

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
FULL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, August 5, 2021
Gateway Dining & Event Center, Second floor salons
2804 S. Martin L. King, Jr. Blvd (on the campus of Virginia State University)

DRAFT AGENDA
(as of 8.3.2021)

1:30 p.m.

FULL BOARD MEETING CONVENED
(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)

1:30 – 5:00 p.m.

- Rector Valerie K. Brown, Presiding
- Roll Call (*Dr. Christine Darden, Board Secretary*)
 - Invocation (*Pastor Jasmyn Graham*)
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Rector's Remarks
 - President's Remarks Dr. Makola M. Abdullah
 - **CLOSED SESSION(S)**
 - Update on National Institute of Food & Agriculture (NIFA)
 - Discussion of the President's Compensation Package
 - **BOARD APPROVALS**
 - Full Board Meeting Minutes, April 23, 2021
 - Resolution to approve Naming a Classroom in the ROTC Building in honor of Dr. McKee
 - **Reports and Updates**
 - Campus Reopening/Covid-19 Update Dr. Donald Palm
Provost/Senior VP, Academic & Student Affairs
 - Enrollment Management Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter
Asst. Vice Provost, Enrollment Mgmt. & Academic Success
 - Capital Outlay Projects Ms. Jane Harris
Asst. Vice President, Facilities/Capital Outlay
 - Legal Counsel Update (if any)
 - Announcements
 - Adjournment

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
RESOLUTION TO NAME A CLASSROOM IN JESSE BOLLING HALL IN HONOR OF
DR. JONA MCKEE**

WHEREAS, the Board of Visitors, may find it necessary to modify how gifts are solicited and recognized; according to Policy 4010 Governing the Acceptance, Recording and Naming of Gifts; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jona McKee served as the First Graduate of Virginia State University to return as Professor of Military Science, he increased the program's enrollment by over 100% and commissioning more than 260 officers of which 28 were Distinguished Military Graduates; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jona McKee, served in the Office of the Inspector General, First U.S. Army, Fort Meade, Maryland; Chief Exchange Operations Branch, Service Support division, Logistics Career Department, Quartermaster Center and School, Fort Lee, and Deputy Director of Security, Plans and Operations, Saigon Support Command, 1st Logistics Command, Republic of Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jona McKee has helped raise more than \$1 million for Virginia State University programs. He founded the VSU Athletic Boosters Club in 1963 and served as its president for 41 years. He purchased the Athletic Club's first clubhouse and played a significant role in fundraising to purchase the second; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jona McKee founded the VSU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1980 and has served on the Board of the VSU Athletic Club as Honorary Chairman and member of the Athletic Hall and Wall of Fame Committee. He also designed the iconic Athletic Hall of Fame ring; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jona McKee is a Distinguished Military Graduate from Virginia State College (now University); and

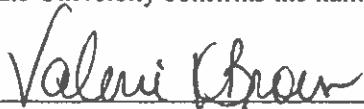
WHEREAS, Mr. Eddie N. Moore, Jr. recommends naming a classroom in Jesse Bolling Hall in honor of Dr. Jona McKee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Eddie N. Moore, Jr. and Dr. Makola M. Abdullah have made a gift of \$10,000 to name the classroom; and

WHEREAS, the Donors agree to pay all costs associated with purchasing and affixing Naming signage which is separate and above the Gift.

WHEREAS, § 23.1-2705 of the *Code of Virginia* states that "[t]he board may take, hold, receive, and enjoy any gift, grant, devise, or bequest to the board or to or for the benefit of the University. Any such gift, grant, devise, or bequest shall be used for the purposes designated by the donor, or if no purposes are so designated, for the general purposes of the board."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this 5th day of August, 2021, the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University confirms the naming of a classroom in Jesse Bolling Hall in honor of Dr. Jona McKee.

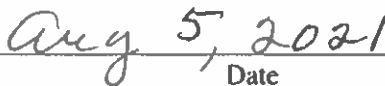


Valerie K. Brown, Rector



Dr. Christine Darden, Secretary


Date


Date

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 5, 2021**

*The Full Board Meeting was held on the 2nd floor of the Gateway Dining Events Center
Salon A, on the campus of Virginia State University*

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Valerie Brown, Rector, called the meeting of the Virginia State University (VSU) Board of Visitors (Board) to order in Salon A of the Gateway Dining and Events Center at approximately 1:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present.

