

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SYSTEM AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 25, 2021
ELECTRONIC MEETING**

Committee Members Present

Dr. Michael Rao, Chair
Mr. Steven DeLuca
The Honorable Lisa Hicks-Thomas
Dr. Gopinath Jadhav
Dr. Arthur Kellermann
Mr. Keith Parker
The Honorable Marilyn Tavenner
Dr. Michelle Whitehurst-Cook

Board Member Guests

Dr. Lisa Ellis
Ms. May Fox
Mr. Donald Gehring
Dr. Bruce Mathern
Mr. Timothy McDermott
Dr. Shantaram Talegaonkar
Dr. Wilhelm Zuelzer

Staff Present

Dr. Peter Buckley
Mr. Scott Burnette
Dr. Ron Clark
Mr. Matt Conrad
Ms. Sheryl Garland
Ms. Karah Gunther
Ms. Melinda Hancock
Ms. Karen Helderman
Ms. Paula Henderson
Mr. Grant Heston
Ms. Pamela Lepley
Mr. Marcos Irigaray

Dr. Gwynne Jenkins
Ms. Pamela Lepley
Ms. Elizabeth Martin
Mr. Paul Neimeyer, Esq.
Mr. Elias Neujahr
Ms. Mary Tacconi
Dr. Thomas Yackel

Others Present

Mr. Zeb Elliott

I. Call to order

In accordance with Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Section 2.2-3708.2 “Meetings held through electronic means”, Subsection G., this meeting of the Executive Committee of the VCU Health System (“VCUHS”) Board of Directors was held via Zoom and livestreamed. Dr. Rao called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Dr. Rao then began the Report of the President. He first spoke about the previous day's visit from First Lady Dr. Jill Biden. He remarked that VCU has had the honor of being visited by the both President Obama and Former First Lady Michelle Obama as well as then Vice-President Biden. Dr. Rao noted that this was Dr. Biden's first official visit as First Lady outside of Washington D.C. He stated she came to see firsthand VCU's extraordinary work to combat health disparities in treatment, its community engagement, and outstanding research. He continued, as the Virginia's largest safety net hospital, VCU's commitment to excellence in research, clinical care, and access is paramount. Dr. Rao then spoke about visiting the MRICU and the seeing the tireless care from the nurses. He pointed out that COVID fatigue is being experienced throughout the hospital and expressed gratitude for all of the work being done. Dr. Rao also noted that despite the pandemic progress has been made with the patient experience specifically that Anthem recently informed VCU Health System had performed in the top decile for in its peer group and ranking second in peer group of 36 for fiscal year 2020. He stated that the patient experience and student experience are top priorities. He continued that he is working with Dr. Kellermann to align education, clinical care and research to continue to address health disparities so that we are a national model for the best possible patient experience. Next, Dr. Rao spoke about VCU's spring semester. He stated that the semester will be hybrid in-person and online learning. He remarked the decision to return was made in consultation with public health experts and noted the Governor eased some COVID restrictions the previous day. Dr. Rao stated the wellbeing and mental health of the students was also an important factor in the decision. Next, he spoke about the 2021 General Assembly Session. Dr. Rao praised the

Government Relations team. He highlighted the funding from both the House and Senate budgets for Massey Cancer Center. He also expressed excitement for funding for an adult sickle cell program because of its connection to VCUHS's mission. Dr. Rao also spoke about the Senate's addition of language that would require Virginia Treatment Center for Children to find strategies to help alleviate the capacity issues at Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents, the only state-owned children's mental health hospital. Lastly, he reviewed the items that remain unfunded, including the Trauma Fund and expanding eligibility for state indigent care program. Dr. Rao concluded his remarks by introducing Grant Heston, VP for University Relations, who serves as VCU's chief communications officer.

Next, Dr. Kellermann began his CEO report. He began with a report on vaccination efforts, stating that, to date, over 11,000 or 70% of the employees have been vaccinated. He continued that 90% is needed to have the greatest protection. Dr. Kellermann stated that the health professions student in their final years have also received vaccines. He continued that VCUHS is partnering with health departments and other organization in planning for vaccinations when the vaccine drought is over. He is confident VCUHS will be ready to vaccinate the population in the 1b category when that tier opens. Next, he praised the Vaccine Corp that consists of 1100 volunteers who can help vaccinate as well.

Then Dr. Kellermann spoke about the study showing the dramatic reduction in infections two and four weeks after vaccination that will be published in the New England Journal. He touched on the possibility of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine approval and stated, "the best vaccine is the one you can get". Dr. Kellermann praised the group that organized all of the internal vaccine clinics,

especially Nikki Meador. Next, Dr. Kellermann welcomed Tappahannock Hospital to VCUHS and introduced the CEO, Liz Martin, to the team. Finally, he spoke about the decision to remove the dental clinics from the plan for the new Ambulatory Outpatient Pavilion, explaining that financing, COVID, and the footprint were factors in the decision. He concluded that other options are being explored for moving the Dental school forward and new dental clinic space.

Dr. Rao then asked for public comment, of which there was none.

Motion Into Closed Session

On a motion made and seconded, and as authorized by Section 2.2-3711(A) (1), (8) and (23) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (the “Act”), including matters within Sections 8.01-581.16 and 17 of the *Code of Virginia*, the committee convened into closed session into closed session by roll call vote to discuss: (i) safety and quality matters, including a Health System Safety & High Reliability Report and Medical Staff Membership and Privileges; (ii) operational strategies where the disclosure of such strategies would adversely impact the competitive position of the Authority, including: Strategic Analysis of FY 2021 Financials for the Six Months Ending December 31, 2020 and Quarterly Forecast, a Lease and New Healthcare Services, Amended VCU Medical Center Medical Staff Bylaws, and Amended Community Memorial Hospital Bylaws; and (iv) personnel matters including an ATIP Update, as well as the Report of the President and Chair and the Report of the Chief Executive Officer.

II. Roll Call Vote:

	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>
Dr. Michael Rao, Chair	X	
Mr. Steven DeLuca	X	
The Honorable Lisa Hicks-Thomas	Absent	
Dr. Gopinath Jadhav	X	
Dr. Arthur Kellermann	X	
The Honorable Ryan McDougle	Absent	

Mr. Keith Parker	X
The Honorable Marilyn Tavenner	X
Dr. Michelle Whitehurst-Cook	X

Vote:

Ayes	7
Nays	0

ABSENT DURING MEETING: 1
 ABSENT DURING VOTING: 1

III. Motion into Open

Following closed session, on a motion made and seconded, the committee convened into open session by roll call vote:

<u>IV. Roll Call Vote:</u>	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>
Dr. Michael Rao, Chair	X	
Mr. Steven DeLuca	X	
The Honorable Lisa Hicks-Thomas	X	
Dr. Gopinath Jadhav	X	
Dr. Arthur Kellermann	Absent	
The Honorable Ryan McDougle	Absent	
Mr. Keith Parker	X	
The Honorable Marilyn Tavenner	X	
Dr. Michelle Whitehurst-Cook	X	

Vote:

Ayes	7
Nays	0

ABSENT DURING MEETING: 1
 ABSENT DURING VOTING: 1

V. Resolution of Certification

Following closed session, on a motion made and seconded, the following resolution was approved by roll call vote:

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority hereby certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, (i) only public business matters that are lawfully exempt from the open meeting requirements under Virginia law were discussed in the closed session meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered.

<u>VI. Roll Call Vote:</u>	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>
Dr. Michael Rao, Chair	X	
Mr. Steven DeLuca	X	
The Honorable Lisa Hicks-Thomas	X	
Dr. Gopinath Jadhav	X	
Dr. Arthur Kellermann	X	
The Honorable Ryan McDougle	Absent	
Mr. Keith Parker	X	
The Honorable Marilyn Tavenner	X	
Dr. Michelle Whitehurst-Cook	X	

Vote:

Ayes 8
Nays 0

ABSENT DURING MEETING: 1
ABSENT DURING VOTING: 0

VII. Motion to Accept

On a motion made and seconded, the committee accepted the Report of the President and Chair, Report of the Chief Executive Officer, and approved the following, as presented, a lease; New Healthcare Services; an ATIP Update; Amended VCU Medical Center Medical Staff Bylaws; Medical Staff Membership and Privileges; and Amended Community Memorial Hospital Bylaws. Dr. Whitehurst-Cook recused herself from voting on the ATIP Update,

only^[MT1][PN2].

<u>VIII. Roll Call Vote:</u>	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>
Dr. Michael Rao, Chair	X	
Mr. Steven DeLuca	X	
The Honorable Lisa Hicks-Thomas	X	
Dr. Gopinath Jadhav	X	
Dr. Arthur Kellermann	X	
The Honorable Ryan McDougle	Absent	
Mr. Keith Parker	X	
The Honorable Marilyn Tavenner	X	
Dr. Michelle Whitehurst-Cook	Recused	

Vote:

Ayes	8
Nays	0
Recusal	1

ABSENT DURING MEETING: 1
ABSENT DURING VOTING: 0

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.