

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS  
FULL BOARD MEETING  
2:00 p.m. Thursday, March 20, 2025  
Gateway Dining & Events Center  
(on the campus of Virginia State University)  
(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)  
DRAFT AGENDA**

**Rector Valerie K. Brown, D.M., Presiding**

CALL TO ORDER..... Rector Valerie K. Brown

ROLL CALL

INVOCATION

REMARKS

APPROVE OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: FEBRUARY 7, 2025

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

• **Approval Item:**

- Resolution for Approval of Tuition & Fees for Fiscal Year 2026 presented by Mr. Kevin Davenport, Senior Vice President, Finance & Administration/CFO

• **Informational Items:**

- President's Response to Secretary of Education Ms. Guidera's Letter to Public Higher Education Institutions

LEGAL COUNSEL UPDATE (IF ANY)

BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT OF ITS

PERFORMANCE ANNOUNCEMENT

ADJOURNMENT

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS  
FULL BOARD MEETING  
MARCH 20, 2025**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Rector Brown called the meeting of the Virginia State University (VSU) Board of Visitors (Board) to order in the Gateway Dining and Events Center on the Campus of Virginia State University at approximately 2:00 p.m. The Vice Rector informed the Board and others present that this meeting was being live-streamed per the Commonwealth of Virginia open meeting laws and conducted in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Rector also informed viewers how to contact the VSU Helpdesk if there was a technical interruption in the live stream.

**ROLL CALL**

A quorum was present.

***Board Members Present:***

Dr. Valerie Brown, *Rector*  
Mr. Victor Branch, *Vice Rector*  
Dr. Joseph A.F. Chase, Jr.  
Mr. Thomas Cosgrove  
Dr. Robert Denton, Jr.  
Dr. Leonard Haynes, III (*Virtual*)  
Mr. Peter McPherson  
Dr. Harold Green (*Virtual*)  
Ms. Daphne Meeks  
Mr. Jon Moore  
Ms. Verndell Robinson  
Mr. Robert Thompson (*Virtual*)  
Mr. Edward Owens  
Mr. Kishore Thota  
General Dennis L. Via (*Virtual*)

Dr. Leonard Haynes, III, stated that he is participating electronically from Silver Springs, Maryland, for medical reasons. General Via stated that he is participating electronically from McLean, VA., for personal reasons. Dr. Harold Green, Jr., stated that he is participating electronically from Midlothian, VA., for medical reasons. Mr. Robert Thompson stated that he is participating by electronic means due to personal reasons.

***Board Appointments:***

Dr. Tracy Jackson, Faculty Representative (*Virtual*)  
Mr. Yousif Omer, Student Representative

***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 & Administration/CFO  
Ms. Shawri King-Casey, Vice President for Institutional Integrity & Compliance

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Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment  
Mgmt.

Dr. Annie Redd, Chief of Staff/Director, Board Operations and Relations.

**Legal Counsel**

Mr. Nathan Moberly, Office of the Attorney General

**INVOCATION**

The Rector asked Chair Joseph A. Chase, Jr. to offer the invocation.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion to approve agenda with an amendment to alter the location of Rector's remarks. The motion was seconded by approved by a unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The Vice Rector stated that approval of the previous minutes from February 8, 2024, Full Board Meeting, would be tabled until the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

President Abdullah made no remarks.

**REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Kevin Davenport indicated that the proposal to raise tuition and fees for 2025-2026 had been presented at the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, and it was on the table now for approval. The proposal was for 3% increase in tuition and fees, and all other costs by 5%, which include room and board plus the comp fee.

Rector Brown congratulated VSU on its 143rd Founders Day, which was celebrated on March 20, 2025. In addition, Rector Brown expressed gratitude to the BOV members who attended the ceremony earlier in the day. She was very pleased with the ceremony and moved by the reenactment of a speech given by Alfred William Harris, our founder. Rector Brown asked that the Board indulge her in taking this opportunity to read the speech by Mr. Harris as he stood in front of the General Assembly in 1882. It was his response after another senator wanted to kill the bill to not have Virginia State come into existence nor get appropriations. After further comments, Rector Brown asked the Board to consider the proposal for 3% increase as requested by the administration.

