

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
FULL BOARD MEETING**

2:30 p.m. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024

**The Gateway Dining & Events Center
(on the campus of Virginia State University)
(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)**

" AGENDA

Rector Valerie K. Brown, Presiding

- Call to Order..... Dr. Valerie K. Brown, Rector
- Roll Call (*Ms. Pamela Currey, Secretary*)
- Invocation (*Pastor Seth Ahmad-McQueen, Director of Campus Ministries*)
- Rector's Remarks
- Approval of Agenda
- Board Approvals
 - o Minutes from Previous Meeting: November 17, 2023
- President's Remarks and Presentation..... Dr. Makola M. Abdullah
- Closed Session: Consultation with Legal Counsel pursuant to Code of VA 2.2-3711(A)(7)
- Committee Reports

Academic & Student Affairs Committee

Action Item(s): None

o **Information Item(s):**

- Summary of Updates (Division of Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Enrollment Management)
- Reports from the Faculty and Student Representatives
 - o Dr. Leonard Githinji, Chair, Faculty Senate
 - o Ms. Kailyn Haye, President, Student Government Association
- Remarks from the Staff Senate
 - o None
 - o

Audit & Compliance Committee

o **Action Items: None**

o **Information Item(s):**

- Summary of Updates (Offices of Compliance and Internal Audit)

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Facilities and Finance Committee

- **Approval Item:**
Resolution...Declaring the Intention to Reimburse the Cost of Certain Expenditures

- **Information Item(s):**
 - Summary of Updates (Division of Finance/Administration)

Personnel, Compensation & Governance Committee

- **Approval Item: None**

- **Information Item(s):**
 - Summary of Committee Discussion

- Report of Affiliated Foundation(s)

- Legal Counsel Update (if any)

- Board Self-Assessment of its Performance

- Announcements

- Adjournment

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MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Rector Valerie Brown called the meeting of the Virginia State University (VSU) Board of Visitors (Board) to order in the Gateway Dining and Events Center on the campus of Virginia State University at approximately 2:30 p.m. The Rector informed the Board that this meeting was being live-streamed per the Commonwealth of Virginia open meeting laws and conducted in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Rector also informed viewers how to contact the VSU Helpdesk if there was a technical interruption in the live stream.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present.

Board Members Present:

Dr. Valerie Brown
Mr. Victor Branch
Dr. Joseph A.F. Chase, Jr.
Mr. Thomas Cosgrove
Ms. Pam Currey
Dr. Robert Denton, Jr.
Ms. Shavonne Gordon
Dr. Harold Green, Jr. (*absent*)
Dr. Leonard Haynes, III (*Virtual participation*)
Ms. Daphne Meeks
Mr. Jon Moore
Mr. William Murray
Mr. Edward Owens (*Virtual participation*)
Mr. Kishore Thota (*absent*)
General Dennis L. Via

Dr. Leonard Haynes and Mr. Edwards Owens participated by electronic means. Dr. Haynes participated electronically from Silver Springs, MD, for personal reasons. Mr. Owens participated electronically from South Boston, VA, for medical reasons.

Board Appointments:

Dr. Leonard Githinji, Faculty Representative
Ms. Kailyn Haye, Student Representative

Administration Present:

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President
Dr. Tia Minnis, Interim Provost/Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs
Mr. Kevin Davenport, Senior Vice President for Finance & Administration/Chief Financial Officer
Ms. Shawri King-Casey, Vice President for Institutional Integrity & Compliance

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Ms. Tonya S. Hall, Vice President for Advancement and External Engagement
Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Vice President for Student Affairs/Enrollment Management
Dr. Annie Redd, Chief of Staff/Director, Board Operations and Relations
Ms. Tanya Simmons, Associate Vice President, Office of Human Resources

Legal Counsel Present:

Mike Melis, Senior Assistant Attorney General/Education Section Chief

INVOCATION

Rector Brown invited Pastor Seth Ahmad-McQueen to offer the invocation.

RECTOR'S OPENING REMARKS

Rector Brown expressed her gratitude to the BOVs concerning their participation during the Virginia State University Fall 2023 Commencement and encouraged Board members to attend all Board meetings if possible and continue to be as engaging with all BOV activities. Rector Brown also encouraged Board members to support the May 11, 2024, Spring Commencement. Rector Brown thanked Dr. Redd for inviting board members to participate in the February 7th VSU Women in Leadership event held in observance of the National Girls and Women Sports Recognition Day. Peggy Davis, Associate VP for Intercollegiate Athletics, received recognition for incorporating this event.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Rector called for approval of the agenda with one modification. The Institutional Advancement Committee will be removed from the agenda due to the Committee not reporting during the February 8, 2024, BOV meetings. The motion was received, properly seconded, and approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Rector called for approval of the previous minutes from November 17, 2023, Full Board Meeting. A motion was received, properly seconded, and approved by roll call vote.

