



NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY

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OFFICE OF PLANNING & BUDGET

700 Park Ave., HBW Suite 320, Norfolk, Virginia 23504
P: 757-823-9230 | F: 757-823-8432 | www.nsu.edu

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Tom Allison, Assistant Director of Finance & Innovation
State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
James Monroe Building
101 North 14th Street – 10th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

Tom,

Attached is the revised Six Year Plan for Norfolk State University as required by the Code of Virginia § 23.1-306. NSU has not made significant changes to the Six Year Plan presented in July of 2023. Adjustments to the plan reflect funding provided by the General Assembly and Governor for the 2024 - 2026 biennium. The additional funding provided is allowing the University to implement portions of the Six Year Plan in a more aggressive manner. For the 2024 academic year, the University saw a significant increase in the number of students matriculating at Norfolk State University. The additional students contributed to an increase in the amount of revenue generated by the University, as well as, requiring additional resources to be expended to assist with Student Financial Assistance. The students enrolling in the University continue to be largely first generation college students that require a significant amount of resources to successfully transition to higher education. The University's Six Year Plan was designed for this reality and the need to improve the University's underlying infrastructure.

As with most institutions in the Commonwealth, NSU is facing significant increases from the Commonwealth's Virginia Military Survivors' and Dependents' Education Program (VMSDEP). It is important to Norfolk State to be a welcoming institution to individuals and families who have sacrificed to it sure the security of our nation. However, the cost of this program is an unfunded mandate that has grown exponentially as the children of the country's recent military conflicts become of college age. In order to ensure continued success of the University, resources to offset the cost of the VMSDEP program are needed. An addition has been made to the Six Year Plan requesting general fund support to offset the cost currently being incurred for the VMSDEP program.

An additional initiative not specifically included in NSU's 2024 Six-Year Plan submission is a proposal to requests funding support for an ERP in conjunction with a consortium of institutions that include W&M, CNU, UMW and NSU. W&M is providing leadership on the initiative and NSU will complete our planning process during the FY 2024/25 fiscal year.

Despite significant inaccuracies, the Fact Pack Tool is used by the University to demonstrate its current position in a number of different areas to various constituencies. NSU administration is in the process of working with SCHEV to provide a revised version of The Fact Pack that is significantly indicative of the success of the University. The most significant highlight that the Fact Pack allows Norfolk State to demonstrate is its stability over the years; NSU is a stable institution. Despite the challenges that the University experienced between 2014 to 2016, the Fact Pack demonstrates that the University was able

to quickly recover and persist with minimal blemishes to its ongoing financial health or to the service it provides to students. As the Fact Pack demonstrates, Norfolk State University did experience some fluctuations in enrollment in the midst of the period observed, however there are errors in the data that must be corrected to correctly analyze the data and develop coherent conclusions. Once updated to include correct data, the Fact Pack for NSU has the potential to become a credible resource tool for current and newly appointed Board of Visitors members as well as a reference for individuals seeking specific data.

The additional support provided to Norfolk State University in recent years is being invested in the institution to enhance student success. While the additional resources provided to NSU will make an impact on student success, the University still remains under resourced. The students being served by Norfolk State University come from the most fiscally challenging situations, these students, as a whole, are the first in their families to attend college, and they arrive at NSU from high schools not known for their rigor. The University's student population come with issues that make their matriculation into a higher education institution challenging, at best. Still, NSU, largely from implementing programs that enhance the students chances of graduating, while maintaining cost efficiency, demonstrate the University as a good steward for the resources provided by the Commonwealth.

In the current fiscal year, the University has been affected by the rollout of the Department of Education's new Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) software. The Admissions and Student Financial Assistance Offices are seeing less than the anticipated activity from students. The University's projection for Fall enrollment, considering the expected summer melt, is now decreasing. At this point it is anticipated that the FAFSA will negatively affect enrollment for Fall semester 2024 and possibly 2025. The actual enrollment results for the Fall semester may cause the University to revisit its enrollment projections going forward; as well as, the related fiscal activity.

In closing, the University plans to stay the course for the Six Year Plan submitted in July of 2023. The resources added to the University will be used responsibly, and in a manner to advance student success and to build the infrastructure needed to carry the University further in the most efficient manner possible.

Sincerely,

Dennis Jones
Executive Budget Director

cc: Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston, President
Dr. Tanya S. White, Chief of Staff
Dr. Gerald Ellsworth Hunter, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Dr. DoVeanna S. Fulton, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs
Dr. Justin Moses, Vice President for Operations & Chief Strategist for Institutional Effectiveness
Dr. Aurelia T. Williams, Sr. Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs