

September 16-17, 2021 Board of Visitors Meeting & Executive Committee

9/17/2021 12:00:00 AM 01:00 PM



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Makola M. Abdullah, Ph.D.
President

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Virginia State University Board of Visitors

FROM: Makola M. Abdullah, Ph.D., President

SUBJECT: Materials for the September 16-17, 2021 Board of Visitors Meetings

DATE: September 1, 2021

Enclosed in the Board Books, you will find reports and materials for your review in preparation for the September 16-17, 2021 meetings of the Virginia State University Board of Visitors. The book titled “Board of Visitors” contains general information such as a list of Board committees, the schedule of committee/board meetings, and the agenda for the Full Board meeting.

Diligent also contains individual Books of meeting materials for each committee: Academic & Student Affairs; Institutional Advancement; Personnel, Compensation & Governance; and the Facilities, Finance & Audit Committee.

Hotel accommodations are available at the Hilton Garden Inn Richmond, South located at 800 Southpark Boulevard, Colonial Heights, VA 23834, telephone number (804) 520-0600. Reserved parking on campus for Board members will be available in the lot adjacent to the Gateway Dining and Event Center.

We look forward to seeing you on September 16-17, 2021. Please contact Dr. Annie C. Redd at 804/524-3340 or aredd@vsu.edu with questions or if you need clarification.

MMA:acr

2021-2022 Board Committees

8.27.21

Academic and Student Affairs

Ms. Pamela Currey, Chair

Dr. Christine Darden

Mr. Charlie Hill

Mr. Edward Owens

Mr. Xavier Richardson

Mr. Glenn Sessoms

Dr. Valerie Brown, Rector (ex-officio)

Dr. Ceslav Ciobanu (*Faculty Representative*)

Mr. Kameron Gray (*SGA Representative*)

Personnel, Compensation & Governance

Mr. Raul Herrera, Chair

Ms. Thursa Crittenden

Mr. Michael Flemming

Ms. Shavonne Gordon

Mr. Jon Moore

Mr. Xavier Richardson

Mr. Wayne Turnage

Dr. Valerie Brown, Rector (ex-officio)

Facilities, Finance and Audit

Mr. James Stegmaier, Chair

Mr. Charlie Hill

Mr. Raul Herrera

Mr. Michael Flemming

Mr. Jon Moore

Mr. William Murray

Mr. Wayne Turnage

Dr. Valerie Brown, Rector (ex-officio)

Institutional Advancement

Ms. Shavonne Gordon, Chair

Ms. Thursa Crittenden

Ms. Pamela Currey

Dr. Christine Darden

Mr. William Murray

Mr. Edward Owens

Mr. Glenn Sessoms

Ms. Brenda Stith-Finch

(Chair, VSU Foundation)

Dr. Valerie K. Brown, Rector (ex-officio)

Executive Committee

Dr. Valerie Brown, Rector

Mr. Glenn Sessoms, Vice Rector

Dr. Christine Darden, Secretary

Mr. James Stegmaier, Chair

Ms. Pamela Currey, Chair

Ms. Shavonne Gordon, Chair

Mr. Raul Herrera, Chair

VSU Foundation Liaison

Vacant

VSU Real Estate Foundation Liaison

Mr. William Murray

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

4:00 P.M.

(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)

DRAFT AGENDA

(as of 9.8.21)

CALL TO ORDER Rector Valerie K. Brown, Chair

ROLL CALL

INVOCATION

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES (if any)

- Draft Executive Committee Minutes 3.18.21

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS Dr. Makola M. Abdullah

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Resolution of Exemplary Service for Huron F. Winstead
- Resolution of Exemplary Service for Gregory A. Whirley

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

***All start times for committees are approximate. Meetings may begin either before or after the posted approximate start time as committee members are ready to proceed. Meetings may also end either before or after the posted time. The Board reserves the right to change its schedule as needed.*

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
DRAFT ELECTRONIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Huron Winstead, Rector and Committee Chair, called the meeting of the Executive Committee to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held via Cisco WebEx and livestreamed to the public via Live Events at vsu.edu.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present.