Board Members Present:

Dr. Valerie Brown, Rector
Mr. Glenn D. Sessoms, Vice Rector
Dr. Christine M. Darden, Secretary
Ms. Thursa Crittenden
Ms. Pamela A. Currey
Mr. Michael Flemming (*absent*)
Ms. Shavonne Gordon
Mr. Raul Herrera
Mr. Charlie W. Hill (*electronic communication*)
Mr. Jon Moore
Mr. William L. Murray
Mr. Edward Owens
Mr. Xavier Richardson (*absent*)
Mr. James J.L. Stegmaier (*electronic communication*)
Mr. Wayne Turnage (*arrived at 1:58 p.m.*)
Dr. Ceslav Ciobanu, Faculty Representative to the Board
Mr. Eric Timms, (*sat in for Kameron Gray, Student Representative to the Board*)

Administration Present:

Dr. Makola Abdullah, President
Dr. Donald Palm, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Annie C. Redd, Special Assistant to the President/Board Liaison
Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Asst. Vice Provost/Enrollment Management
Jane Harris, Asst. Vice President, Facilities/Capital Outlay
Hubert Harris, Chief of Staff
Sheila Alves, Chief Audit Executive, Internal Audit
Dr. Gwendolyn Dandridge, Director, Communications
Eldon Burton, Director of Government Relations

Legal Counsel Present:

Deborah A. Love, Senior Assistant Attorney General and Chief
Cynthia Norwood, Assistant State Attorney General

Other Attendees:

Travis Edmonds, Information Technology
Yourdonus James, Office of Conference Services
Ben Houck, Finance
Danette Johnson, President's Office
Debbie Jefferson, President's Office
Travis Edmonds, IT Security

The following Board members participated by electronic means from remote locations identified below. The Board members participated by Cisco WebEx virtual meeting.

- Mr. Hill located in Hampton, VA; unable to attend due to medical reasons.
- Mr. Stegmaier located in North Chesterfield, VA; unable to attend due to medical reasons.

Rector Brown invited Pastor Jasmyn Graham, Director of Campus Ministries, to offer the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board approved the agenda with a roll call vote.

RECTOR'S REMARKS

Rector Brown thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as Rector and for its support. She acknowledged that the Board accomplished a lot under the leadership of the immediate past Rector, Huron F. Winstead, and she is looking forward to working with the members to continue to do great things together as a team.

Rector Brown also welcomed the new Board members, Mr. Jon Moore and Mr. Edward Owens. The Board has spent a lot of time and attention on the current operational challenges, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact on students and financial reserves. The Rector indicated that she was pleased to say that the situations are getting better, but recognizes that the pandemic and its impact on the University are not over. Due to substantial cash influx from federal funds, state funds, and institutional advancement, we now have some assurance in terms of our financial stability. The Board can now be proactive and help move the University vision forward, focus on strategic planning and processes, and allow the President and his team to manage the day to day operations.

The Rector requested board members to review the 2020-2025 strategic plan and committee chairs and VSU staff to identify those items that specifically impact their respective committees and assess the goals that we have achieved. If there are goals we have not achieved, we should have those discussions at the committee meetings so that we can make sure we are on the right

path to achieve the goals. The Rector also reminded everyone that the branding of Virginia State University is the result of collective and individual efforts; every Board member's talents, skills, perspectives, and experiences can come together to continue to move the University forward in its vision and mission.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Abdullah thanked Rector Brown for her remarks and acknowledged Mr. Sessoms, Vice Rector, and Dr. Darden, Board Secretary, for their commitment and as new officers of the Board. The President addressed biggest challenges, opportunities, communications, and government relations. He announced that the administration is considering mandating the vaccine and explained his concerns that we do it in a way that promotes equity for the institution and allow students we serve to come to campus for the vaccine. The President shared expectations about Fall enrollment numbers which may be flat and/or possibly overall slightly below 4,000 students. The President indicated that our biggest opportunity is our current funding situation (capital funding, operational funding, COVID federal funding, auxiliary reserves, educational & general reserves, and fundraising). He also shared the challenges of the infrastructure and asked for patience as staff is working on multiple priorities at the same time.

CLOSED SESSION

The Rector convened a closed session at 2:16 p.m. pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) of the Code of Virginia for consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultant pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. More specifically, discussion and update about National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) matching funds. The motion called for President Makola Abdullah; Kevin Davenport, VP for Finance/CFO; Sheila Alves, Chief Audit Executive; Deborah Love, Senior Asst. Attorney General & Chief, Education Division; Cynthia Norwood, Asst. Attorney General; Dr. Annie C. Redd, Board Liaison, Shawri King-Casey, Senior Advisor to the President for IEEC; and Benjamin Houck, Special Asst. to VP/CFO, to attend the closed meeting because (1) their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary; and or their presence would aid the Board in its consideration of this matter.

The Committee convened a closed session at 2:16 p.m. pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia to discuss personnel matters, specifically discussion of the President's compensation package. The motion called for President Makola M. Abdullah; Deborah Love, Senior Assistant Attorney General & Chief, Education Division; Cynthia Norwood, Asst. Attorney General; and Dr. Annie C. Redd, Board Liaison, to attend the closed meeting because (1) their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary; and or their presence would aid the Board in its consideration of this matter.

