

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
FULL BOARD MEETING
NOON, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2023
The Gateway Dining & Event Center
(on the campus of Virginia State University)
(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)

AGENDA

Rector Valerie K. Brown, Presiding

- Roll Call (*Ms. Pamela Currey, Secretary*)
- Invocation (*Pastor Seth, Director of Campus Ministries*)
- Rector's Remarks
- Approval of Agenda
- Board Approvals
 - Minutes from Previous Meetings:
 - *April 21, 2023 – Full Board Meeting Minutes*
 - *August 3, 2023 – New Member Orientation & Annual Retreat Session I*
 - *August 4, 2023 – New Member Orientation & Annual Retreat Session II*
- President's Remarks and Presentation..... Dr. Makola M. Abdullah
- Closed Session (*if any*)
- Committee Reports

Executive Committee

- **Information Items:**
Approval of Resolution of Exemplary Service for Retired Board Members:
Michael D. Flemming, Glenn D. Sessoms, Wayne Turnage

Academic & Student Affairs Committee

- **Action Item:** None
- **Information Item(s):**
 - Summary of Updates (the Division of Academic Affairs and the Division of Student Affairs)
 - Reports from the Faculty and Student Representatives
 - Dr. Leonard Githinji, Chair, Faculty Senate
 - Ms. Kailyn Haye, President, Student Government Association
 - Remarks from the Staff Senate
 - Ms. Fran Thomas, Chair

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Audit & Compliance Committee

- **Action Items:**
 - Internal Audit Plan, 2023-2024
 - Internal Audit Charter, 2023-2024
- **Information Item(s):**
 - Summary of Updates (Office of Institutional Integrity and Compliance and the Office of Internal Audit)

Institutional Advancement Committee

- **Action Item:** None
- **Information Item(s):**
 - Summary of Updates (Government Relations, Alumni Engagement, Institutional Advancement)

Facilities, Finance & Audit Committee

- **Approval Item:** None
- **Information Item(s):**
 - Summary of Updates (Division of Finance/Administration, Technology Services)

Personnel, Compensation & Governance Committee

- **Approval Item:** None
- **Information Item(s):**
 - Summary of Updates (Office of Human Resources)

- Report of Affiliated Foundation(s)
- Legal Counsel Update (if any)
- Board Self-Assessment of its Performance
- Announcements
- Adjournment

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MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Shavonne Gordon, Vice Rector, 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 12:10 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 Vice 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 (*absent*)
Ms. Shavonne Gordon, Vice Rector
Ms. Pamela A. Currey, Secretary
Mr. Victor Branch
Dr. Joseph A.F. Chase, Jr.
Mr. Thomas Cosgrove (*absent*)
Dr. Christine M. Darden, (*absent*)
Dr. Robert Denton, Jr.
Dr. Harold Green, Jr.
Dr. Leonard Haynes, III (*absent*)
Ms. Daphne Meeks
Mr. Jon Moore
Mr. William Murray
Mr. William Thota
Mr. Edward Owens (*electronic communication; joined at 12:30 p.m.*)
Dr. Leonard Githinji, Faculty Representative to the Board
Ms. Kailyn Haye, Student Representative to the Board

Due to medical reasons, Mr. Edward Owens participated in the meeting via electronic communications via Cisco WebEx from South Boston, VA 24592.

Administration Present:

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President
Dr. Tia Minnis, Interim Provost/Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs
Kevin Davenport, Senior Vice President for Finance & Administration/Chief Financial Officer
Shawri King-Casey, Vice President for Integrity & Compliance
Tonya Hall, Vice President for Advancement and External Engagement
Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Vice President for Student Affairs/Enrollment Management
Dr. Annie Redd, Chief of Staff/Director, Board Operations and Relations

Legal Counsel Present:

Cynthia Marquez, Senior Assistant Attorney General/Education Section Chief

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Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan, victory in the Labor Day Classic Giving Challenge with Norfolk State University, and the historic level reached in fundraising for a total of \$6.2 million for 2022.

President Abdullah addressed concerns about campus safety/security and the challenge of dealing with the anxiety levels of the campus community. He also discussed the VSU executive summary of the Six-Year Plan presented to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV). The Six-Year Plan will be made available to the Board for review and indicated that SCHEV requires approval by the Board before December 2023. Visitor Murray suggested that the Academic & Student Affairs Committee and the Facilities & Finance Committee hold a joint meeting to review the Six-Year Plan and take a joint recommendation for approval to the Full Board in November. The President concluded his presentation with introductions of Mr. and Miss Virginia State University and the Royal Court.

