

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
FULL BOARD MEETING
9:30 A.M., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2024
Gateway Dining & Events Center
(on the campus of Virginia State University)
(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)
AGENDA

Rector Valerie K. Brown, Presiding

Call to OrderDr. Valerie K. Brown, Rector

Roll Call (*Dr. Annie C. Redd, Chief of Staff/Director, Board Operations*)

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

Rector's Remarks

Approval of Agenda

Minutes from Previous Meetings:

- April 26, 2024, Full Board Minutes

Nomination/Election of New Officers and Committee Chair due to vacancies

- Vice Rector
- Secretary
- Chair, Facilities & Finance Committee

President's ReportDr. Makola M. Abdullah

Closed Session (if any)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Executive Committee
 - **Approval Items:**
 - Approval of Resolutions for Exemplary Service: Shavonne D. Gordon; William L. Murray
 - Nomination of Officers to fill vacancies: Vice Rector, Secretary, Chair of Facilities & Finance Committee

- Academic & Student Affairs Committee
 - **Approval Item(s):** None

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- **Information Item(s):**
 - Summary of Updates
 - Reports from the Faculty and Student Representatives to the Board
 - Tracy L. Jackson, Esq., Faculty Senate Chair
 - Mr. Yousif Omer, Student Government Association President
 - Remarks from the Staff Senate
 - Ms. Fran Thomas, Staff Senate Chair
- Facilities & Finance Committee
 - **Approval Item(s):**
 - Resolution Authorizing Demolition of Five Buildings
 - Resolution Approving Revisions to the Campus Master Plan
 - Resolution Authorizing Institutional Road Designations
 - Resolution to Issue Bonds: Construct New Student Housing
 - **Information Item(s):**
 - Summary of Updates
- Institutional Advancement Committee
 - **Approval Item(s):** None
 - **Information Item(s):**
 - Summary of Updates
- Audit & Compliance Committee
 - **Approval Item(s):** None
 - Internal Audit Work Plan for 2024-2025
 - **Information Item(s):**
 - Summary of Updates
- Personnel, Compensation & Governance Committee
 - **Approval Item(s):** None
 - **Information Item(s):**
 - Summary of Updates

Report of Affiliated Foundation(s)

Legal Counsel Update (*if any*)

Board Self-Assessment of its Performance

Announcements

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 13, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Rector Valerie 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 9:30 am. The 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
Mr. Victor Branch
Dr. Joseph A.F. Chase, Jr.
Mr. Thomas Cosgrove
Dr. Harold Green, Jr.
Dr. Robert Denton, Jr.
Ms. Daphne Meeks
Mr. Peter McPherson
Mr. Jon Moore
Ms. Verndell Robinson
Mr. Kishore Thota (absent)
Mr. Robert Thompson
Mr. Edward Owens (*Electronic Participation*)
General Dennis L. Via

Mr. Owens stated that he participated by electronic participation from South Hill, Virginia, due to medical reasons.

Board Appointments:

Professor Tracy Jackson, Faculty Representative
Mr. Yousif Omer, Student Representative

Administration Present:

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President
Dr. Tia Minnis, Provost/Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs
Mr. Kevin Davenport, Senior Vice President for Finance & Administration/CFO

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Administration Present (continued)

Ms. Shawri King-Casey, Vice President for Integrity & Compliance
Ms. Tonya S. 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
Ms. Tanya Simmons, Associate Vice President, Office of Human Resources

Legal Counsel Present:

Nathan Moberly, Assistant Attorney General

INVOCATION

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

RECTOR'S OPENING REMARKS

Rector Brown welcomed everyone to the first official Board meeting for the fiscal year 2024-2025. She acknowledged the new board members and recognized the continuing board members. Rector Brown also shared that the committee meetings held on the previous day were robust and provided detailed information for informed decision-making. She encouraged all board members to attend the committee meetings.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Rector called for approval of the April 26, 2024, Full Board meeting minutes. The motion was received, properly seconded, and approved by voice vote.

