

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
FULL BOARD MEETING
9:00 A.M., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2025
Gateway Dining & Event Center, 2nd Floor
(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)

DRAFT AGENDA

Rector Victor K. Branch, Presiding

Call to Order Mr. Victor K. Branch, Rector

Roll Call Ms. Verndell Robinson, Secretary

Invocation (*Rev. Thomas Wynn, Director of Campus Ministries*)

Rector's Remarks

Approval of Agenda

Minutes from Previous Meetings:

- April 25, 2025 Full Board Minutes
- August 7-8, 2025 Orientation & Annual Retreat Minutes

President's Report Dr. Makola M. Abdullah

Board Approval(s)

- Resolution for Exemplary Service to Edward Owens, 2021-2025

Closed Session (if necessary)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Academic & Student Affairs Committee
 - **Approval Item(s):** None
 - **Information Item(s):**
 - Summary of Updates
 - Reports from the Faculty and Student Representatives to the Board
 - Dr. Kenneth Lewis, Chair of the Faculty Senate
 - Mr. Marquis Mason, President of the Student Government Association

FULL BOARD MEETING

Friday, September 12, 2025

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- Facilities & Finance Committee
 - **Approval Item(s):** None
 - **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):**
 - Internal Audit Charter for 2025-2026
 - **Information Item(s):**
 - Summary of Updates
- Personnel, Compensation & Governance Committee
 - **Approval Item(s):**
 - President's Contract Extension
 - **Information Item(s):**

Report of Affiliated Foundation(s)

Legal Counsel Update *(if any)*

Board Self-Assessment of its Performance

Announcements



Makola M. Abdullah, Ph.D.

