

The Virgin Islands Consortium

UVI Board Approves Free Tuition Policies And Procedures

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In a special session on Wednesday, the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) Board of Trustees approved policies and procedures to aide with the implementation of Act No. 8155, the Virgin Islands Higher Education Scholarship Program, which requires that financial aid be granted to residents of the Virgin Islands for post-secondary education at UVI, according to a release the institution of higher learning issued. The board voted unanimously to approve the policies and procedures, with several amendments.

“This is a very historic accomplishment for the University and the Territory,” said UVI President David Hall. “The Board should be proud for putting this issue on the Territory’s agenda and for the overwhelming support that we received from the Legislative Branch

and the Executive Branch.”

Act No. 8155 or the Virgin Islands Higher Education Scholarship Program (VIHESP) was signed into law by former Gov. Kenneth Mapp and introduced by Lt. Gov. Tregenza Roach, who was a senator at the time.

The scholarships will be available to all Virgin Islanders who graduate from a private, public or parochial high school regardless of age, date of graduation or household income, UVI said.

Recipients of the tuition aid, which would supplement students’ federal scholarship awards, university scholarships, and private donations, will be required to maintain a GPA of 2.50 and to work in the territory for a specific length of time after completing their studies. The university will collaborate with the Department of Labor to secure job placement for scholarship recipients.

The VIHESP policies and procedures will be published on the University’s website, www.uvi.edu, by Friday, Feb. 1. In other business, while in executive session, the Board approved the June 2, Aug. 31, and Sept. 18, executive session minutes. The Board also approved the nomination of Dr. Bradley Ebersole to the Foundation for the University of the Virgin Islands, addressed a personnel matter and received an update on legal matters.

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2019. A complete list of board meetings is available on the Board of Trustees page of the UVI website www.uvi.edu and from this direct link.