Executive Committee Members Present:

Mr. Huron F. Winstead, Rector
Mr. Charlie W. Hill, Vice Rector
Ms. Thursa Crittenden, Secretary
Dr. Valerie Brown
Ms. Pamela A. Currey
Dr. Christine M. Darden
Mr. Xavier Richardson
Mr. Glenn Sessoms

Other Board Members:

Mr. Michael Flemming (*absent*)
Ms. Shavonne Gordon
Mr. Raul Herrera
Mr. William L. Murray (*absent*)
Mr. James J.L. Stegmaier (*absent*)
Mr. Wayne Turnage (*absent*)
Mr. Gregory Whirley

Administration Present:

Dr. Makola Abdullah, President
Dr. Donald Palm, Provost/Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Robert Corley, Director, VSU COVID-19 Response
Hubert Harris, Chief of Staff
Eldon Burton, Director of Government Relations
Shawri King-Casey, Senior Advisor to President for Ethics, Equity, & Compliance
Dr. Annie C. Redd, Special Assistant to the President/Board Liaison

Legal Counsel Present:

Deborah A. Love, Senior Assistant Attorney General and Chief

Other Attendees:

Travis Edmonds, Information Technology
Yourdonus James, Office of Conference Services

OPENING REMARKS

Rector Winstead invited Dr. Robert Corley to offer the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Committee approved the agenda by roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The Committee approved the minutes from the May 21, 2020, with a revision on page 3. The minutes were approved with the revision by roll call vote.

RECTOR'S REMARKS

None.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Abdullah introduced Dr. Robert Corley who gave an update on the VSU Covid-19 status. The Covid-19 Response Team provides weekly updates on Covid-19 projects and initiatives, reviews and refines established policies and procedures, and monitors the University dashboard to make informed decisions about the campus community. Dr. Corley also shared updated statistics on the Commonwealth Covid-19 data and the vaccination clinics established at the VSU Multi-purpose Center and operated by the Crater Road Health District (Petersburg, VA) and the state of Virginia. President Abdullah stated that VSU is very proud to be able to assist the community.

President Abdullah stated that there has been a new law passed by the General Assembly that covers Board of Visitors transparency. VSU is currently practicing the regulations outlined in the bill and the staff is studying the bill to determine what impact, if any, the new bill will have on the VSU Board.

The President introduced a new member of the leadership team--Ms. Shawri King-Casey, Special Advisor to the President for Equity, Ethics, & Compliance.

NOMINATION OF 2021-2023 BOARD OFFICERS

Rector Winstead opened the discussion for nominations of 2021-2023 Board officers. Vice Rector Hill stated that he and the Rector reviewed the list of nominations and agreed upon the slate to be presented to the Executive Committee. Vice Rector Hill presented the following slate of officers for 2021-2023 Board officers and stated that it was developed with the purpose of addressing concerns expressed by Board members individually and as a group and primarily driven by comments he had received.

- James Stegmaier, Rector
- Valerie Brown, Vice Rector
- Christine Darden, Secretary
- Pamela Currey, Chair, Academic & Student Affairs Committee
- Gregory Whirley, Chair, Facilities, Finance & Audit Committee
- Shavonne Gordon, Chair, Institutional Advancement Committee
- Glenn Sessoms, Chair, Personnel, Compensation & Governance Committee
- William Murray, Liaison, Real Estate Foundation
- Raul Herrera, Liaison, VSU Foundation

Rector Winstead called for questions regarding the slate as presented. A Visitor expressed thoughts that the Board was letting go of institutional history and talent by not allowing current officers with one more year in their terms to continue to serve. Committee members discussed the decision process for compiling the slate and expressed concern that several board members had abstained from making nominations and asked for clarification on how the slate was developed for positions with the same number of nominations. A Visitor suggested that the Executive Committee address the issue of members abstaining from the nomination process with the full Board. A Visitor suggested that the Executive Committee also consider establishing a practice or policy to make decisions when there is a tie in nominations for one or more positions. Rector Winstead responded that this forum is the Executive Committee's opportunity to review and critique the slate presented by the Vice Rector. This is a slate compiled by the Vice Rector from the nominations of the Board.

At the request of a Visitor, Vice Rector Hill identified the positions which had a tie in nominations, which were Rector and Chair, Facilities, Finance & Audit. Discussion followed with committee members commenting on the nominations for these positions and suggesting adjustments to the recommended slate. The discussion also included questions to clarify the purpose of this Executive Committee meeting and suggestions to establish a practice or clear guidelines for the Executive Committee to develop the slate of officers in the future. The Rector stated that the process is outlined in the Board Bylaws; the Vice Rector developed the slate, shared it with him, and then the slate was presented to the Executive Committee for consideration. The slate is not a concrete slate. The Executive Committee now has the opportunity to review and exact its opinion about the slate. Whatever slate is developed today by the Executive Committee will be presented to the full Board at the Annual Meeting, and board members will have an opportunity to make nominations for each position from the floor.