BOARD APPROVALS

The Board approved the following action items by roll call vote. Mr. Kishore Thota was not present for the vote.

- Nominations of new officers due to vacancies (Approved). The new officers elected were as follows:
 - Victor Branch, Vice Rector
 - Kishore Thota, Secretary
 - Daphne Meeks, Chair of the Facilities and Finance Committee.
- Appointment of Dr. Joseph Chase as the VSU Foundation & Real Estate Foundation Liaison (approved)
- Resolution Authorizing Demolition of Five Buildings (Approved)
- Resolution Approving Revisions to the Campus Master Plan (Approved)
- Resolution Authorizing Institutional Road Designations (Approved)
- Resolution to Issue Bonds: Construct New Student Housing (Approved)

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Abdullah shared University highlights since the last board meeting including planned groundbreaking for the new campus building, the loss of Dr. Lucius Edwards, who was the long-time historian for VSU, and congratulating Board member Thota on his new appointment as Chief of Staff to the Lt. Governor.

CLOSED SESSION

The board went into a closed session for the discussion or consideration of legal matters under 2.2-3711 (A)(1), specifically, "...Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body; and evaluation of the performance of departments or schools of public institutions of higher education where such evaluation will necessarily involve discussion of the performance of specific individuals; namely specific items concerning presidential compensation. Legal counsel Mike Melis and Nathan Moberly also attended.

Upon entering returning to open session, the board certified by roll call vote that during its closed meeting, 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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

During the Executive Committee report, the Rector stated that Resolutions of Exemplary Service for former board members, Shavonne Gordon and William Murray, had been approved by that committee. The resolutions were to be presented at the Recognition Dinner held on Thursday, September 12th.

Committee chairs gave summaries of the actions and information items discussed during their respective committee meetings. Professor Tracy Jackson, Faculty Senate Chair, gave remarks on behalf of the Faculty Senate. Yousif Omer, the Student Government Association President, gave remarks on behalf of the Student Government. There were no updates from the Staff Senate.

REPORT OF AFFILIATED FOUNDATION(S) – No Report

LEGAL COUNSEL UPDATE (IF ANY) – No Report

BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT OF ITS PERFORMANCE

New Board members shared their reflections about the September Board meetings.

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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 Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately noon.

Valerie Brown

Valerie Brown, Rector

11/15/24

Date

Kishore Thota

Kishore Thota, Secretary

11/15/24

Date

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL OF
REPORTING RELATIONSHIP AND SUPERVISORY STRUCTURE
FOR DR. AHKINYALA COBB-ABDULLAH**

November 15, 2024


WHEREAS, the Virginia State Conflict of Interests Act (Virginia Code § 2.2-3100 *et seq.*) permits the dual employment of immediate family members by public institutions of higher education under certain terms and conditions pursuant to §2.2-3106 (C)(2) of the *Code of Virginia*; and

WHEREAS, the College of Natural and Health Sciences has recommended that Dr. Ahkinyala Cobb-Abdullah (“Dr. Cobb-Abdullah”), the spouse of President Makola M. Abdullah (“President Abdullah”), be employed as a member of the faculty; and

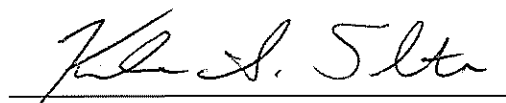
WHEREAS, President Makola M. Abdullah is an officer of Virginia State University (“University”) and would accrue a personal interest in Ahkinyala Cobb-Abdullah’s employment contract as her spouse;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors finds it in the best interests of Virginia State University and the Commonwealth to employ Dr. Ahkinyala Cobb-Abdullah as a member of the faculty; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the reporting relationship and supervisory structure for Dr. Ahkinyala Cobb-Abdullah shall be as follows: (a) All personnel matters concerning Dr. Cobb-Abdullah while employed as a member of the faculty will be handled in accordance with customary practices and policies of the Colleges of the University with the faculty member reporting to the department chair, and where further University approval may be required, the dean shall make appropriate recommendations regarding Dr. Cobb-Abdullah’s salary, faculty rank, performance evaluations and other personnel matters to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; (b) The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs shall act in the stead of President Abdullah for all matters that may require the President’s action concerning Dr. Cobb-Abdullah and will present to the Board of Visitors those matters which require its action.