CLOSED SESSION

The Vice Rector requested a motion to enter Closed Session for discussion or consideration of information pursuant to 2.2-3711(A) relating to a personnel matter. Additional attendees included Cindy Marquez, Legal Counsel; President Makola Abdullah; Dr. Annie C. Redd; Dr. Tia Minnis, Interim Provost/VP; Senior VP Kevin Davenport; VP Tonya Hall; VP Alexis Brooks-Walter; Eldon Burton, AVP/Director, Government Relations; Dr. Gwen Dandridge, AVP/Director of Communications. The Vice Rector requested a motion to return to open Session. The motion was received, properly seconded, and approved by voice vote.

Upon returning to open Session, the Vice Rector called for a motion to certify the Closed Session, to certify that the Board discussed only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and only those public business matters identified in the motion convening the Board in closed Session. The motion was received, properly seconded, and the Board voted by roll call. Rector Brown, Dr. Darden, Mr. Cosgrove, and Dr. Haynes were not present for the vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee –

The Vice Rector reported that the Executive Committee met on Thursday, September 14, to consider approval of Resolutions for Exemplary Service to retiring board members: Mr. Michael Flemming, Mr. Glenn Sessoms, and Mr. Wayne Turnage. The Committee approved the Resolutions by roll call vote. The retired board members were honored at the Annual Board Recognition Dinner on Thursday, September 14, 2023.

Academic Affairs Committee-

Due to the absence of the Committee chair, Vice Rector Gordon reported information items presented at the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. There were no action items for approval. The Committee received a report from the Division of Global Leadership and Talent Development, which included two students who shared their study abroad experiences and involvement with the Honors College. Additionally, Dr. Tia Minnis gave updates on the goals of Academic Affairs, including degree completion and student success initiatives, current academic offerings, proposed new degree programs, and initiatives to address the impact of Artificial Intelligence on teaching and learning at VSU.

Dr. Curtis Coleman presented information on the fall 2023 projections for new students, reorganization of the Admissions Office to target special populations (military, international, and non-traditional), and initiatives to provide additional support to incoming students. Dr. Brooks-Walter presented information on the current admission requirements and discussed some housing challenges. Ms. Barnett-Tyler gave an update on the Generation Hope and U-Family Cohort programs for student parents. Chief Bragg reported the year-to-date

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Other Attendees:

Adrian Petway, Assoc. VP/Finance and Budget

Maurion Edwards, Chief Information Officer/Technology Services

Rodney Hall, Deputy Chief of Staff

Regina Barnett-Tyler, Assoc. Vice Provost/Student Success & Engagement

Dr. Gwendolyn Williams Dandridge, Asst. Vice President/Director, Communications

Eldon Burton, Asst. Vice President/Director of Government Relations

Kendra White, Office of Compliance

Joseph Lyons, Student Success & Engagement

Franklin Johnson-Norwood, Office of Institutional Advancement

Dr. Curtis Coleman, Executive Director of Admissions

Pastor Seth (Gooden) Ahmad-McQueen, Director of Campus Ministries

Derrick Jennings, Technology Services

Franklin Antonio, Technology Services

Danette Johnson, President's Office

Debbie Jefferson, President's Office

INVOCATION

Vice Rector Gordon invited Pastor Seth Ahmad-McQueen to offer the invocation.

VICE RECTOR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Vice Rector Gordon thanked the Board for their time and commitment and indicated that the Rector was absent due to family matters. She welcomed three NEW board members--Dr. Joseph A.F. Chase, Jr.; Ms. Daphne L. Meeks; and Mr. Kishore S. Thota--to their first full board meeting and expressed thanks to Board members and VSU staff for attending the Annual Board's Recognition Dinner held on the previous evening (Thursday, September 14). Mr. Michael Flemming, Mr. Glenn Sessoms, and Mr. Wayne Turnage who retired as of June 30, 2023, were honored for their service to the Board and Virginia State University.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Vice Rector called for approval of the agenda. The motion was received, properly seconded, and approved by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Vice Rector called for approval of the previous minutes from April 21, 2023, Full Board Meeting and the August 3-4, 2023, Board Orientation and Annual Retreat. Motions were received, properly seconded, and approved by voice vote.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Abdullah welcomed the new board members and thanked the Board for their volunteer service and commitment to VSU. He then expressed condolences for the VSU students and the recently passed faculty member and asked for a moment of silence in their memory.