President's Report VSU Board of Visitors September 12, 2022

WELCOME



Morenike Kassim Miles
Vice President & Chief Compliance Officer
Dominion Energy

WELCOME

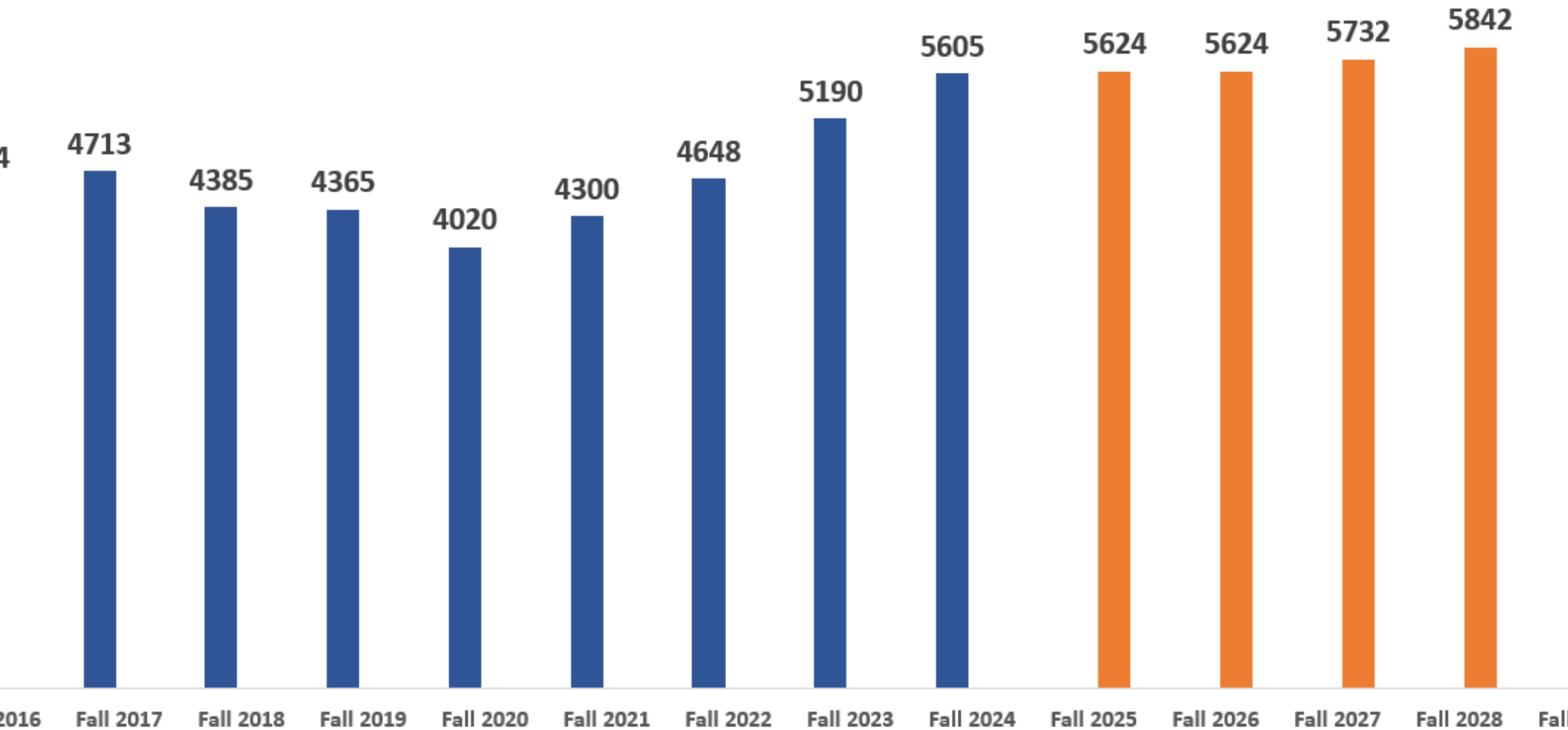


Miss VSU - Sarai Findlay
Mister VSU- Melvin Cooper Jr.



The 2025-2026 Royal Court

Enrollment Projections



GENERAL UPDATES

Additional FY 25 Funding

- \$10 M VSU/VUU HBCU PARTNERSHIP (one-time funding)
- \$1.2M VSU AFFORDABLE ACCESS



GENERAL UPDATES

CONGRATULATIONS



Jon Moore
Manufacturing



Victor K. Branch
Banking/Finance



Makola M. Abdullah
Education

GENERAL UPDATES

CONGRATULATIONS



Appointed to the Professional Standards Committee of the Virginia Board of Realtors for 2026.

Visitor Verndell Robinson

CONGRATULATIONS

VSU Professor, Dr. Latorial Faison, Nominated For Pulitzer Prize



Winners of the 2026 Pulitzer Prizes will be announced in May 2026



President's Report
VSU Board of Visitors
September 12, 2025

Virginia State University Faculty Senate Leadership 2025-2026



Kenneth W. Lewis, Ph.D., Chair
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VSU Faculty Senate Report to
the Board of Visitors
Regular Meeting
Thursday & Friday
11 – 12 September 2025
VSU Gateway Banquet Facility
VSU Campus



Michael A. Reynolds, Ph.D., Vice-Chair
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Preamble

Please understand that **the VSU Faculty supports the mission, vision, and goals of Virginia State University** and we want to do all that we can do to make those goals a reality, while maintaining our academic freedoms pertaining to free speech, teaching styles, research interests, publication opportunities and public service.

We also want to make sure that **the VSU Administration and Board of Visitors will respect, honor and support our three faculty entitlements and obligations of RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES and RESPONSIBILITIES**, and **provide the necessary resources** that will allow us to do our jobs in alignment with the goals so stated.



Faculty Entitlements & Obligations



Faculty Rights empower us without fear of reprisal.

Faculty Privileges reward us for our commitment.

Faculty Responsibilities keep us grounded and mindful of our contractual obligations.

These elements ensure that we can fulfill our mission as educators and scholars while upholding the values of higher education.



Faculty Entitlements & Obligations



Our RIGHTS provide us academic freedom, which allows us to explore, teach, and publish ideas without fear of censorship or reprisal. Our RIGHTS protect us from unjust dismissal, while providing fair treatment and due process.

Our PRIVILEGES provide appropriate and timely rewards that come from recognition of our expertise and contributions. These include Tenure, professional development, sabbatical leaves, conference attendance, and access to resources for skill enhancement.

Our RESPONSIBILITIES remind us that we are entrusted with facilitating student learning through rigorous instruction, thoughtful mentorship and respectful professionalism and benevolent collegiality at all times.



The VSU Faculty support the mission, vision, and goals of Virginia State University.

The VSU Faculty want to ensure that we have the resources that provide the operational reality of those goals while maintaining our academic freedoms pertaining to free speech, teaching styles, research interests, publication opportunities and public service.

