

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
FULL BOARD MEETING
11:00 A.M., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2022
The Gateway Dining & Event Center
(on the campus of Virginia State University)
(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)

DRAFT AGENDA

11:00 a.m. FULL BOARD MEETING CONVENED

Rector Valerie K. Brown, Presiding

- Roll Call (*Dr. Christine Darden, Board Secretary*)
- Invocation (*Pastor Graham*)
- Rector's Remarks
- Approval of Agenda
- Board Approvals
 - Minutes from Previous Meetings:
 - *Minutes, Board Orientation Session I, August 4, 2022*
 - *Minutes, Board Orientation Session II, August 5, 2022*
 - *Minutes, Full Board Meeting, August 5, 2022*
- President's Remarks and Presentation..... Dr. Makola M. Abdullah

- **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Academic & Student Affairs Committee**

- **Action Item(s):**
 - Approval of the VSU Six-Year Plan
 - **Information Item(s):**
 - Summary of Updates (Covid-19 Task Force, Enrollment Management, Academic & Student Affairs Division)
 - Reports from the Faculty and Student Representatives
 - Dr. Leonard Githinji, Chair, Faculty Senate
 - Ms. Yania Campbell, President, Student Government Association
 - Remarks from the Staff Senate

- **Institutional Advancement Committee**

- **Action Item: None**
 - **Information Item:**
 - Summary of Updates (Government Relations, Communications, Institutional Advancement)

Audit & Compliance Committee

- **Approval Item: None**

- **Information Item:**
 - Summary of Updates (Office of Compliance, Internal Audit)

Personnel, Compensation & Governance Committee

- **Approval Item: None**

- **Information Item:**
 - Summary of Updates (Office of Human Resources)

Facilities, Finance & Audit Committee

- **Approval Items: None**

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

- **REPORT OF AFFILIATED FOUNDATION(S)**
 - VSU Foundation Board Ms. Brenda Stith-Finch, Chair

- **LEGAL COUNSEL UPDATE (IF ANY)**

- **BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT**

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **ADJOURNMENT**

All start and ending meeting times are approximate. Meetings may begin after the posted start time at the pleasure of the Board. The Board reserves the right to change its schedule as necessary.

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
FULL BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
Friday, September 16, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Valerie Brown, Rector, called the meeting of the Virginia State University (VSU) Board of Visitors (Board) to order in the Gateway Dining and Event Center on the campus of Virginia State University at approximately 11:24 a.m.

The Rector informed the Board and others present that this meeting was being livestreamed in accordance with 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 technical interruption in the livestream.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present.

Board Members Present:

Dr. Valerie Brown, Rector
Mr. Glenn D. Sessoms, Vice Rector
Dr. Christine M. Darden, Secretary
Mr. Victor Branch
Mr. Thomas Cosgrove
Ms. Pamela A. Currey
Dr. Robert Denton, Jr.
Mr. Michael Flemming
Ms. Shavonne Gordon
Dr. Harold Green, Jr.
Dr. Leonard Haynes, III (*absent*)
Mr. Jon Moore
Mr. William Murray
Mr. Edward Owens
Mr. Wayne Turnage
Dr. Tracy Jackson (*sitting in for Dr. Leonard Githinji, Faculty Representative to Board*)
Ms. Yania Campbell, Student Representative to the Board

Administration Present:

Dr. Makola Abdullah, President
Dr. Donald Palm, Executive Vice President/Provost
Kevin Davenport, Senior Vice President, Finance & Administration
Shawri King-Casey, Vice President for Institutional Integrity and Compliance
Tonya Hall, Vice President for External Relations
Dr. Annie C. Redd, Chief of Staff/Director, Board Governance, Operations, & Relations
Rodney Hall, Deputy Chief of Staff
Maurion Edwards, Chief Information Officer/Technology Services

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Administration Present (continued)

Chief David Bragg, Associate Vice President, Chief/VSU Police Department
Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Asst. Vice Provost/Enrollment Management
Regina Barnett-Tyler, Assoc. Vice Provost/Student Success & Engagement
Dr. Gwendolyn Williams Dandridge, Asst. Vice President/Director, Communications
Eldon Burton, Asst. Vice President/Director of Government Relations
Dr. Tia Minnis, Vice Provost for Academic Success, Planning & Inst. Effectiveness
Dr. Kawachi Clemons, Vice Provost, Office of the Provost
Dr. Omar Faison, Research & Economic Development

Legal Counsel Present:

Cynthia Norwood Marquez, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Other Attendees:

Pastor Jasmyn Graham, Campus Ministries
Brenda Stith-Finch, VSU Foundation Board
Derrick Jennings, Technology Services
Franklin Antonio, Technology Services
Yourdonus James, Office of Conference Services
Danette Johnson, President's Office
Debbie Jefferson, President's Office
Marjorie Muse, President's Office
Kendra White, Office of Compliance
Joseph Lyons, Student Success & Engagement
Sylvia Jones, Vice Chair, Staff Senate
Kendrick Mason, Office of Institutional Advancement
Robert Phillips, Office of Procurement
Franklin Johnson-Norwood, Office of Institutional Advancement
Nannette Williams, Internal Audit
Cheryl Adeyemi, Faculty Emeritus

INVOCATION

Rector Brown invited Pastor Graham to offer the invocation.