After discussion, Rector Brown presented the Resolution for Approval of Tuition & Fees for Fiscal Year 2026. The motion to accept was moved and properly seconded. The vote was taken by roll call vote and passed unanimously in favor of the increases.

Vice-Rector Branch reminded board members to complete the President's Performance Evaluation, which has been sent out to them. The Board will discuss the results of the evaluation with the President at the April 25<sup>th</sup> Full Board meeting.

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### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Rector Brown called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was received, and properly seconded, and the Committee voted by voice vote. The Rector Brown adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:16 PM.

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Valerie Brown, Rector

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Kishore Thota, Secretary

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Date

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Date

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS  
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE  
TUITION AND FEES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2025 – 2026**

**March 20, 2025**

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Code § 23.1-1301(A)(5) grants to the Virginia State University Board of Visitors (“Board of Visitors”) the authority to “fix the rates charged to students for tuition, mandatory fees, and other necessary charges;” and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Code § 23.1-307(A) further directs the Board of Visitors to “fix, revise, charge, and collect tuition, fees, rates, rentals, and other charges for the services, goods, or facilities furnished by or on behalf of such institution and may adopt policies regarding any such service rendered or the use, occupancy, operation of any such facility;” and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Virginia Code § 23.1-307(D), if the Board of Visitors contemplates an increase to undergraduate tuition and/or mandatory fees, then the projected range of the planned increase and an explanation of the need for the increase must be provided to students and the public at least 30 days prior to the Board of Visitors voting on a resolution concerning the same; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Virginia Code § 23.1-307(E), prior to voting on a resolution to increase undergraduate tuition and/or mandatory fees, the Board of Visitors must permit public comment on the proposed increase at a meeting as defined in Virginia Code § 2.2-3701 and must establish policies for such public comment, which may include reasonable time limitations; and,

**WHEREAS**, the students and public were properly notified and the Board of Visitors held a public meeting to take comments from the students and community at large on February 6, 2025, in accordance with the aforementioned statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Visitors considered the proposed schedule of tuition, room, board, comprehensive, and miscellaneous fees, identified in the attached Schedules A, B, C, D and E; and,

**WHEREAS**, the rates set for tuition, room, board, comprehensive, and miscellaneous fees, together with administrative actions to control costs, are intended to provide adequate coverage for basic instructional activities, related administrative support, other program and operating costs, and adequate debt service reserves for past and future construction projects utilizing bond funds; and,

**WHEREAS**, having satisfied the requisite provisions of the Virginia Code, the attachments identified as Schedules A, B, C, D, E, which contain the 2025-2026 tuition, fee, comprehensive, miscellaneous and room and board recommendations, are hereby presented to the Board of Visitors University for approval; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Board of Visitors approves the tuition, room, board, comprehensive, mandatory and miscellaneous fees, listed on Schedules A, B, C, D, and E, to be charged to students during the 2025-2026 academic year; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, the President of the University (“President”), by and through the Board of Visitors’ delegation authority, shall monitor any subsequent actions of the Virginia General Assembly between the passing of this resolution and the beginning of Fiscal Year 2026 for legislative impacts on funding and tuition and fee policy; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, the President shall implement such changes required by legislation in a timely manner, and shall report those actions to the Board of Visitors at its next regularly scheduled meeting; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, the President, by and through the Board of Visitors' delegation authority, shall establish miscellaneous fees for items not listed in Schedule D, in response to emerging needs and changing circumstances.

Valerie K. Brown  
Valerie K. Brown, Rector  
3/20/25  
Date

Kishore Thota  
Kishore Thota, Secretary  
3/20/25  
Date