

**JOINT VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF VISITORS
AND
VCU HEALTH SYSTEM AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ENGINEERING RESEARCH BUILDING
March 22, 2022**

MINUTES

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. H. Benson Dendy III, *Rector*
Ms. Carolina Espinal, *Vice Rector*
Mr. Peter F. Farrell
Mr. Todd P. Haymore
Dr. Gopinath R. Jadhav (joint membership)
Ambassador Carmen Lomellin
Mr. Edward McCoy
Mr. Keith T. Parker, Rector (joint membership)
Dr. Tonya Parris-Wilkins
Ms. Coleen Santa Ana
Ms. Alexis N. Swann

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Pamela K. El (joint membership)
Mr. Andrew Florance
Rev. Tyrone E. Nelson
Mr. Stuart C. Siegel (joint membership)
Dr. Shantaram Talegaonkar (joint membership)

**VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM AUTHORITY
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

The Honorable Lamont Bagby
Dr. Hem Bhardwaj
Mr. Clyde Clark
Dr. Lisa Ellis
Ms. May Fox
Mr. Donald Gehring
Ms. Lisa Hicks-Thomas
Dr. Arthur Kellermann
Ms. Fay Manolios
Dr. Bruce Mathern
Mr. Timothy McDermott
The Honorable Ryan McDougale
Dr. Michael Rao, Chair

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM AUTHORITY
BOARD MEMBERS BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Joel Bieber
Dr. Alice Coombs
Dr. Michelle Whitehurst-Cook

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Jacob Belue, Esq., *Virginia Commonwealth University Interim General Counsel*
Ms. Chelsea Gray, *Assistant Secretary & Board Liaison to the VCU Board of Visitors and Executive Assistant to the President*
Ms. Anne Scher, Esq., *Interim General Counsel, VCU Health System Authority*
Ms. Mary Tacconi, *Board Administrator & Assistant Secretary to the VCU Health System Authority Board of Directors*
Virginia Commonwealth University and Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority Staff and Guests

CALL TO ORDER

President Rao and Rector Dendy called the meeting to order at 5:51 p.m. The public was able to view the open session of the meeting via livestream at <https://mssvideo.vcu.edu/BOV>.

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Barbara Boyan, Dean of the College of Engineering, welcomed all those in attendance to the Engineering Research building. She highlighted all of the innovations coming from the building and the student and faculty successes. A copy of Dr. Boyan's presentation is attached hereto as *Attachment A* and is made a part hereof.

Rector Dendy then reported that the annual joint meeting is required by law, but the two boards gladly come together voluntarily given the joint commitment to serve the public good under the umbrella of One VCU. The interests of the boards overlap in governance and mission. Nearly one-third of the Board of Visitors' members (5) sit on the VCU Health System Authority Board. VCU and VCU Health share the health sciences schools, research centers and institute. Thousands of students are taught and trained in our health system facilities by hundreds of faculty and staff who are assigned to both the university and the health system. He concluded by saying that this meeting is to celebrate the One VCU brand – how the university and health system come together to provide a world-class education for our students, conduct life-saving research and provide the best possible care for our patients. He then turned to President Rao.

President Rao began his remarks by acknowledging the complexity of the organization and the history. Through VCU's journey to transformative innovation, VCU is modeling the true public research university of the future. He continued by addressing that One VCU recognizes that while the academic campus and the health system are large and complex institutions that were set up as distinct legal entities, it is one brand, one culture, and a commitment to the public. The entities' values are aligned to serve as a diverse institution in a diverse city and state, including all people who benefit from the VCU mission. The entities are aligned to serve all human beings,

through transformative innovations that put the needs of students and patients first. VCU is changing and innovating centuries-old systems in education and health care authenticating its commitment to meeting students and patients where they are. He concluded by summarizing that the focus of the meeting is showcasing three examples of how the One VCU approach is being brought to the work with the new liver disease institute, the Massey Cancer Center, and through telling VCU's story.

ONE VCU: LIVER INSTITUTE

President Rao began by saying that sixty-five years ago VCU performed the first organ transplant in Virginia and created the nation's first clinical transplant program. In 2021 across the United States, three people on the liver transplant waiting list died every day and one in ten Americans have some type of liver disease. The liver institute is one of VCU's transformative innovations, bringing better treatment for patients and reducing health inequities.

He then invited Dr. Todd Stravitz and Dr. Arun Sanyal to engage in a conversation around the liver institute. They discussed that the liver makes things for the body's use that are essential for life and also removes toxins from the body. They used the example that it is the "factory to the machine". The focus of the institute is to provide the best care to patients, provide innovative care, and lower the cost. The institute will focus on innovative solutions which ultimately will help with other health disparities.

ONE VCU: MASSEY CANCER CENTER

Dr. Robert Winn, Director of the VCU Massey Cancer Center, began his report by sharing that his team has done a careful analysis of the grant portfolio from 2016 compared to today. This comparison shows that VCU Massey Cancer has increased NCI funding by 27% and its overall peer reviewed funding by 19%.

As a result of the numerous investments VCU has made into bolstering its clinical trials infrastructure VCU is finally getting traction and its interventional treatment accruals are the highest in a decade. Equally important, VCU continues to be a leading accruer nationally for underrepresented minorities with 40% of research participants representing URM populations for all interventional studies in 2021.

Dr. Winn concluded his report by highlighting some of the recent Massey Cancer Center recruits. Their funding will increase NCI funding to just over \$10 million.

A copy of Dr. Winn's presentation is attached hereto as ***Attachment B*** and is made a part hereof.

ONE VCU: BRAND RESEARCH & FUTURE

Mr. Grant Heston, Vice President of University Relations, began his report with sharing that the brand launch will be this upcoming summer. University Relations is collaborating with the Brandcenter to create an expressive One VCU brand. VCU rates highest in familiarity among the Richmond community with nearly 50% "moderately" or "very familiar" and VCU Health is #2 for unaided Top of Mind Awareness. It is clear that the more people know of VCU the more they

like VCU. The focus will be around the Commonwealth's perception of VCU where it rates lower. University Relations will be working on creating the story.

A copy of Mr. Heston's presentation is attached hereto as *Attachment C* and is made a part hereof.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Rao and Rector Dendy adjourned the meeting at 7:06 p.m.