

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
1:30 p.m. THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025
Gateway Dining & Events Center
(on the campus of Virginia State University)
(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)

DRAFT AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER.....Dr. Valerie Brown, Rector

ROLL CALL

INVOCATION

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES (if any)

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS.....Dr. Makola M. Abdullah

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Approval Items:

- Proposed Increase in Student Mandatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2026
- 2025-2026 Nominations/Slate of Board Officers

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

3.11.25

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Valerie K. Brown, Rector, and Committee Chair, called the Executive Committee meeting to order at approximately 1:30 PM at Gateway Dining Hall, located on the campus of Virginia State University.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Valerie Brown, *Rector*
Mr. Victor Branch, *Vice Chair*
Mr. Kishore Thota, *Secretary*
Mr. Jon Moore, *Chair*
Mr. Edward Owens, *Chair*
Mr. Leonard Haynes, III, *Chair (Participated Virtually)*
Ms. Daphne Meeks, *Chair*

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Robert Thompson (*Participated Virtually*)
Mr. Dennis Via (*Participated Virtually*)
Dr. Harold Green (*Participated Virtually*)
Mr. Joseph A.F. Chase, Jr.
Mr. Thomas Cosgrove
Dr. Robert Denton, Jr.
Mr. Peter McPherson
Ms. Verndell Robinson

Dr. Leonard Haynes, III, stated that he is participating by electronic means from Silver Springs, Maryland, for medical reasons.

General Via stated that he is participating by electronic means from McLean, VA., for personal reasons.

Dr. Harold Green, Jr., stated that he is participating by electronic means from Midlothian, VA., for medical reasons.

Mr. Robert Thompson stated that he is participating by electronic means due to personal reasons.

LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT:

Mr. Nathan Mobley, Office of the Attorney General

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President
Dr. Tia Minnis, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Mr. Kevin Davenport, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration/CFO
Ms. Shawri King-Casey, Vice President for Institutional Integrity and Compliance

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025
Page 2**

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

INVOCATION

Rector Brown invited Dr. Joseph A.F. Chase, Jr. to offer the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Rector Brown called for approval of the agenda. The motion to approve the agenda was made and properly seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The Rector called for the approval of the previous minutes from the September 12, 2024 meeting. A motion was made and properly seconded, and it passed by voice vote.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Abdullah thanked the Board of Visitors who were able to attend the Annual Founder's Day observance. He acknowledged the Founder's Day speaker, Dr. Pamela Hammond, who served as the Interim President before Dr. Abdullah was appointed. President Abdullah addressed the Board about the memo from the Secretary of Education of Virginia re: a memo from the federal Secretary of Education. The President referenced the speech by Alfred W. Harris read to the House of Delegates to help establish Virginia State University in 1882. Virginia State University (VSU) was established in that time frame but was always established where it was not discriminatory. VSU was the first public institution in the Commonwealth of Virginia that was coed, and, of course, it was the first public institution to admit African Americans. VSU's history of nondiscriminatory practices is long and deep, and that it is very much reflected in the policies and procedures of what happens here at VSU. Any student that applies for admission to VSU, if they meet the admissions requirements, is admitted and any student that meets a scholarship requirement at VSU would receive a scholarship. The President stated that we have combed through all of our policies and procedures, and we see nothing that is of a discriminatory nature. He gave a brief overview on federal and state grants awarded to VSU, the status of admissions and scholarships programs, affinity programming which celebrate contributions of Americans, and campus organizations. VSU will remain vigilant to ensure that our current status remains our future status; we are proud to have been founded on the principles of non-discrimination behavior.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Rector reviewed the VSU Board's nomination process. Mr. Branch, Vice Rector, presented the nominations received for 2025-2026 officer positions: Rector, Vice Rector, Committee Chairs, and Board liaisons and stated there is an opening for Board Secretary.

Executive Committee Meeting**March 20, 2025****Page 3**

Executive Committee Recommendations	
Office/ Position	Board Member
Rector	Mr. Victor Branch
Vice-Rector	Mr. Dennis Via
Secretary	Ms. Verndell Robinson
Chair, Academic and Student Affairs	Dr. Leonard Haynes, III
Chair, Audit and Compliance	Mr. Jon Moore
Chair, Facilities and Finance	Ms. Daphne Meeks
Chair, Institutional Advancement	Mr. Edward Owens
Chair, Personnel, Comp., and Governance	Mr. Peter McPherson
Liaison, VSU Real Estate Foundation	Dr. Joseph A. F. Chase, Jr.
Liaison, VSU Foundation	Dr. Joseph A. F. Chase, Jr.

There were no concerns or questions regarding the slate of recommended officers/chairs. This will be submitted to the Full Board at its April 2025 meeting. At that time, anyone on the floor has the right to suggest another individual for a position on the full board.

Rector Brown asked for a motion to accept the slate of officers and recommendations for committee chairs and liaisons to be presented at the April Board meeting. Visitor Murray made the motion and Visitor Sessoms properly seconded the motion. The Committee passed the motion by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Rector Brown called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made, properly seconded, and passed by voice vote. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:47 PM.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date