President Abdullah presented an enrollment update with comparative data covering fall 2019 through fall 2023 and data on current student housing demand. VSU has achieved the largest increase in total enrollment in history, with a projected 5000+ students for the fall of 2023. Additionally, VSU enrolled the largest freshman class in history for two consecutive years, referencing last year's enrollment. Highlights from fall 2023 included the campus visit of

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Campus crime statistics, discussed ongoing recruitment of additional staff, and shared measures implemented for increased campus security and security at off-campus site locations.

Dr. Leonard Githinji, Chair of the Faculty Senate, and Ms. Kailyn Haye, President of the Student Government Association, brought remarks to the Board on behalf of their respective constituencies.

Audit and Compliance Committee-

Mr. Jon Moore, Chair, reported information items presented at the Audit and Compliance Committee and presented one action item recommended for approval by the Full Board--approval of the 2023 Internal Audit Charter. A motion was received, properly seconded, and the Board voted by roll call for approval. Rector Brown, Dr. Darden, Mr. Cosgrove, and Dr. Haynes were not present for the vote.

The Chair stated the Office of Internal Audit now has a staff of 4 employees. The draft 2022 Audit Report indicates that VSU has eight findings and no material weaknesses. The Chair expressed appreciation to VP Shawri King-Casey and her team for the tremendous work done in building an infrastructure that significantly reduced audit findings. The Office of the Inspector General (OSIG) completed its Clery Act review statewide and issued its report wherein VSU had three audit findings. However, OSIG indicated that no university action was necessary on two of the findings, and the last finding reflected adequate corrective action by VSU.

Institutional Advancement Committee –

On behalf of the Committee Chair, Mr. Victor Branch, Vice Chair, reported information items presented at the Institutional Advancement Committee. There were no action items for approval. The Committee received reports from VP Tonya Hall and the IA Team, which included Government Relations and Alumni Engagement.

Facilities & Finance Committee –

Mr. William Murray, Committee Chair, gave a summary report on information items presented at the Facilities & Finance Committee. There were no action items for approval. Ms. Adrian Petway presented information items, including investment balances, budget versus actual figures for year-ending sources; comparison of budget to actuals; and a fiscal year 2023 year-end summary slide noting increased revenues from tuition and the state, increased investment balances, and solid reserves. Mr. Davenport summarized the immediate plan to invest funds, citing his intent to leverage a state cooperative contract to change providers. Mr. Maurion Edwards presented an update on technology services and cybersecurity, which included plans for the University's platforms to be cloud-based, key operations related to threat protection, and the incident response team.

Personnel, Compensation & Governance Committee –

Although the Committee did not convene a meeting in September, Mr. Victor Branch, Committee Chair, provided an update from the Office of Human Resources. The Office of Human Resources (OHR) is working with several vendors/consultants to help the office achieve Priority 5 in the University's Strategic Plan: Increase and diversity financial resources and enhance operational effectiveness. More specifically, OHR is working to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our business operation. Strategically, OHR is intentionally preparing the institution for the technology shift in operational efficiency, business agility, and the execution and sustainability of streamlined business processes. These changes will impact operations such as hiring qualified faculty/staff faster, removing manual processes, building capability through training, knowledge transfer, implementing new ways of measuring success, and tracking benefit realization. After systems have been in place, OHR will be able to access real-time information to make data-driven decisions for the OHR department and potentially the institution from a human capital perspective. The Committee will look forward to another update in November.

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REPORT OF AFFILIATED FOUNDATION(S)

Visitor Harold Green, Liaison to the VSU Foundation and the VSU Real Estate Foundation, with assistance from VP Kevin Davenport, provided updates from both foundations.

LEGAL COUNSEL UPDATE (IF ANY) – Legal Counsel had no updates.

BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT OF ITS PERFORMANCE

At the request of Mr. Victor Branch, Chair of the Personnel, Comp & Governance Committee, board members commented on the Board’s performance during the two-day board meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice Rector Gordon called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was received, properly seconded, and the Committee voted by voice vote. The Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:00 p.m.



Shavonne Gordon, Vice Rector



Pamela A. Currey, Secretary

11/17/2023

Date

11/17/23

Date