The Board re-convened in opened session at 3:35 p.m. with a roll call that the Committee discussed or considered only those public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motions by which the closed meeting was convened.

BOARD APPROVALS

Action on the agenda for the August 5, 2021 meeting (APPROVED). The motion was properly seconded and unanimously approved by roll call vote. Mr. Flemming, Mr. Richardson, and Mr. Turnage were not present for the vote.

Action on the acceptance of the President's compensation package and authorizing the Rector to execute documents or any contractual amendments in according with the compensation package (APPROVED). The motion was properly seconded and unanimously approved by voice vote. Mr. Flemming and Mr. Richardson were not present for the vote.

Action on the minutes from the April 23, 2021 Full Board meeting (APPROVED). The motion was properly seconded and unanimously approved by voice vote. Mr. Flemming and Mr. Richardson were not present for the vote.

Action on the resolution to approve Naming a Classroom in the ROTC Building in honor of Dr. Jona McKee (APPROVED). The motion was properly seconded and unanimously approved by voice vote. Mr. Flemming and Mr. Richardson were not present for the vote.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

President Abdullah presented the resolution to approve naming a classroom in the ROTC Building in honor of Dr. Jona McKee. The University will dedicate the classroom at the first campus football game on September 4, 2021.

Dr. Donald Palm shared the fall 2021 campus re-opening plan and COVID-19 Team Update focusing on the Team's charge to 1) efficiently address all COVID-19 safety issues and concerns; 2) monitor the University COVID-19 dashboard to make informed decisions for the campus community; 3) provide recommendations to the President's Cabinet to resolve major COVID-19 safety issues and concerns; 4) review and refine established policies and procedures to protect the campus community against COVID-19; 5) coordinate weekly COVID-19 projects and initiatives, and 6) communicate information internally and externally on behalf of the University. VSU's approach aligns with the Center for Disease Control's key prevention strategies for IHE with a mixed population: mandatory testing, healthy environments, offering/promoting vaccination, mandatory mask etiquette, handwashing, contact tracing, health operations, isolation/quarantine, physical distancing. In addition, VSU will require mandatory testing, entry testing, surveillance testing, mental health awareness and support, vaccination promotion/incentive strategy, continuity of care with isolation and quarantine facilities, and monthly vaccination clinics beginning in August.

Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Interim Asst. Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, presented overviews on the restructuring of Enrollment Management. The department now includes

- Academic Center for Excellence (academic advisement, strategic learning)
- Department of Admissions (orientation, VCAN, and separate directors for undergraduate students, graduate students, and transfer students)
- Department of Financial Aid

Dr. Brooks-Walter shared freshman and graduate enrollment comparison reports. Dr. Brooks-Walter announced that we have awarded 281 new freshmen and 31 returning students through the Virginia College Access Network (VCAN) program. Discussion followed regarding possible reasons for drop in numbers (compared to fall 2020), systems and management of applications, and importance of students' understanding how they can pay for college.

Dr. Brooks-Walter shared the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan which include goals, target population, and strategies in four areas: recruitment, onboarding, retention, and completion. New recruitment strategies include partnerships with companies which have recruiting services and methods with a large global reach, Fort Lee, and area high schools. To assist with retention, the University now has six living learning communities (computer engineering and manufacturing engineering, computer science, education, honors, 1st generation, and medical school) for students to live and study together with other students who have similar interests.

Ms. Jane Harris, Asst. Vice President for Capital Outlay/Facilities, presented an overview of facilities and capital project updates. The target occupancy date for the \$108M Academic Commons building is Summer 2024; the \$21M Admissions Building, Spring 2024; and the MT Carter Annex, Spring 2023. An \$8.3M project to improve infrastructure for safety, security, energy, and reliability has a target completion date of fall 2023. The project includes perimeter fencing at south gate, additional guard stations at Martin Luther King Drive and north gate, exterior and interior surveillance camera replacements, additional card reader systems, exterior LED lighting fixtures, boiler plant and steam system improvements. An \$11.4M project to improve and replace technology infrastructure has a completion date of Spring 2024. VSU also has a \$33.9M project to improve heating, air conditioning and ventilation campus wide for infectious aerosol control. Ms. Harris also shared the University's 2022-2024 biennium capital requests which total \$210M.

Legal Counsel did not have any legal updates.

Rector Brown announced that the 2021 Retreat scheduled for August 6th has been approved by SCHEV to meet the requirement for continuing education for Board members with 2 years or more service on the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Rector adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:45 p.m.



Dr. Valerie Brown, Rector



Dr. Christine M. Darden, Secretary

9/17/21
Date

9/17/21
Date