RECTOR'S OPENING REMARKS

In her opening remarks, Rector Brown spoke about the Board's Recognition Dinner, which she thought was a wonderful event that showed love and respect for past and outgoing board members. The Board and the staff wanted to show that we appreciated the service that they had given to Virginia State University. The Rector also stated that she is impressed with the caliber of skills on the current board, which has gelled as a great unit. The current board is sitting on the shoulders of those board members who came before because they did an outstanding job of moving the board to this point.

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Rector Brown shared her observations that the entire University team has done an outstanding job of incorporating the 2020-2025 strategic plan as an integral part of their regular reports to the board. She mentioned the positive change in the institutional finances and how the financial reporting format clearly outlines the current financial status of the University. In addition, the Rector spoke about the creation of the Audit and Compliance Committee (separated from Facilities and Finance) which has already produced great returns.

Rector Brown stated that she wanted to express appreciation to all of the committee chairs for their work and support. The Rector stated that she was very pleased to receive the Technology Services report which showed the progress and positive direction we are headed toward. The Rector also stated that she is aware that a master plan for technology services is in progress, and she requested a timeline as well as a dollar figure to show the Board when the goals will be achieved and the cost of achieving them. She is pleased that the administration is also working on achieving Level 2, and she expressed her excitement about the proposed land purchases and campus expansion.

The Rector wanted everyone to understand that the Board wholeheartedly supports the president, administration and faculty in implementing recommendations from the salary equity study; the Board supports whatever works best for the faculty and the administration. The Rector stated that she is excited about the environment, the temperament of the Board and the staff; the Board stands behind the President and the administration 100%; the Board looks forward to continued transparency and communication.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Rector called for approval of the agenda, which was approved by voice vote.

BOARD APPROVALS

The Rector called for a motion to approve minutes from the August 4-5th meetings of the Board. Those meetings were as follows: Board Orientation Session I, August 4, 2022; Board Orientation Session II, August 5, 2022; Full Board Meeting, August 5, 2022. A motion was received to approve all minutes as a group and properly seconded. The Board approved the minutes by roll call vote. Dr. Haynes was not present for the vote.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Abdullah expressed thanks to Rector Brown for her comments and to the Board for its work and support as it stewards VSU. He also expressed thanks to the administrative team, faculty, staff and students for their work and support on behalf of VSU. President Abdullah introduced Ms. Nannette Williams, Chief Audit Executive, to the full Board for the benefit of those members who were not present at the Audit & Compliance Committee meeting on Thursday, September 15th.

President Abdullah shared information with the Board about the University's enrollment, enrollment challenges, partnership updates, and significant upcoming engagements. The President gave an overview of fall 2022 freshman enrollment numbers which showed an approximate increase of 60% above last year. He shared a preliminary profile of the validated freshmen including average high school grade point average and the number of University scholarships awarded; i.e., presidential, provost, STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics).

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He discussed enrollment challenges such as securing off-campus student housing and managing on-campus incidents. The President shared information on developing VSU partnerships with 1) Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Northern Virginia Community College, and Norfolk State University; 2) the Virginia Gateway Region; and 3) the Partnership for Petersburg (lab schools). He gave general updates on the salary equity plan and Rogers Stadium. At 11:56 p.m., the Board took a break for the Board's group photo followed by lunch. The Board reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Rector encouraged board members to attend other committee meetings to see staff presentations. The presentations will be beneficial to board members and help them to appreciate the excitement about the work of committees.

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

On behalf of the Committee, Chair Pamela Currey, recommended affirmation of the VSU Six-Year Plan to the full Board. The motion was approved by roll call vote. Dr. Leonard Haynes was not present for the vote.

Chair Currey also gave a summary of the updates presented to the committee from the departments of Enrollment Management, Student Success & Engagement, Police and Public Safety, and from the COVID-19 Task Force which included the staff's efforts in mental health and wellness. The full reports are in the committee's board materials packet.

Chair Currey called for reports from the Student Representative to the Board and Faculty Representative to the Board. Yania Campbell, President of the Student Government Association (SGA), presented a report from the Revolutionary Administration which has adopted a mission, vision, values that align with its slogan—*For the People by the People*. Ms. Campbell also presented an overview of the SGA's activities, accomplishments, events, current issues, and current initiatives since the semester began. In the absence of Dr. Githinji, Dr. Tracy Jackson, Vice Chair, presented a report from the Faculty Senate which included pay equity strategy, promotion and tenure procedures, and collaboration with technology services relative to the faculty senate web page.