Following the discussion, Vice Rector Hill offered a motion to accept the slate of officers as submitted. The motion was properly seconded by Visitor Richardson. The Committee voted by roll call; the motion failed with 3 votes-Yes, 4 votes-No.

The Committee reviewed the list of nominations for each position. Visitor Currey offered a motion to accept a revised slate of officers.

- Valerie Brown, Rector
- Glenn Sessoms, Vice Rector
- Christine Darden, Secretary
- Pamela Currey, Chair, Academic & Student Affairs Committee
- James Stegmaier, Chair, Facilities, Finance & Audit Committee
- Shavonne Gordon, Chair, Institutional Advancement Committee
- Raul Herrera, Chair, Personnel, Compensation & Governance Committee
- William Murray, Liaison, Real Estate Foundation
- Gregory Whirley, Liaison, VSU Foundation

The motion was properly seconded by Dr. Brown and passed by roll call vote with 5 votes-Yes, 2 votes-No. The Rector stated that this revised slate would be presented to the full Board for approval. The

Rector thanked Committee members for their participation, candor, and interest. The Rector also thanked Mr. Hill for his efforts.

REAFFIRMATION OF BOARD DOCUMENTS

The Rector asked for a motion for reaffirmation of board documents--Board Bylaws, Code of Ethics, Statement of Governance, and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Rights and Responsibilities. A motion was made to recommend reaffirmation of all documents to the full Board at the Annual Meeting. The motion unanimously passed by roll call vote.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2021-2022

The Executive Committee reviewed the proposed Board meeting schedule for 2021-2022 (August 5-6, 2021; September 16-17, 2021; November 18-19, 2021; February 3-4, 2022; and April 21-22, 2022). A motion was made to recommend approval to the full Board. The motion unanimously passed by roll call vote.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Chair Sessoms reminded the Committee of the President’s Performance Evaluation process which is in progress. Regarding the Committee’s agenda for next year, the plan is to move forward with an Equity Study and a Climate Survey as soon as possible. In addition, the Committee is recommending a workshop on board assessment through the Association of Governing Board (AGB) to be held at the August 2021 Board Retreat. The University will provide financial support for the AGB workshop.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Rector adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Huron Winstead, Rector

Thursa D. Crittenden, Secretary

Date

Date

RESOLUTION OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE
Demonstrated by

Mr. Huron F. Winstead

Member, Board of Visitors
Virginia State University

WHEREAS, Huron F. Winstead was appointed to the Virginia State University Board of Visitors by The Honorable Bob McDonnell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, in July 2013; and

WHEREAS, he served on the Virginia State University Board of Visitors with distinction for eight years, and owing to his broad knowledge and expertise in entrepreneurship, management, and business, he served as a member and later Chair of the Executive Committee; member, Executive Committee; member, Personnel, Compensation & Governance Committee; and member, Facilities, Finance & Audit Committee;

WHEREAS, he served as Rector of the Board from 2018 to 2021, with an exemplary commitment to the integrity of board procedures and facilitated a high level of interest, involvement, and activity among the Board members; and

WHEREAS, he demonstrated model service to the Commonwealth of Virginia and higher education; and

WHEREAS, his generous and enthusiastic support of Virginia State University, its students, faculty, administration and staff are testaments of his sincere dedication to the welfare of his alma mater; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Virginia State University Board of Visitors acknowledges Huron F. Winstead for his loyal and dedicated service to the University and the Commonwealth of Virginia and publicly and officially gives recognition and expresses appreciation to him by adopting this and directing that it becomes a permanent record of its proceedings as of the 16th day of September 2021; and be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Board present to Huron F. Winstead this Resolution as an expression of the high esteem accorded to him by this body, the Commonwealth of Virginia, faculty, staff, and students, alumni and friends of Virginia State University; and be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, that a copy of this Resolution be encased and maintained permanently in the Archives of the University.

