

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
NEW BOARD ORIENTATION & ANNUAL RETREAT
Virginia Museum of History & Culture (VMHC)
428 N. Arthur Ashe Blvd., Richmond, VA 23220
August 8, 2025**

AGENDA

Opening Remarks.....Mr. Victor K. Branch, Rector

Roll Call (*Ms. Verndell Robinson, Board Secretary*)

9:10 – 10:30 AM

Presentation: VSU Strategic Plan, 2025-2028 *Greater by Design*

- Dr. Tia A. Minnis, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Vice President for Student Affairs/Enrollment Management

10:30 – 10:45 AM Break

10:45 - 11:30 AM Byrd Meeting Room & Reynolds Leadership Center
Roundtable Discussions with VSU Vice President

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM Reynolds Leadership Center
Retreat Wrap-Up & Action Planning: Top 3 Insights from the Retreat

Noon – Byrd Meeting Room
Pick up To-Go Box Lunches and Depart

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
NEW BOARD ORIENTATION & ANNUAL RETREAT
9:00 A.M.; FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Victor K. Branch, Rector, called the meeting of the Virginia State University (VSU) Board of Visitors to order in the Reynolds Leadership Center at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, 428 N. Arthur Ashe Blvd., Richmond, VA 23220 at approximately 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present.

Board Members Present:

Mr. Victor K. Branch, Rector
General Dennis Via, Vice Rector
Ms. Verndell Robinson (Secretary)
Dr. Leonard Haynes, III
Mr. Thomas Cosgrove,
Dr. Robert Denton, Jr. (*Virtual*)
Ms. Daphne Meeks
Mr. Peter McPherson (*Virtual*)
Ms. Morenike Miles
Mr. Robert Thompson
Mr. Kishore Thota
Mr. Jon Moore

Board Members Absent:

Dr. Valerie K. Brown
Dr. Joseph A.F. Chase, Jr.
Dr. Harold Green, Jr.

Board Appointees:

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

Legal Counsel:

Mr. Nathan Moberly

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, Interim Vice President for Advancement and External Engagement
Ms. Shawri King-Casey, Vice President for Institutional Integrity and Compliance
Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Vice President for Student Affairs/Enrollment Management
Dr. Annie Redd, Chief of Staff/Director, Board of Operations & Relations

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WELCOME

Rector Branch welcomed attendees to the second day of the Board of Visitors (BOV) orientation and retreat, expressing appreciation for their continued engagement. He reiterated the goals of the retreat, emphasizing the importance of collaboration, strategic planning, and alignment with institutional priorities. The orientation continues to serve as a platform for familiarizing new members with university governance, policies, and initiatives.

Rector Branch also provided a brief historical overview of the museum hosting the retreat, highlighting its significance in preserving Virginia's cultural and historical heritage. His remarks underscored the venue's alignment with Virginia State University's mission to honor the past while planning for the future.

PRESENTATION: VSU Strategic Plan, 2025-2028 "Greater by Design"

Dr. Tia A. Minnis gave a brief presentation of Virginia State University's Strategic Plan: The university has officially launched its new strategic plan titled Greater by Design, a bold and intentional three-year roadmap that builds upon the momentum of the previous five-year plan, Preeminence with Purpose. This new plan continues to focus on advancing the institution's mission and vision, with artificial intelligence (AI) playing a central role in driving innovation, academic excellence, and operational agility.

Key highlights of the plan include:

- **Priority 1: Advancing Student Success**
Leveraging AI to enhance student support and educational outcomes.
- **Priority 2: Institutional Effectiveness**
Strengthening operations, fundraising, and financial stability through digital transformation and AI integration.
- **Priority 3: Academic Excellence and Mission Advancement**
Investing in faculty and staff to ensure alignment with the university's mission and support academic innovation.
- **Priority 4: Visibility and Impact**
Expanding the university's brand and community engagement, emphasizing its role as a land-grant institution.

The plan reaffirms the university's mission and vision, with core values such as student-centeredness, excellence, and transformative teaching guiding strategic decisions. The full details of goals and priorities are included in the distributed materials.

Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter provided an overview of Virginia State University's Six-Year Plan (2025), outlining the university's long-term strategic goals and initiatives. The plan aligns with institutional priorities and state-level expectations, focusing on enhancing student success, academic excellence, financial sustainability, and community engagement. It serves as a framework for guiding decision-making, resource allocation, and continuous improvement across the university.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

Board members participated in speed-networking conversations with the vice presidents about their respective areas of responsibility.

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CLOSING REMARKS/WRAP UP

General Via gave closing remarks on behalf of Rector Branch. He commended the VSU leadership team and all of the staff whose work made the Retreat possible.

APPROVED:

Mr. Victor K. Branch

Chair

9.12.2025

Date