March 1, 2024

The Honorable Aimee Guidera
Secretary of Education
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Secretary Guidera:

On behalf of VCU, I write to respond to the request from your office for the syllabi of courses related to an effort underway at VCU to implement a faculty-led racial literacy requirement within the university's undergraduate general education curriculum.

In addition to the two approved courses that served as optional pilot offerings during the planning phase of implementing this requirement, VCU's faculty is in the process of approving nine additional courses. Further, faculty committees leading this work are poised to approve an additional six courses, resulting in students having 17 courses from which to choose, with the goal of adding more next year.

VCU's faculty is creating a breadth of offerings that promote intellectual diversity and foster intellectual inquiry through a pedagogy that prioritizes, and benefits from, the exchange of ideas from many viewpoints.

I am attaching to this message the syllabi of the 11 courses approved to date. A decision on when the requirement can be implemented is pending on further clarity regarding the total number of courses and course sections that can be offered from the approved courses come fall.

In closing, thank you for your support of VCU and the students we serve. That continued commitment, along with the dedicated and passionate work of our faculty, is what has propelled VCU to be ranked by U.S. News as a top 20 "most innovative" public university in the nation and a top 50 public research institution by the National Science Foundation. VCU's relentless pursuit of academic access, excellence, and impact is what makes us a difference-maker across Virginia and beyond.

Warm regards,

Fotis Sotiropoulos, Ph.D.
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Attachment