

Joint Statement in Response to the VCU Board of Visitors March 2025 Resolution

VCU's Student Government Association, Staff Senate and Faculty Senate

WHEREAS, the [Virginia Commonwealth University-University Council's Philosophy of Shared Governance](#) states, "We believe in collaboration that seeks and represents the voice of all constituencies in decisions and matters that impact those constituencies—recognizing that shared governance is neither consensus nor democratic governance."

WHEREAS, the Virginia Commonwealth University-University Council's Philosophy of Shared Governance states, "We value transparency in university and unit decisions such that the various constituencies of the university are aware of how decisions are made and the rationale for those decisions, which will ensure the university remains mission-focused."

WHEREAS, the [VCU Faculty Senate's "A Resolution Affirming Faculty Compliance with Civil Rights Protections for ALL Students"](#) that was passed on March 21, 2025 resolves "that the VCU Faculty Senate affirms that faculty have complied with and continue to comply with the Supreme Court's 2023 decision in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* (SFFA), which clarified that the use of racial preferences in college admissions is unlawful, while also maintaining a commitment to fostering diverse and inclusive learning environments, which support the needs of all students, in accordance with constitutional and legal protections."

WHEREAS, the VCU Faculty Senate's "A Resolution Affirming Faculty Compliance with Civil Rights Protections for ALL Students" that was passed on March 21, 2025 resolves "that the VCU Faculty Senate calls on the VCU Administration and Board of Visitors to affirm in its decision-making faculty's ongoing compliance with federal law and jurisprudence and commitment to serving the needs of VCU's diverse student population."

WHEREAS, VCU's Student Government Association, Staff Senate and Faculty Senate believe that:

- All voices should be heard and valued to give input on decisions that are critical to their roles at VCU.
- Academic freedom and the value of diverse viewpoints in teaching, learning and research benefit all constituencies and the community at large to make VCU a stronger institution of higher education.
- Communication from VCU should be considerate of the impact that it will have on VCU's constituencies and be mindful to use thoughtful and inclusive language.
- Every student, staff member and faculty member are valued by what they bring to make VCU an institution that understands that diversity, equity and inclusion are fundamental to VCU's mission.