The VSU Faculty frames itself inside the words of Alfred William Harris, Founder, who said –

“I want a place where all our blacks, girls and boys, may go and drink from the fountain of knowledge until their ambition is satiated, and then step into the world prepared as good and upright citizens to meet its responsibilities, and battle for a place among men upon merits...”

<https://singularityfree.wordpress.com/2019/06/29/14-virginia-state-university-transforming-lives/>

MAJOR CONCERNS

- Ensure that we hire sufficient, qualified and passionate faculty, staff and administrators to serve our students and our VSU community.
- Ensure that TECHNOLOGY ISSUES, to include Personnel, Procedures, Equipment, Training, are adequate, current and up to date.
- Freedom of Speech Response Document requested in 2023-2024. [Click here.](#)
- Ensure Adequate Vehicle Parking – Parking and Traffic Enforcement
- Ensure University Archivist/Historian – We have not had a real archivist in almost 15 years. Hire an Archivist/Historian. Mention John Coltrane & Helen Giles.

<https://www.blandfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Helen-Elizabeth-Coltrane-Ballard-Giles?obId=26201593>

<https://www.johncoltrane.com/biography>

MAJOR CONCERNS - continued

- Support the Concept of the *“Lucious Edwards, Jr. Memorial Archives and Research Center” The VSU LEMARC* - <https://www.jmwilkersonsince1874.com/obituary/lucious-edwards>
- Consider a parking deck/service building as beneficial next to the Music building, if but to provide adequate parking for visitors who attend events at the Virginia Hall Auditorium when it is renovated. <https://gaceng.net/portfolio/fsu-parking-garage-no-6/>
- Ensure that the Virginia Hall Auditorium is restored, renovated and reopened as soon as possible. Right now, you don't have a campus auditorium, other than the Davis Music Hall Auditorium with limited seating.
- Ensure that the new Harris Hall Commons is as functional as it is beautiful.