BOARD APPROVAL(S)

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AND PRESENTATION

Dr. Abdullah thanked everyone for their commitment and introduced General Dennis Via (Retired) to the VSU Board of Visitors. President Abdullah provided a concise update regarding upcoming VSU activities, including the General Assembly VSU Day at the State Capitol and the Presidential Debate, scheduled for October 1, 2024, at the VSU Multipurpose Center. The President also discussed the proposed tuition and fees for 2024–2025, which would see a 3% increase. According to President Abdullah, this is the first proposed increase in tuition in five years. President Abdullah also highlighted VSU's Lady Trojans Basketball Team in the NCAA Division II Top 25.

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CLOSED SESSION

The Rector requested a Closed Session for Discussion or consideration of information according to §2.23711(A) (7), specifically, consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants about actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body, namely pending litigation field last year.

The motion was received, properly seconded, and passed by voice vote. Other attendees included Dr. Makola Abdullah, VSU senior leadership team members, and Mike Melis, the Legal Counsel. After discussion, the Rector asked for a motion to return to open session. The motion was received, properly seconded, and passed by voice vote.

The Rector read a statement to certify that during its closed meeting, the Committee discussed only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only those public business matters identified in the motion convening the Committee in closed session. The Committee certified the closed session by roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs Committee-

Ms. Joyce Ellenwood, Director of the Academic Center for Excellence, summarized the Academic Center for Excellence's strategic actions and priorities. Dr. Minnis addressed the Board about the Student Success Project, Beyond the First Year, and Degree Completion. Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter provided a quick introduction to Fire and Life safety and information on Spring Enrollment. Dr. Minnis gave an overview of the 6-Year Plan: Financial Aid Support and Tuition Assistance to Reduce the Cost of Higher Education.

Dr. Leonard Githinji gave remarks on behalf of the Faculty Senate. Kailyn Haye presented a report on the Student Government's activities, issues, and concerns. There was no report from the Staff Senate.

Audit and Compliance Committee-

The Audit and Compliance Committee gave a brief overview of Getting to Greater, an Update on Corrective Action Progress, and Preparation for Fiscal Year 2023 APA Audit.

Visitor Moore entertained a motion to enter a closed session to discuss plans to protect public safety as it relates to specific Cybersecurity threats or vulnerabilities and briefings by staff members, legal counsel, or law enforcement or emergency service officials under Virginia Code §2.2-3711(19) President Abdullah, Kevin Davenport, Ms. Tonya Hall, Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Dr. Tia Minnis, Ms. Shawri King-Casey, Mr. Maurion Edwards, Mr. Travis Edmonds, Dr. Annie Redd also attended the closed session.

After discussion, the Chair requested a motion to return to the open session. The motion was received, properly seconded, and passed by voice vote. The Chair read a statement to certify that during its closed meeting, the Committee discussed only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only those public business matters identified in the motion convening the Committee in closed session. The Committee certified the closed session by roll call vote.

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Facilities and Finance

Chair Murray presented a resolution for approval, declaring the intention to reimburse the cost of certain expenditures. A motion to approve the Resolution was received, second, and approved by roll call vote. Visitors Harold Green Jr. and Kishore Thota were not present for the vote.

Mr. Davenport gave a presentation on tuition and fees. Mr. Davenport presented a proposed increase of 3% to in-state and out-of-state undergraduate and graduate tuition and fees for 2024-2025. He noted the purpose of the increase is to offset inflationary pressures and anticipated costs for public safety, health services, and technology. The Committee held a Public Comment Period as part of its meeting, during which speakers could present relevant remarks on the proposed increase. The Full Board is scheduled to vote on the proposed increase at a called meeting at 9:00 a.m., March 22, 2024, at the Gateway Dining and Event Center.

Ms. Adrian Petway summarized the Statement of Sources and Uses for the Year Ending September 31, 2023, Comparative Cash and Reserves for the Year Ending December 31, 2023, and Capital Project Update for the Year Ending December 31, 2023.

Personnel, Compensation & Governance

Visitor Victor Branch, Chair, requested a motion to enter a closed session for the discussion or consideration of information according to 2.2-3711(A), relating to the discussion, consideration of candidates for assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, and evaluation of the performance of departments or schools of public institutions of higher education where such evaluation will necessarily involve discussion of the performance of specific individuals, namely, executive evaluation and compensation. The motion was made, properly seconded, and approved by roll call vote. There was no staff present. After discussion, the Chair asked for a motion to return to open session; the motion was approved by voice vote.

The Chair read a statement to certify that during its closed meeting, the Committee discussed only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only those public business matters identified in the motion convening the Committee in closed session. The Committee certified the closed session by roll call vote.

REPORT OF AFFILIATED FOUNDATION(S) – No Report

LEGAL COUNSEL UPDATE (IF ANY)

BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT OF ITS PERFORMANCE

Mr. Victor Branch, Chair of the Personnel, Compensation & Governance Committee, asked board members to share their reflections on the November meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Rector Brown called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was received and properly seconded, and the Committee voted by voice vote. The Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:55 p.m.

Valerie K. Brown
Valerie K. Brown, Rector
4/26/24
Date

Pamela A. Currey
Pamela A. Currey, Secretary
4-26-2024
Date