

Board Meeting Minutes

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
DRAFT NEW BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION & BOARD MEETING
Gateway Dining & Event Center, Salon A (on the campus of Virginia State University)
August 4-5, 2022
(No public comment period scheduled)**

***Theme: Telling the Virginia State University Story: Building Greater Connections
(Strategic Operating Program/Priority 4)***

Orientation Session I – THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2022

8:00 - 8:45 am Breakfast

9:00 - 9:30 am (Salon A)

- Roll Call
- Invocation Pastor Jasmyn Graham
Director, Campus Ministries
- Welcome and IntroductionsRector Valerie Brown
 - Overview of the New BOV Orientation Sessions I and II
 - Introduction of BOV Committee Chairs and Board Members (Continuing and New)
 - Introduction of President Makola M. Abdullah

9:30 - 10:15 am Dr. Gwendolyn Williams Dandridge
 • VSU History, Mission, Vision, Focus Points Asst. Vice President, Communications

10:30 – 11:30 am Dr. Makola M. Abdullah
 • President’s Welcome and State of the University

11:30 – 12:00 pm

- Introduction of Key Staff
 - Dr. Donald Palm, III; Executive Vice President & Provost, Academic & Student Affairs
 - Mr. Kevin Davenport, Senior Vice President, Finance & Administration
 - Ms. Tonya Hall, Vice President for External Relations
 - Ms. Shawri King-Casey, Vice President for Institutional Integrity & Compliance
 - Ms. Tanya L. Simmons, Associate Vice President for Human Resources

12:00 – 12:45 pm

Lunch is Served

1:00 – 2:30 pm (Salon C)

- Conversation with the President’s Leadership Team..... Dr. Annie C. Redd, Moderator
Chief of Staff/Director, Board Operations & Relations
 - **1:00 – 2:00 pm** *Team members will rotate between tables every 10 minutes*
 - **2:00–2:30 pm** *Question & Answer Period and Session Wrap Up*

3:00 - 4:00 pm Tour of the Campus/Campus Master Plan Tour (Jane Harris)

4:00 – 5:30 pm Meet and Greet Ice Cream Social and Dessert Bar @ President’s Residence (next to the Front Lawn of Virginia Hall, Hayden Drive)

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION SESSION 1
DRAFT MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 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 (Salon A) on the campus of Virginia State University at approximately 9:00 a.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

Mr. Victor Branch (*absent*)

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

Mr. Jon Moore

Mr. William Murray

Mr. Edward Owens

Mr. Wayne Turnage (*absent*)

Dr. Leonard Githinji, Faculty Representative to the Board (*absent*)

Ms. Yania Campbell, Student Representative to the Board (*absent*)

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

Dr. Annie C. Redd, Chief of Staff/Director, Board Governance, Operations, & Relations

Rodney Hall, Deputy Chief of Staff

Dr. Gwendolyn Dandridge, Asst. Vice President/Director, Office of Communications

Maurion Edwards, Chief Information Officer/Technology Services

Dr. Gwendolyn Dandridge, Assistant Vice President/Director, Communications

Eldon Burton, Assistant Vice President/Director of Government Relations

Dr. Tia Minnis, Vice Provost for Academic Success, Planning & Institutional Effectiveness

**NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION SESSION 1
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Legal Counsel Present:

Cynthia Norwood Marquez, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Other Attendees:

Travis Edmonds, Technology Services
Derrick Jennings, Technology Services
Yourdonus James, Office of Conference Services
Danette Johnson, President's Office
Debbie Jefferson, President's Office
Marjorie Muse, President's Office
Tasha Owens, Internal Audit
Kendra White, Policy Analyst

INVOCATION

Rector Brown invited Pastor Graham to offer the invocation.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Rector Brown welcomed all in attendance and gave an overview of the new board member orientation sessions and the annual retreat. The theme for this year is *Telling the Virginia State University Story: Building Greater Connections*. The goal is to tell the VSU story and to communicate its value to not only potential students, but also internal and external stakeholders including our board members (strategic plan, priority four). The Rector asked continuing/returning board members to introduce themselves followed by the new board members who shared their backgrounds, experience, and expectations. Rector Brown introduced President Makola Abdullah who welcomed the new and returning board members. He then introduced the next portion of the session, which included presentations by Dr. Gwendolyn Williams Dandridge and himself.

PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Dandridge shared information on the University's history, mission and vision statements, this administration's five tenets, and the evolution of the motto, Greater Happens Here. The presentation included an introduction of the six strategic plan priorities from the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan: Preeminence with Purpose. Dr. Dandridge shared the University's very successful efforts in how it has operationalized strategic plan priority four: "We will define the VSU Brand and Tell our Story: effectively demonstrating and communicating the value of Virginia State University".

President Abdullah introduced members of his executive leadership team as follows: Dr. Donald Palm, Executive Vice President/Provost; Kevin Davenport, Senior Vice President, Finance & Administration; Shawri King-Casey, Vice President for Institutional Integrity and Compliance; and Tanya Simmons, Associate Vice President for Human Resources, Dr. Annie C. Redd, Chief of Staff/Director, Board Governance, Operations, & Relations.

**NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION SESSION 1
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The President presented VSU's overall enrollment trends with comparative data for three years, based on fall 2020, fall 2021, and fall 2022. The report presented a student profile, which included gender, race, ethnicity, percentage of Pell grant students, status (full or part-time), residency (in-state vs out-of-state), and a listing of the students' home cities/counties and states. The report also included the top 10 VSU majors with Psychology and Criminal Justice ranked as 1st and 2nd for each fall semester. The President ended his presentation with a video of VSU Honors College students briefly sharing their success stories, and a video from the deans of the six academic colleges sharing how their respective colleges provide greater transformative experiences for VSU students.

CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP TEAM

After lunch, the Board members assembled in Salon C for the afternoon session with Dr. Redd serving as moderator. The session consisted of 4, 15-minute timed periods wherein the vice presidents who report to the Board Committees rotated among tables of 2-3 board members and shared challenges, successes, and the ways their respective areas added value to the University. At the end of the timed session, Dr. Redd invited Mr. Franklin Johnson-Norwood, Director of Alumni Relations, to share challenges and successes with the entire group on behalf of the Institutional Advancement Division.

CLOSING REMARKS/WRAP UP

Rector Brown made closing remarks and commended the VSU leadership team for their presentations and the information shared with Board members during the Orientation Session 1.

Most of the board members went along on the campus tour provided by Ms. Jane Harris, Assistant Vice President for Facilities/Capital Outlay. After the campus tour, the board members attended a *Meet and Greet* ice cream social and dessert bar at the President's Residence on campus.

Dr. Valerie K. Brown, Rector

Dr. Christine M. Darden, Secretary

Date

Date