Valerie K. Brown, Rector

Dr. Christine M. Darden, Secretary

Date

Date

RESOLUTION OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE

Demonstrated by

Mr. Gregory A. Whirley

Member, Board of Visitors
Virginia State University

WHEREAS, Mr. Gregory A. Whirley was appointed to the Virginia State University Board of Visitors by The Honorable Terry McAuliffe, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, in July 2017; and

WHEREAS, he served on the Virginia State University Board of Visitors with distinction for four years, and owing to his broad knowledge as a certified public accountant and business acumen he served as a member of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee, and the Facilities, Finance & Audit Committee;

WHEREAS, he demonstrated model service to the Commonwealth of Virginia and higher education; and

WHEREAS, his generous and enthusiastic support of Virginia State University, its students, faculty, administration and staff are testaments of his sincere dedication to the welfare of his alma mater; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Virginia State University Board of Visitors acknowledges Gregory A. Whirley for his loyal and dedicated service to the University and the Commonwealth of Virginia and publicly and officially gives recognition and expresses appreciation to him by adopting this Resolution and directing that it becomes a permanent record of its proceedings as of the 16th day of September 2021; and be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Secretary of the Board of Visitors presents to Gregory A. Whirley this Resolution as an expression of the high esteem accorded to him by this body, the Commonwealth of Virginia, faculty, staff, and students, alumni and friends of Virginia State University; and be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, that a copy of this Resolution be encased and maintained permanently in the Archives of the University.

Valerie K. Brown, Rector

Dr. Christine M. Darden, Secretary

Date

Date

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
FULL BOARD MEETING**

Friday, September 17, 2021

*Gateway Dining & Event Center, Second floor salons
2804 S. Martin L. King, Jr. Blvd (on the campus of Virginia State University)*

DRAFT AGENDA

(as of 9.9.21)

1:00 p.m.

FULL BOARD MEETING CONVENED

(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Rector Valerie K. Brown, Presiding

- Roll Call (*Dr. Christine Darden, Board Secretary*)
- Invocation (*Pastor Jasmyn Graham*)
- Approval of Agenda
- Rector's Remarks
- President's Remarks Dr. Makola M. Abdullah

CLOSED SESSION(S)

- Discussion of the President's Compensation Package
- Discussion of Personnel Issue(s)

(Break 15 minutes)

BOARD APPROVALS

- Full Board Meeting Minutes, August 5, 2021
- New Board Member Orientation, August 5, 2021
- Board Annual Retreat/Workshop Minutes, August 6, 2021

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Executive Committee**
 - **Report of Actions taken by the Executive Committee**
 - Resolution for Exemplary Service to Huron F. Winstead
 - Resolution for Exemplary Service to Gregory A. Whirley
- **Facilities, Finance & Audit Committee**
 - **Information Item:**
 - Summary of Updates the Division of Finance, Internal Audit, Technology Services
- **Academic & Student Affairs Committee**
 - **Approval Item:**
 - Resolution for Approval of the Six-Year Plan
 - Summary of Updates from Enrollment Management, Academic & Student Affairs Division

FULL BOARD MEETING
Friday, September 17, 2021
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COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

- **Academic & Student Affairs Committee**
 - **Information Item:**
 - Reports from the Faculty and Student Representatives
 - Dr. Ceslav Ciobanu, Faculty Representative
 - Mr. Kameron Gray, Student Representative
 - Remarks from the Staff Senate
 - Ms. Fran Y. Thomas, Chair

(Break 15 minutes)

- **Institutional Advancement Committee**
 - **Information Item:**
 - Summary of Updates (Government Relations, Office of Institutional Advancement)
- **Personnel, Compensation & Governance Committee**
 - **Information Item(s):**
 - Board Matrix Update
 - Summary of Updates (Human Resources)

Report of Affiliated Foundation(s)

- Ms. Brenda Stith-Finch, Chair, VSU Foundation Board

Legal Counsel Update (if any)

Announcements

Adjournment

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

August 5, 2021

*The Full Board Meeting was held on the 2nd floor of the Gateway Dining Events Center
Salon A, on the campus of Virginia State University*

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Valerie Brown, Rector, called the meeting of the Virginia State University (VSU) Board of Visitors (Board) to order in Salon A of the Gateway Dining and Events Center at approximately 1:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present.

