

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS  
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS**

**9:00 A.M.; THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025**

**Alfred W. Harris Academic Commons Bldg., 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**

*(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)*

**AGENDA**

CALL TO ORDER.....Dr. Leonard Haynes III, Chair

ROLL CALL

INVOCATION

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES (if any)

- September 26, 2025

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS.....Dr. Makola M. Abdullah

CLOSED SESSION (if any)

**REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Enrollment and Retention Updates (Fall 2025).....Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter  
Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management
- Fall Census Report.....Dr. Tia A. Minnis  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- VSU 2025-2026 – 2028-2029 Strategic Plan Approval ..... Dr. Tia Minnis  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS  
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Cosgrove, Vice Chair, called the Academics and Student Affairs Committee meeting to order at 9:04 am. The meeting was held at the Alfred W. Harris Academic Commons Bldg., 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, on the Campus of Virginia State University.

**ROLL CALL**

A Quorum was present.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. Leonard Haynes, III, Chair (*Absent*)  
Mr. Thomas Cosgrove, Vice Chair  
Mr. M. Peter McPherson (*arrived @ 10:21 am*)  
Dr. Robert Denton, Jr.  
Dr. Harold Green, Jr. (*Virtual*)  
Ms. Morenike Miles  
Mr. Victor K. Branch (Rector) ex-Officio

Dr. Harold Green participated virtually from Richmond, Virginia, due to medical reasons.

**OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. Valerie K. Brown  
Dr. Joseph A.F. Chase, Jr.  
Ms. Daphne Meeks  
Ms. Verndell Robinson  
Mr. Robert Thompson  
Mr. Kishore Thota (*arrived 11:16 am*)  
General Dennis L. Via (Vice Rector)

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS:**

Dr. Kenneth Lewis, Faculty Representative  
Mr. Marquis Mason, Student Representative

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:**

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President  
Dr. Tia A. Minnis, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Mr. Kevin Davenport, Senior Vice President for Finance & Administration/CFO  
Dr. Willis Walter, Jr., Interim Vice President, External Relations & Advancement  
Ms. Shawri King-Casey, Vice President for Institutional Integrity and Compliance  
Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management  
Dr. Annie Redd, Chief of Staff/Director, Board of Operations & Relations

**INVOCATION**

Vice Chair, Cosgrove, invited Reverend Thomas Wynn to offer the invocation.

## **COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS**

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### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Committee approved the agenda by voice vote.

### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

The Committee approved the minutes from the September 26, 2025, meeting by voice vote.

### **PRESIDENTS REMARKS**

President Abdullah thanked the Board members for attending the Rectors' Dinner on the evening before the Board meeting.

### **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

#### **ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION UPDATES (Fall 2025)**

The Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee meeting began with a comprehensive review of VSU's current enrollment trends. Dr. Brooks-Walter presented the Fall 2025 new student enrollment overview, noting that the university welcomed a freshman class of 1,206 students. This incoming cohort of 1,765 students included 1,190 full-time, first-time-in-college students, 253 transfer students, and 254 new graduate students. She also highlighted the institution's strategic retention initiatives to support first-time-in-college students and reported a 74% retention rate. Dr. Brooks-Walter then provided an in-depth discussion of H.R. 1, emphasizing the significant impacts the legislation will have on undergraduate and graduate students, as well as the financial implications for VSU. She underscored several pending federal program reconciliations tied to H.R. 1 that pose substantial risks to the institution, particularly the anticipated losses to the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) and Federal Work-Study (FWS) programs.

#### **FALL CENSUS REPORT**

Dr. Minnis presented the final Fall 2025 census headcount, reporting a total enrollment of 5,754 undergraduate and graduate students, a 3% increase over the previous year, indicating continued institutional growth. This year's headcount reflects 1,765 new students (31%) and 3,989 returning students (69%). Notably, returning student enrollment increased by 11%, underscoring the success of the collaborative efforts between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs to improve retention, support student progression, and advance degree completion and graduation outcomes. Dr. Minnis also noted a 15% rise in graduate enrollment, illustrating the success of efforts in Academic Affairs to strengthen VSU's graduate programs.

Dr. Minnis then introduced 14 members of the Academic Affairs leadership team, recognizing 10 individuals stepping into new roles and 4 continuing deans. She also announced the retirement of Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun, honoring his remarkable 37 years of dedicated service to VSU. Finally, Dr. Minnis presented the 2025–2028 Strategic Plan and the VSU Six-Year State Plan for the Board's approval.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Vice Chair Cosgrove called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was received, properly seconded, and the Committee voted by voice vote. The Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:42 am.

**APPROVED:**



**Chair**

2/5/2025

**Date**