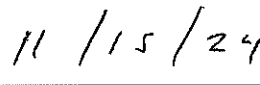
Valerie K. Brown, Rector



Kishore S. Thota, Secretary



Date



Date

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
RESOLUTION TO
REVISE THE NAMING POLICY OF CAMPUS BUILDINGS**

November 15, 2024

WHEREAS, Virginia Code §§ 23.1-1301, 23.1-1304.1, and 23.1-2700, authorize the Board of Visitors to “make regulations and policies concerning the institution,” more particularly in this instance, concerning the “terms and conditions associated with donations, gifts, and other philanthropic support;” and

WHEREAS, as an application of the powers authorized by the aforementioned statutes, the Bylaws of the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University Article IV, paragraph 13 state that the Board will review and approve “. . . all naming opportunities, including buildings and other University property, endowments, scholarships, professorships, and endowed chairs”; and

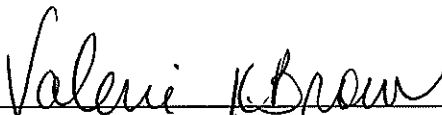
WHEREAS, on April 21, 2017, the Board of Visitors executed University Policy 4010, entitled “Policy Governing the Accepting, Recording, and Naming of Gifts” (“Policy 4010”) and continues to maintain said policy; and

WHEREAS, policy statements pertaining to the naming of gifts portion of Policy 4010 have evolved to reflect a tiered structure that requires a separate policy; and


WHEREAS, while the new policy is under development, the tiered structures will be applied to the naming of gifts process;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Visitors authorizes the development of a new naming of gifts policy; and

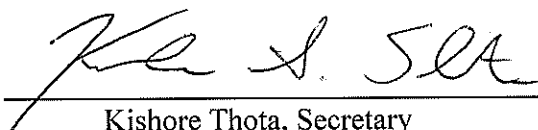
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Visitors hereby delegates the authority to the University President to implement the tiered structure of the future naming policy with the expectation that the new naming policy will be presented to the full board during the Spring 2025 meeting.



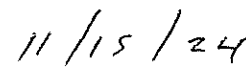
Valerie K. Brown, Rector



Date



Kishore Thota, Secretary



Date

**RESOLUTION OF THE
VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
AUTHORIZING PROPERTY ACQUISITION**

November 15, 2024

WHEREAS, Virginia Code § 2.2-1149 authorizes departments, agencies, and institutions of the Commonwealth to acquire real property by following the guidelines of the Department of General Services and obtaining the Governor's approval; and

WHEREAS, Virginia State University ("University") seeks to acquire Infill and Perimeter Parcels (the "Properties") located contiguous to the University's campus in Chesterfield County, Virginia from the Virginia State University Foundation ("Foundation"); and

WHEREAS, ownership of the Properties will benefit the University by promoting opportunities for campus security and providing additional land for future development consistent with the University's Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, a Memorandum of Agreement (the "MOA") dated November 14, 2022, between the University and the Foundation, entrusted the Foundation with diligently pursuing the acquisition of the Properties for the University's benefit; and

WHEREAS, the MOA anticipates the University's reimbursement of the Foundation's costs to purchase and carry the Properties until they are transferred to the University; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of the Properties aligns with the University's current Master Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University approves the acquisition of the Properties as listed on Exhibit A – "Acquisition Parcels Map" to this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University authorizes the University President and/or the Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer to execute, approve, and deliver on behalf of the University, any documents - legal or otherwise - necessary to complete the acquisition of the Properties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University authorize the University President or the Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer to take any other actions necessary or appropriate to properly comply with this resolution.

Valerie K. Brown

Valerie K. Brown, Rector

11/15/24

Date

Kishore S. Thota

Kishore S. Thota, Secretary

11/15/24

Date