Board Members Present:

Dr. Valerie Brown, Rector
Mr. Glenn D. Sessoms, Vice Rector
Dr. Christine M. Darden, Secretary
Ms. Thursa Crittenden
Ms. Pamela A. Currey
Mr. Michael Flemming (*absent*)
Ms. Shavonne Gordon
Mr. Raul Herrera
Mr. Charlie W. Hill (*electronic communication*)
Mr. Jon Moore
Mr. William L. Murray
Mr. Edward Owens
Mr. Xavier Richardson (*absent*)
Mr. James J.L. Stegmaier (*electronic communication*)
Mr. Wayne Turnage (*arrived at 1:58 p.m.*)
Dr. Ceslav Ciobanu, Faculty Representative to the Board
Mr. Eric Timms, (*sat in for Kameron Gray, Student Representative to the Board*)

Administration Present:

Dr. Makola Abdullah, President
Dr. Donald Palm, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Annie C. Redd, Special Assistant to the President/Board Liaison
Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Asst. Vice Provost/Enrollment Management
Jane Harris, Asst. Vice President, Facilities/Capital Outlay
Hubert Harris, Chief of Staff
Sheila Alves, Chief Audit Executive, Internal Audit
Dr. Gwendolyn Dandridge, Director, Communications
Eldon Burton, Director of Government Relations

Legal Counsel Present:

Deborah A. Love, Senior Assistant Attorney General and Chief
Cynthia Norwood, Assistant State Attorney General

Other Attendees:

Travis Edmonds, Information Technology
Yourdonus James, Office of Conference Services
Ben Houck, Finance
Danette Johnson, President's Office
Debbie Jefferson, President's Office
Travis Edmonds, IT Security

The following Board members participated by electronic means from remote locations identified below. The Board members participated by Cisco WebEx virtual meeting.

- Mr. Hill located in Hampton, VA; unable to attend due to medical reasons.
- Mr. Stegmaier located in North Chesterfield, VA; unable to attend due to medical reasons.

Rector Brown invited Pastor Jasmyn Graham, Director of Campus Ministries, to offer the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board approved the agenda with a roll call vote.

RECTOR'S REMARKS

Rector Brown thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as Rector and for its support. She acknowledged that the Board accomplished a lot under the leadership of the immediate past Rector, Huron F. Winstead, and she is looking forward to working with the members to continue to do great things together as a team.

Rector Brown also welcomed the new Board members, Mr. Jon Moore and Mr. Edward Owens. The Board has spent a lot of time and attention on the current operational challenges, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact on students and financial reserves. The Rector indicated that she was pleased to say that the situations are getting better, but recognizes that the pandemic and its impact on the University are not over. Due to substantial cash influx from federal funds, state funds, and institutional advancement, we now have some assurance in terms of our financial stability. The Board can now be proactive and help move the University vision forward, focus on strategic planning and processes, and allow the President and his team to manage the day to day operations.

The Rector requested board members to review the 2020-2025 strategic plan and committee chairs and VSU staff to identify those items that specifically impact their respective committees and assess the goals that we have achieved. If there are goals we have not achieved, we should have those discussions at the committee meetings so that we can make sure we are on the right

path to achieve the goals. The Rector also reminded everyone that the branding of Virginia State University is the result of collective and individual efforts; every Board member's talents, skills, perspectives, and experiences can come together to continue to move the University forward in its vision and mission.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Abdullah thanked Rector Brown for her remarks and acknowledged Mr. Sessoms, Vice Rector, and Dr. Darden, Board Secretary, for their commitment and as new officers of the Board. The President addressed biggest challenges, opportunities, communications, and government relations. He announced that the administration is considering mandating the vaccine and explained his concerns that we do it in a way that promotes equity for the institution and allow students we serve to come to campus for the vaccine. The President shared expectations about Fall enrollment numbers which may be flat and/or possibly overall slightly below 4,000 students. The President indicated that our biggest opportunity is our current funding situation (capital funding, operational funding, COVID federal funding, auxiliary reserves, educational & general reserves, and fundraising). He also shared the challenges of the infrastructure and asked for patience as staff is working on multiple priorities at the same time.

