

FULL BOARD MEETING
1:00 PM, FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026
Gateway Dining & Events Center
(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)

DRAFT AGENDA
Rector Victor K. Branch, Presiding

Call to Order.....Mr. Victor K. Branch, Rector

Roll Call Ms. Verndell Robinson, Secretary

Invocation (*Rev. Thomas Wynn, Director of Campus Ministries*)

Rector’s Remarks

Approval of Agenda

President’s Remarks

BOARD APPROVAL(S)

- Approval Item:
 - Resolution for Approval of Tuition & Fees for Fiscal Year 2027 presented by Mr. Kevin Davenport, Senior Vice President, Finance & Administration/CFO

Legal Counsel Update (if any)

Adjournment

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
FULL BOARD MEETING
MARCH 20, 2026**

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Rector Branch called the meeting of the Virginia State University Board of Visitors to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. in the Gateway Dining and Events Center on the campus of Virginia State University. The Rector announced that the meeting was being live-streamed. The public can access the Full Board meeting on the VSU website at www.vsu.edu and on Microsoft Teams, in accordance with the Commonwealth of Virginia Open Meeting Laws, and was conducted in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the public can access the Full Board meeting on the VSU website at www.vsu.edu. The Rector further informed viewers that, in the event of a technical interruption of the live stream, assistance could be obtained by contacting the VSU Help Desk.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present.

INVOCATION

Rector Branch invited Rev. Thomas Wynn, Director of Campus Ministries, to offer an invocation

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Victor K. Branch (**Rector**)

Dr. Valerie K. Brown

Dr. Joseph A.F. Chase, Jr.

Mr. Thomas Cosgrove

Dr. Robert Denton, Jr.

Dr. Harold Green, Jr.

Dr. Leonard Haynes, III (*Virtual Silver Springs, Maryland, due to medical*)

Mr. M. Peter McPherson

Ms. Daphne Meeks

Ms. Morenike Miles

Mr. Jon Moore

Ms. Verndell Robinson (**Secretary**)

Mr. Robert Thompson (*Virtual – Traveling for Business*)

Mr. Kishore S. Thota

General Dennis Via (*Absent*)

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Kenneth Lewis, Faculty representative

Mr. Marquis Mason, Student Representative

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President

Dr. Tia A. Minnis, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Mr. Kevin Davenport, Senior Vice President for Finance & Administration/CFO

**FULL BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026
PAGE 2**

Dr. Willis Walter, Jr., Vice President, External Relations & Advancement
Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management
Dr. Annie Redd, Chief of Staff/Director, Board of Operations & Relations

RECTOR'S REMARKS

The minutes of the February 6, 2026, Full Board meeting will be presented for approval at the April 24, 2026, meeting. The Rector extended gratitude to all attendees for their presence. The Rector congratulated the President and University staff on the successful celebration of the University's 144th Founders Day, held on the previous day. Rector Branch expressed appreciation to Visitor Daphne Meeks and Visitor Joseph Chase for attending the event with him. The Rector further acknowledged University staff and recognized Delegate Kimberly Pope Adams, Representative from Dinwiddie. Rector Branch also recognized and thanked Mr. Marquise Mason, Student Government Association representative, and Mr. Melvin Cooper, Mr. VSU, for their remarks.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Committee approved the agenda by voice vote.

PRESIDENTS REMARKS

President Abdullah expressed appreciation to the Rector and the members of the Board for their attendance. The President also thanked Visitor Daphne Meeks and Visitor Joseph Chase for representing the Virginia State University Board of Visitors at the University's 144th Founders Day ceremony.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

TUITION AND FEES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027

Mr. Davenport, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer, presented an overview of the proposed tuition and fees for Fiscal Year 2027. Mr. Davenport noted that the Board had been provided the opportunity to review the presentation materials. He reported that Virginia State University is considering a 2.5 percent increase in tuition and fees, as well as a 5.0 percent increase in room and board.

Mr. Davenport stated that the primary driver of the proposed tuition and fee increases is inflation. He referenced historical data spanning more than a decade, demonstrating that Virginia State University has not increased tuition at a pace comparable to inflation and peer institutions. Mr. Davenport also discussed anticipated cost increases for the upcoming fiscal year, noting that the proposed 2.5 percent increase in tuition and fees and the 5.0 percent increase in room and board will not fully offset these additional expenses. He emphasized that the University is actively pursuing and implementing operational efficiencies to address the remaining financial pressures.

Mr. Davenport further explained that associated fee increases would remain minimal and that the impact on students was carefully considered. For off-campus students, the proposed increase would result in approximately \$260 annually, or about \$20 per month. For on-campus students, the increase would amount to approximately \$900 per year, or roughly \$75 per month. He indicated that the administration is comfortable with these projected impacts.

Additionally, Mr. Davenport noted that the proposed increases support institutional priorities, including the enhancement of scholarship funding. He affirmed that, while the budget reflects the proposed tuition and housing increases, the University intends to increase scholarship support to mitigate the financial impact on students most affected by the changes.

FULL BOARD MEEETING
FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026
PAGE 3

The Rector Branch called for a motion to approve the Resolution. A motion to approve was made by Visitor Moore and seconded by Visitor Cosgrove, and approved by roll call. General Via was not present for the vote.

Rector Branch announced that an item not listed on the agenda would be brought before the Board of Visitors under Personnel, Compensation, and Governance. The item concerned the evaluation of President Abdullah.

Rector Branch stated that he believes the current evaluation structure is reasonable. He explained that, after reviewing relevant data and considering several key factors, the Board has decided to maintain the evaluation schedule that has traditionally been followed by past Boards of Visitors.

Rector Branch requested that Board members provide their feedback during the current period. He further stated that the Board will review the materials and information received within the traditional evaluation timeframe in April, with the evaluation process continuing over the summer months and concluding in August or September.

Visitor McPherson, Chair of the Personnel, Compensation, and Governance Committee, stated that the current incentive and bonus structure, while effective, could be refined to be more sophisticated and nuanced to better support the President’s evaluation process. Visitor McPherson requested that the Personnel, Compensation, and Governance Committee convene a virtual meeting before the next Board meeting to review potential revisions and consider available options.

LEGAL COUNSEL UPDATE

No updates

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Rector Branch called for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Visitor McPherson and seconded by Visitor Meeks. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:29 p.m.

Victor K. Branch, Rector

Verndell Robinson, Secretary

Date

Date