

## **University Council — Minutes**

November 29, 2005, 3:00 pm — UC Cypress Room

### **Opening of University Council (President Zaccari)**

- Historic event on the campus at Valdosta State University.
- Unanimous support from Student Government Association (SGA) and Council of Staff Affairs (COSA), strong endorsement 44/9 by Faculty Senate.
- Not only did we endorse on campus, several steps were taken to make sure BOR and the University System staff understands and gives permission to move forward.
- Statute Changes with BOR Legal Affairs Approval:
  - Strike the word “administrative” and insert the word “University”. Simple way to deal with the statutes for one year. Strategic and Master Planning Committee’s be dissolved of their responsibilities. And their responsibilities become an integral part of the University Council.
  - Reconstitute membership
  - Restructure meeting format.
  - Binder lists new membership and we have transmitted the new names to the Legal Affairs Office.
- Pilot test changes for one year and assess the outcome and rather than request formal change in statutes at this time.
  - After the pilot test request to rearrange component parts and revise operational detail then make a formal proposal to the USGA and BOR.

### **President’s Charge**

- Do your work extremely well, with professionalism, and a high sense of ethics.
- As a member of this University Council you are above self, this is not about you this is about the University, what is best for the state of Georgia, what is best for Valdosta State University, and what is best for the employees as a group at VSU.
  - At times you will have to step out of your role as a representative of X and become a part of the greater whole of the team at Valdosta State University.
  - We must always put our State and our University System of Georgia forefront for all of our decisions.
- Responsibility as council members is to be advisors to President.
- You have taken on responsibility for strategic and master planning over-site.
  - Streamline VSU’s ability to move projects through sequential steps.
  - Open lines of communication.
  - Create greater synergy among all the constituents’ campus groups.
- Master Planning is going to be one of your major responsibilities. This is going to be a place where it comes together. You are going to be involved with budgets, building, lands, land usage, land acquisition and demolition.
- Challenge yourselves to be creative thinkers; this is your opportunity to have a voice in where VSU is going.
- To make sure that all of the students that follow will have the best possible experience.
- And so I hereby open the first meeting of VSU’s University Council.

### **Future Projects to Discuss (Dr. Zaccari)**

We have a number of projects that we will be discussing, particularly out of Master Plan.

- Housing on North Campus (what was approved in 2004 will have to be revised.)
- Health Science and Business Center Project (North Campus)
  - You will be involved from this point forward, working with the site selection, and hopefully endorsing the next step so everyone on campus will play an integral part in how we are going to go about proceeding with any building.
  - If someone asks “how did we get those plans? How did we come up with that decision?” You will be an integral part and able to answer those questions.
- Renovation of Reade, Hopper, Georgia and Converse

- Parking
  - Do not anticipate any additional surface parking lots.
  - You are going to be involved in the discussion of where we build a parking deck, in conjunction with what other projects, and how are we going to pay for it.
  - That is a lot of work, deliberation, and candid discussion. Can we afford to do it? I always ask the question, can we not afford to do it?
- The new Student Union
- We are looking at the historic districts around campus and do a comprehensive parking study to give us some answers that this council will have to take on.

### Questions:

- Laverne Gaskins: To what extent are we (non voting members) expected to engage in dialogue?

This is your opportunity to endorse and give your reactions and make some of the tough decisions that are ahead. And I expect as legal council for you to give your opinion on why something might or might not work. Charles is here because this is an information conduit. And he is going to be responsible for issues that come through University Council that may be in a newspaper article or president's message. We are going to have opportunities for people that want to speak to the council, get on the agenda, make presentations, or give a particular point of view. (Dr. Zaccari)

### Orientation to University Council (Dr. Coons Yates)

- Format for future University Council meetings:
  - President Zaccari opens the meetings, and brings items of attention to the group.
  - I will facilitate general management of discussion topics of the day.
- Overall Goal:
  - Work together to create a unified idea and identifiable goal for the whole campus.
  - Engage in discussion as a group and chart our course together.
  - Having the materials prepared for you in order for you to review and ready for discussion and to make intelligent decisions.
- Collaborative Focus:
  - You were selected because you have a diversity of opinion and experience from different academic units or departments.
  - Bring forth your expertise, however to look at the big picture and where are we going.
  - Lets move forward and see if we can define collectively where we are going as a University.
- Strategic Plan Refinement:
  - Strategic plan is very large and detailed.
  - Will compare what is in the database (which is really what we are doing and what we are committing ourselves to) and how does that compare to our strategic plan document
  - Where are areas we want to move forward and where are some areas we need set aside for a while.
- Review of campus-wide policy's:
  - Collaboratively determine how we can support something and move it forward.
  - Resource Binder will help inform us.
- Make a collective recommendation to the President.
  - I will facilitate discussions to make sure your opinions are summarized and forwarded to the President.
  - The President and I will work in tandem to create University Council's agenda.
  - Open to issues from the campus community (can request to appear on agenda.)
- Be sure to share what is happening here.
  - Take information back to the people you work with.
  - The minutes will be available on the planning website.
  - We are not a closed meeting.
- If we have an issue that we cannot move, we may put it in the parking lot/issue bin until we have more information.
- We are currently scheduled to meet twice a month.
  - Will not break into subcommittees.
  - Rather, additional meetings will be scheduled if necessary.

### Introduction of the members and advisory participants.

### **Comments from Participants and Advisory Members**

- Centennial presentation to come (Scott Sikes)
- Food management contract nearing decision (Rob Kellner)
- Parent's Council/Parent's Weekend information to come (Kurt Keppler)
- Enrollment Management's next step will be to assign responsibility for implementation (Walter Peacock)

### **Closing Remarks:**

- This is a very important step for us. I look forward to a very productive year. (Dr Zaccari)
- Next meeting is December 13<sup>th</sup>, 3-5 p.m. in the Executive Meeting Room.

Meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

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### **Attended:**

Dr. Ronald Zaccari  
Christy Coons Yates  
Ralph Allen  
Bob Bell  
Jim Black  
Denise Bogart  
Honey Coppage  
Laverne Gaskins  
Diana Hansard  
Charles Harmon  
Wilson Huang  
Kurt Keppler  
Marsha Krotseng  
Traycee Martin  
Russ Mast  
Mike Meacham  
Joe Newton  
Walter Peacock  
Scott Sikes  
Maggie Viverette  
Tim Yorkey

### **Not Attending:**

Brad Bergstrom  
Louis Levy  
Herb Reinhard

### **Guests:**

Rob Kellner (Auxiliary Services)  
Sementa Matthews (University Relations)

**Recorder:** Kate Gurley