CLOSED SESSION

The Rector convened a closed session at 2:16 p.m. pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) of the Code of Virginia for consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultant pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. More specifically, discussion and update about National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) matching funds. The motion called for President Makola Abdullah; Kevin Davenport, VP for Finance/CFO; Sheila Alves, Chief Audit Executive; Deborah Love, Senior Asst. Attorney General & Chief, Education Division; Cynthia Norwood, Asst. Attorney General; Dr. Annie C. Redd, Board Liaison, Shawri King-Casey, Senior Advisor to the President for IEEC; and Benjamin Houck, Special Asst. to VP/CFO, to attend the closed meeting because (1) their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary; and or their presence would aid the Board in its consideration of this matter.

The Committee convened a closed session at 2:16 p.m. pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia to discuss personnel matters, specifically discussion of the President's compensation package. The motion called for President Makola M. Abdullah; Deborah Love, Senior Assistant Attorney General & Chief, Education Division; Cynthia Norwood, Asst. Attorney General; and Dr. Annie C. Redd, Board Liaison, to attend the closed meeting because (1) their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary; and or their presence would aid the Board in its consideration of this matter.

The Board re-convened in opened session at 3:35 p.m. with a roll call that the Committee discussed or considered only those public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motions by which the closed meeting was convened.

BOARD APPROVALS

Action on the agenda for the August 5, 2021 meeting (APPROVED). The motion was properly seconded and unanimously approved by roll call vote. Mr. Flemming, Mr. Richardson, and Mr. Turnage were not present for the vote.

Action on the acceptance of the President's compensation package and authorizing the Rector to execute documents or any contractual amendments in according with the compensation package (APPROVED). The motion was properly seconded and unanimously approved by voice vote. Mr. Flemming and Mr. Richardson were not present for the vote.

Action on the minutes from the April 23, 2021 Full Board meeting (APPROVED). The motion was properly seconded and unanimously approved by voice vote. Mr. Flemming and Mr. Richardson were not present for the vote.

Action on the resolution to approve Naming a Classroom in the ROTC Building in honor of Dr. Jona McKee (APPROVED). The motion was properly seconded and unanimously approved by voice vote. Mr. Flemming and Mr. Richardson were not present for the vote.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

President Abdullah presented the resolution to approve naming a classroom in the ROTC Building in honor of Dr. Jona McKee. The University will dedicate the classroom at the first campus football game on September 4, 2021.

Dr. Donald Palm shared the fall 2021 campus re-opening plan and COVID-19 Team Update focusing on the Team's charge to 1) efficiently address all COVID-19 safety issues and concerns; 2) monitor the University COVID-19 dashboard to make informed decisions for the campus community; 3) provide recommendations to the President's Cabinet to resolve major COVID-19 safety issues and concerns; 4) review and refine established policies and procedures to protect the campus community against COVID-19; 5) coordinate weekly COVID-19 projects and initiatives, and 6) communicate information internally and externally on behalf of the University. VSU's approach aligns with the Center for Disease Control's key prevention strategies for IHE with a mixed population: mandatory testing, healthy environments, offering/promoting vaccination, mandatory mask etiquette, handwashing, contact tracing, health operations, isolation/quarantine, physical distancing. In addition, VSU will require mandatory testing, entry testing, surveillance testing, mental health awareness and support, vaccination promotion/incentive strategy, continuity of care with isolation and quarantine facilities, and monthly vaccination clinics beginning in August.

Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Interim Asst. Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, presented overviews on the restructuring of Enrollment Management. The department now includes

- Academic Center for Excellence (academic advisement, strategic learning)
- Department of Admissions (orientation, VCAN, and separate directors for undergraduate students, graduate students, and transfer students)
- Department of Financial Aid

Dr. Brooks-Walter shared freshman and graduate enrollment comparison reports. Dr. Brooks-Walter announced that we have awarded 281 new freshmen and 31 returning students through the Virginia College Access Network (VCAN) program. Discussion followed regarding possible reasons for drop in numbers (compared to fall 2020), systems and management of applications, and importance of students' understanding how they can pay for college.

Dr. Brooks-Walter shared the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan which include goals, target population, and strategies in four areas: recruitment, onboarding, retention, and completion. New recruitment strategies include partnerships with companies which have recruiting services and methods with a large global reach, Fort Lee, and area high schools. To assist with retention, the University now has six living learning communities (computer engineering and manufacturing engineering, computer science, education, honors, 1st generation, and medical school) for students to live and study together with other students who have similar interests.