Chair Currey invited Sylvia Jones, Vice Chair of the Staff Senate, to give remarks. Ms. Jones shared efforts of the Staff Senate to present opportunities for staff to become engaged in campus life and to be recognized for their work and commitment to VSU. Ms. Jones stated that staff morale has improved at VSU.

President Abdullah expressed thanks to Ms. Campbell, Dr. Jackson, and Ms. Jones for their reports and for their leadership with their respective constituencies.

Institutional Advancement Committee

Chair Shavonne Gordon gave a summary of the updates presented to the committee from the Institutional Advancement (IA) Division. VP Tonya Hall educated the committee on "*What is Institutional Advancement?*" which included the historical background, identifying departments housed in VSU's Institutional Advancement, and defining terms frequently used; i.e., advancement (strategic plan), development (execution of the strategic plan), and fundraising (methods used to raise funds).

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Members of the IA team presented case studies that explained how individual and joint team efforts as well as patience and consistency resulted in donations to the University. Updates were also shared on efforts of the Alumni Relations Office to engage VSU alumni such as the Virtual Book Club, the Oral History Project, Homecoming 2022, and the Greater Pathway Brick Campaign. The Office of Communications presented updates on campus branding initiatives, recent media successes, and marketing initiatives.

Ms. Gordon gave a reminder to the board that the goal is 100% participation in giving. She mentioned that board members saw the first recipients of the *Jay Stegmaier Scholarship Fund* at the Board's Recognition Dinner held on September 15, 2022. The Board established the fund in memory of Board member Jay Stegmaier in February 2022. There are many ways for board members to give such as the *Jay Stegmaier Scholarship Fund*, other scholarships, or advocacy groups. No amount is too small, they may be in personal donations, or donations on a board member's behalf from a corporation.

Audit Committee

Chair Jon Moore commended the work of Ms. Shawri King-Casey which included the Audit Manual, organizing the University Internal Audit & Compliance Committee, and leading the effort to hire a new Chief Audit Executive. Chair Moore also commended Ms. Tasha Owens who served as the Interim Chief Audit Executive. The University had over 50 items identified by VSU Internal Audit as open in September 2021. As of September 2022, VSU has less than 20 active items identified by Internal Audit. The Chair asked the new Chief Audit Executive to review the Audit Plan to ensure that it fits her expectations and to give an update at the next committee meeting in November 2022.

The Chair explained the timeline used by the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) to provide its' report findings to universities. The majority of schools received their reports in April or June before the next fiscal year; in fact, 12 of the 14 institutions received their reports in June. Last year, VSU received its audit report in January, which meant that our team went through almost a full fiscal year without being able to build corrective action plans. VSU has yet to receive its 2021 fiscal year report from APA. The Chair indicated that he will not be surprised if there are repeat items on the 2021 fiscal year report due to the timing lag. He asked the Board to be mindful of this when VSU does receive its audit report from APA. He also stated that he thinks there needs to be a push from the committee to see an improvement in the timeliness as its moves forward.

Personnel, Compensation & Governance Committee

Chair Glenn Sessoms gave a summary of the updates from the Office of Human Resources. The updates included Human Resources accomplishments, climate survey and compensation study, university recruitment, and the Cardinal Human Capital Management (HCM) Payroll & Human Resources (HR) System update. The Climate Survey/Salary Equity Study update included take-aways, compensation study findings, and key compensation recommendations.

Facilities & Finance Committee

Chair William Murray gave a summary of the updates from the Division of Finance and Technology Services. The Committee received a briefing from Spider Management Firm. The Committee met in a closed session for discussion about the VSU real estate portfolio. The Chief Financial Officer provided a wealth of financial information and highlighted the year ended with a \$8.7 million cash surplus. VSU met all of its key benchmarks relative to financial management.

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REPORT OF AFFILIATED FOUNDATION(S)

Ms. Brenda Stith-Finch, Chair of the VSU Foundation Board, presented an update which included investment portfolio highlights. The report also included updates on projects for which the Foundations serves as the “pass through”: Amazon Web Services Finish Line Grant, the Booster House Project, Community in Schools of Petersburg, Virginia Lottery. Ms. Stith-Finch also shared a list of the 2022 Foundation Board’s talent mix; all but one member is a VSU graduate.

LEGAL COUNSEL UPDATE

Legal Counsel did not have any updates.

BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT OF ITS PERFORMANCE

Visitor Glenn Sessoms, Chair of the Personnel, Compensation & Governance Committee, invited board members to reflect on the board meeting(s) to ensure that everyone is heard and leave with an optimistic view about the work of the board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Rector called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made and properly seconded; the meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Approved:

Dr. Valerie K. Brown

Dr. Christine Darden

Date

Date