

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

1:00 – 2:00 P.M.

The Gateway Dining & Event Center

**AGENDA
(as of 1.30.22)**

CALL TO ORDER Dr. Valerie K. Brown, Rector
The Code of Virginia §23.1-307(E) requires boards of visitors to hold public comment sessions prior to acting on any proposed increase in undergraduate tuition or mandatory fees. In accordance with the Code, members of the Virginia State University Board of Visitors are present in open session to receive public comments on the proposed increase of \$500 in the technology fee. The vote on the proposed increase will take place at 1:00 p.m., March 18, 2022 at a meeting of the Board’s Executive Committee.

ROLL CALL (*DR. REDD*)

INVOCATION (REV. DELANO DOUGLAS)

INSTRUCTIONS (DR. ANNIE C. REDD)

BUDGET INFORMATION SESSION Mr. Kevin Davenport
Senior Vice President, Finance & Administration/CFO

PUBLIC COMMENTS (3-minute time limit)

All remarks must be relevant to the proposed increase in mandatory fees. The public comments will become a part of the public record and made available to the Board prior to the 1:00 March 18th Executive Committee meeting where the vote on the proposed increase will be taken.

- The President of the Student Government Association and Student Representative to the Board (Time limit waived)
- Individuals who pre-registered
- Additional speakers (if time permits)

The Board will not respond to oral or written comments.

ADJOURNMENT

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF VISITORS PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION
FOR PROPOSED INCREASE IN 2021-22 MANDATORY FEES**

MINUTES

In accordance with Code of Virginia §23.1-307(E), requiring boards of visitors to hold public comment sessions prior to acting on any proposed increase in undergraduate tuition or mandatory fees, members of the Virginia State University Board of Visitors met in open session on Wednesday, February 2, 2022 in the Gateway Dining and Event Center on the VSU campus.

Board members present:

Dr. Valerie K. Brown
Thursa Crittenden
Dr. Christine M. Darden
Pamela Currey (*electronic participation*)
Michael Flemming (*electronic participation*)
Dr. Charlie Hill (*electronic participation*)
Mr. Edward Owens
Xavier Richardson (*electronic participation*)

Legal Counsel present:

Cindy Norwood

Others in attendance:

Dr. Annie C. Redd
Dr. Donald Palm
Dr. Gwendolyn Dandridge
Rev. Delano Douglas
Malika Blume
Kevin Davenport
Ri'Shawn Bassette
Joseph Lyons
Mekhi McKinney
Travis Edmonds
Debbie Jefferson

Rector Brown called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. In accordance with Code of Virginia §23.1-307(D), a public notice of the proposed range of increase in was issued on January 11th; the public notice included information about the public comment period. (Copy filed with permanent minutes).

Budget Information Session

The session began with comments by Kevin Davenport, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration/CFO. Mr. Davenport stated that the university is not proposing any increases to its tuition rates; however, the university is proposing a \$500 increase in our technology fee. This

is basically to cover new and ongoing technology costs. Those costs primarily include 3 areas: \$500 computer stipend for all students, updated technology in our classrooms, and to replace antiquated technology as determined by a recent assessment by the Chief Information Officer regarding the age and infrastructure needs of our computer technology. The \$500 fee will only cover a portion of those increased costs. The university is looking at other resources and other measures to cover those additional increased technology costs. Mr. Davenport stated that this proposal has already been discussed with the Student Government Association as well as presented to the student body at the last Town Hall meeting. Lastly, Mr. Davenport stated the \$500 increase in mandatory fees will yield an increase to our total tuition and fees of roughly 2.4%.

Public Comments

Rector Brown called on Dr. Redd to review the guidelines for the one-hour public comment period. Each speaker was allotted three minutes to speak and were to limit their comments to the topic of tuition and fees. Speakers were asked to pre-register, and if any time remained, walk-ins would be given the opportunity to speak.

Mr. Mehki McKinney, Vice President of the Student Government Association, spoke before the board on behalf of the student body. Mr. McKinney submitted a copy of his remarks to be entered into the public record. (Copy filed with the permanent minutes.)

There were no other pre-registered speakers or walk-in speakers.

Dr. Redd announced that the public would have the opportunity to submit written comments to the Board by email, postal mail, or hand-delivery to the Office of the President. The due date for written comments is March 9, 2022. The Executive Committee of the Board of Visitors is scheduled to act on the proposed increase in 2022-2023 mandatory fees at 1:00 p.m. on March 18, 2022. All public comments will be provided to the Board in preparation for that meeting and will become part of the public record.

The Rector adjourned the session at 1:18 p.m.

Valerie K. Brown
Valerie K. Brown, Rector

Christine M. Darden
Christine M. Darden

3/23/22
Date

March 18, 22-23
Date

Greetings....

I am Mekhi McKinney, a junior, sociology major from Prince George's County Maryland, and I currently serve as the Vice President of Administration for the Student Government Association.

I would like to send well wishes to The Student Government Association President who is participating in a pitch competition with TMCF. He sends his well wishes to you all..

We the Kultured Administration of the Student Government Association are in support of the technology increase if it's evident that the technology will be advancing. We have been in communication with the CIO and we are aware that we will be adding additional hotspots to buildings to support the technology infrastructure. Also in light of the increase in technology is it possible to do gradual increases as time goes on instead of the large increase in the supported funds. Our number of students who are enrolled has increased and I would hate for this to become a barrier for students who can't afford to pay this new increase. Also, is it a way that we could lobby for a sum of the money that it would take to enhance the Trojan experience. In efforts of lobbying we will keep cost low as well as continue to grow and be a leading competitor in all areas which will continue to make Virginia State grow.

Thank you for listening and I hope we can work together to keep the cost of attendance as low as possible while still growing with the market.