Ms. Jane Harris, Asst. Vice President for Capital Outlay/Facilities, presented an overview of facilities and capital project updates. The target occupancy date for the \$108M Academic Commons building is Summer 2024; the \$21M Admissions Building, Spring 2024; and the MT Carter Annex, Spring 2023. An \$8.3M project to improve infrastructure for safety, security, energy, and reliability has a target completion date of fall 2023. The project includes perimeter fencing at south gate, additional guard stations at Martin Luther King Drive and north gate, exterior and interior surveillance camera replacements, additional card reader systems, exterior LED lighting fixtures, boiler plant and steam system improvements. An \$11.4M project to improve and replace technology infrastructure has a completion date of Spring 2024. VSU also has a \$33.9M project to improve heating, air conditioning and ventilation campus wide for infectious aerosol control. Ms. Harris also shared the University's 2022-2024 biennium capital requests which total \$210M.

Legal Counsel did not have any legal updates.

Rector Brown announced that the 2021 Retreat scheduled for August 6th has been approved by SCHEV to meet the requirement for continuing education for Board members with 2 years or more service on the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Rector adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:45 p.m.

Dr. Valerie Brown, Rector

Dr. Christine M. Darden, Secretary

Date

Date

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
DRAFT NEW BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Valerie Brown, Rector, called the New Board Member Orientation session to order in the Gateway Dining and Event Center on the campus of Virginia State University at approximately 9:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members Present:

Dr. Valerie Brown, Rector
Mr. Glenn Sessoms, Vice Rector
Dr. Christine M. Darden, Board Secretary
Mr. William L. Murray
Mr. Jon Moore
Mr. Edward Owens
Dr. Ceslav Ciobanu, Faculty Representative to the Board

Board Members Not in Attendance:

Ms. Thursa Crittenden
Ms. Pamela Currey
Mr. Michael Flemming
Ms. Shavonne Gordon
Mr. Charlie W. Hill
Mr. Raul Herrera
Mr. Xavier Richardson
Mr. James J.L. Stegmaier
Mr. Wayne Turnage
Mr. Kameron Gray, Student Representative to the Board

Administration Present:

Dr. Makola Abdullah, President
Dr. Donald Palm, Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Mr. Kevin Davenport, Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Hubert Harris, Chief of Staff
Ms. Tonya Hall, Vice President for External Relations
Dr. Gwendolyn Dandridge, Director, Communications
Ms. Shawri King-Casey, Senior Advisor-Institutional Equity, Ethics, Compliance
Mr. David Bragg, Chief VSU Police Department/Asst. Vice President
Dr. Annie C. Redd, Special Assistant to the President/Board Liaison

Legal Counsel Present:

Ms. Deborah Love, Senior Assistant Attorney General/ Chief
Ms. Cynthia Norwood, Assistant Attorney General

Other Attendees:

Ms. Yourdonus James, Director of Conference Services
Mr. Travis Edmonds, IT Security
Ms. Danette Johnson, Executive Assistant to the President
Ms. Deborah Jefferson, Office of the President

OPENING REMARKS

Rector Brown invited Pastor Jasmyn Graham, Director, Campus Ministries, to offer the invocation.

INTRODUCTIONS

The Rector then introduced and welcomed new Board members: Mr. Jon Moore and Mr. Edward Owens. The Rector gave the new members an opportunity to introduce themselves and to offer a few remarks.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Ms. Cynthia Norwood presented the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and outlined the rights and responsibilities of Board members and the University administration.

BOARD DOCUMENTS-COMMITTEE STRUCTURE/FUNCTIONS/MEMBERSHIP

Rector Brown provided an overview of the board documents, i.e., Board By-Laws, Statement of Governance, Code of Ethics, and the FOIA Rights and Responsibilities. Links to all Board documents were included in the welcome letter to new members sent in June 2021, and they are posted on the University's website. The Rector also reviewed the purpose/functions of the four standing committees, which is located in the Board Bylaws. She encouraged the new members to carefully review all of the documents at their earliest convenience.

WELCOME

President Abdullah shared information about the University such as the history and mission statement, organizational structure, previous year enrollment data, SWOT analysis, and University highlights. Members of the VSU Leadership Team were present and introduced themselves to the new Board members.

