaccari mentioned that Ray Sable has been working to stay current on this information and request that Ray Sable give an update to the Council as more information becomes available. President Zaccari further states that it is important to capture relevant information such as parking and transportation in the strategic planning database as appropriate, to be considered for funding.

C. Suggestions for future Open Discussions

- During council meetings time should be designated to hear from other campus committees to become familiar with each committee's members and the mission of the committee.
- University Council should hear from individuals who serve on a committee or initiative with the local community, state, and University System of Georgia.
- University Council should recognize student organizations at each meeting.
- A presentation on GoalQuest

C. How do address University Council initiatives

- Submit ideas for initiatives to be added to the agenda a week prior to the next council meeting.
- Questions and concerns will be addressed in open dialogue at the scheduled meeting. Council members should utilize the document Reducing Flashpoints located in front of the University Council notebook.

Questions, Comments, Concerns

Please send an e-mail to Gala Jackson (gjjackso@valdosta.edu) if there has been a change of leadership or if you will be unable to attend University Council meeting. Please include who will serve as your designee.

Next Meeting:

September 25 at 9AM in the UC Cypress Room

Members Present:

President Zaccari
Christy Coons Yates
Ralph Allen
Jim Black
Denise Bogart
Carl Cates
Richard Hammond
Verna Harvey
Yolanda Hood
Christine James
Kurt Keppler
Michael Noll
Traycee Martin
Joe Newton
Maggie Viverette
Danielle Everson
Shirley Hardin
Louis Levy
Jonathan Stroble
Ray Sable
Bobby Flowers

Advisory Members Present:

Russ Mast
Thressea Boyd
Kristina Cragg
Walter Peacock

Members Absent:

Laverne Gaskins (Advisory)
Herb Reinhard (Advisory)
Brad Bergstrom (representing Richard Carter)

Guests:

Yvonne LeRoy-Landers
Jeanne Severns
Rob Kellner
Jennifer Tanner
Jeff Grant
Wendee Corbitt (Office of Strategic Planning & Organizational Development Graduate Assistant)