ADJOURNMENT

The Rector adjourned the session at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Valerie K. Brown, Rector

Christine Darden, Secretary

Date

Date

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
DRAFT BOARD RETREAT MINUTES
August 6, 2021**

*The Retreat was held on the 2nd floor of the Gateway Dining Events Center
Salon A, on the campus of Virginia State University*

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Valerie Brown, Rector, opened the Virginia State University (VSU) Board of Visitors (Board) Retreat at approximately 10 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Dr. Valerie Brown, Rector
Mr. Glenn D. Sessoms, Vice Rector
Dr. Christine M. Darden, Secretary
Ms. Thursa Crittenden
Ms. Pamela A. Currey
Mr. Michael Flemming (*absent*)
Ms. Shavonne Gordon
Mr. Raul Herrera
Mr. Charlie W. Hill (*electronic communication*)
Mr. Jon Moore
Mr. William L. Murray
Mr. Edward Owens
Mr. Xavier Richardson (*absent*)
Mr. James J.L. Stegmaier (*electronic communication*)
Mr. Wayne Turnage (*absent*)
Dr. Ceslav Ciobanu, Faculty Representative to the Board

Administration Present:

Dr. Makola Abdullah, President
Dr. Annie C. Redd, Special Assistant to the President/Board Liaison
Hubert Harris, Chief of Staff

Legal Counsel Present:

Deborah A. Love, Senior Assistant Attorney General and Chief

Other Attendees:

Travis Edmonds, Information Technology
Yourdonus James, Office of Conference Services

The following Board members participated by electronic means via Cisco WebEx from remote locations: Mr. Hill located in Hampton, VA; unable to attend due to medical reasons; Mr. Stegmaier located in North Chesterfield, VA; unable to attend due to medical reasons.

BOARD RETREAT MINUTES

August 6, 2021

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Rector Brown invited Pastor Jasmyn Graham, Director of Campus Ministries, to offer the invocation. The Rector announced that SCHEV approved today’s retreat to meet the requirement for continuing education for board members with 2 or more years of service.

Rector Brown introduced Dr. Alvin Schexnider, AGB Senior Fellow and Senior Consultant, as the facilitator of the workshop on Board Assessment. Dr. Schexnider gave an overall view of the workshop’s schedule and proceeded according to the SCHEV-approved agenda.

Dr. Schexnider led a discussion on the following topics:

- A primer on board governance – anatomy of board governance, shared governance, fiduciary duties and responsibilities
- Higher education outlook – key public policy issues in higher education from AGB, key issues confronting HBCUs, life after the pandemic: food for thought
- Building a high performing board focusing on best practices, creating a board matrix, and board diversity and alumni representation,

Dr. Schexnider reviewed the results of the Board’s self-assessment survey taken by returning board members. In addition, Dr. Schexnider stated that the Board wanted several members of the VSU leadership team to take part in the Board’s assessment, and he shared those responses with the Board.

The workshop ended at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Dr. Valerie K. Brown, Rector

Dr. Christine M. Darden, Secretary

Date

Date

Virginia State University Foundation

September 17, 2021

Presented by
Brenda Stith Finch, Chair

VSU Foundation – Investment Portfolio Highlights

- Current market value of portfolio is \$23.8M (July 31, 2021) as compared to \$17.6M as of June 30, 2020
- Portfolio returns versus VSU Foundation policy benchmarks

	<u>1 Year</u>	<u>3 Years</u>	<u>5 Years</u>
Return Net of Fees	24.66%	10.88%	9.96%
Policy Benchmark	26.93%	10.95%	10.39%

As compared to Foundations under \$50 million, VSUF's portfolio performance is in the 25th percentile for 1 year, 3 year & 5 year timeframes.

- Current portfolio allocation as of July 31, 2021:

Equities	70.6%
Fixed Income	22.2%
Hedge Funds	5.0%
Cash	2.2%

The Equities allocation of 70.6% is between the median and the 25th percentile as compared to Foundations under \$50 million.

- Student scholarships & awards for the 2020/2021 academic year was \$565,992.

VSUF Support Relationships With VSU

Raytheon Technologies

- Served as a pass-through for grant funds for \$225,000 for project funding for the engineering school
- Presently on standby for additional \$150,000 grant proposal

National Science Foundation

- Co-managing funds for \$20,000 grant for Community Schools in Petersburg program sponsored by the Psychology Department

GENEDGE

- Managing funds for partnership between company and College of Engineering involving student research opportunities - \$50,000

Millennium Corporation

- Potential pass-through partnership for research and student internship opportunities in cyber security industry