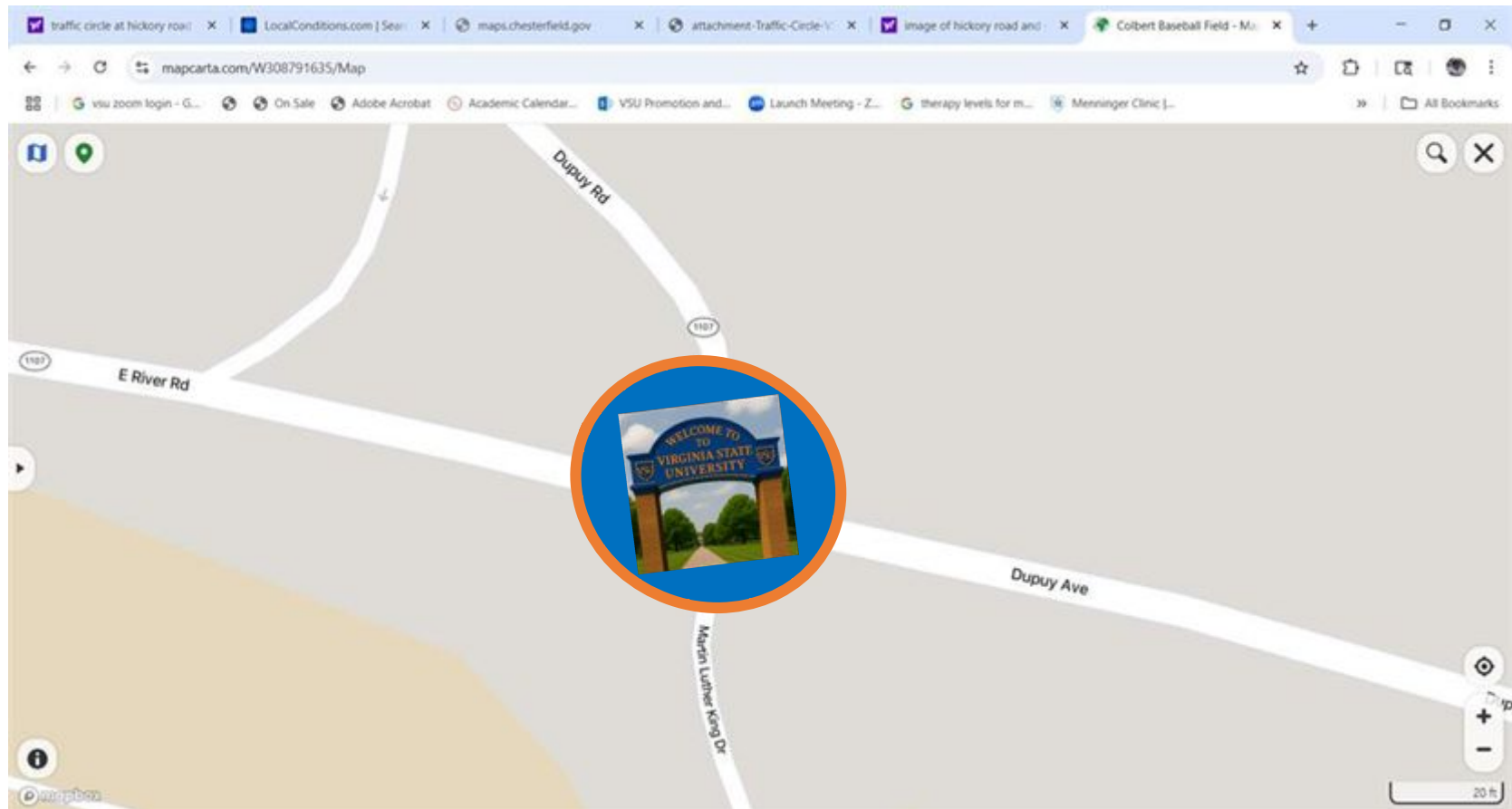
MAJOR CONCERNS - continued

- Ensure the restoration of a LYCEUM Series on this campus. There used to be that opportunity for student cultural growth and development.
<https://music.baylor.edu/events/series-and-programs/lyceum-series>
- We, the Faculty Senate are working to update all necessary documentation for this academic year, to include handbooks, bylaws, University Council Constitution, faculty evaluation documents, etc.
- We encourage the inclusion of State Pay Equity Information on our VSU webpage similar to the link attached for the University of Washington, Seattle, WA.
<https://hr.uw.edu/comp/pay-equity/>

MAJOR CONCERNS – continued

- We want to make sure that our students, faculty and staff understand their role in accountability for student collegiate and academic success here at Virginia State University.
- Remember the History of Virginia State University and all other HBCU schools who had significant Trade Schools. <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=149610>
- Collaborate with Chesterfield County and the City of Colonial Heights to create a traffic round-about at the intersection of East River Road, Dupuy Road, Dupuy Avenue and Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd.
It won't remove all VSU Homecoming Traffic bottlenecks, but it will certainly improve the flow of traffic.

A Traffic Round About at the Intersection of E. River Road, Martin Luther King, Drive, Dupuy Road & Dupuy Avenue



HARRIS HALL COMMONS and ALL BUILDINGS

- Effective and Efficient procurement of needed resources to provide outstanding classroom instruction including the classroom setup itself. **MANPRINT - Manpower and Personnel Integration System**
- **MANPRINT** accomplishes this by ensuring the human is fully and continuously considered as part of the total system in the development and/or acquisition of all systems.
- Replace the **Soldier-system** design with the **Instructor-system** design.

https://www.army.mil/article/125592/manprint_program_integrates_human_element



Effective and Efficient procurement of needed resources to provide outstanding classroom instruction and applications in the use of Artificial Intelligence.

Use VV&A to stay in front of Artificial Intelligence.

Verification – Did I build the thing right?

Validation – Did I build the right thing?

Accreditation – Is it believable enough to be used?

<https://www.dau.edu/tools/defense-modeling-simulation-verification-validation-accreditation-vva-tools>

Bloom Taxonomy of Educational Objectives – Focus on

Identify, Comprehend, **Apply, Analyze, Synthesize, Evaluate**



Conclusion

Please understand that the VSU Faculty supports the mission, vision, and goals of Virginia State University and we want to do all that we can do to make those goals a reality, while maintaining our academic freedoms pertaining to free speech, teaching styles, research interests, publication opportunities and public service.

We also want to make sure that the VSU Administration and Board of Visitors will respect, honor and support our three faculty entitlements and obligations of **RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES** and **RESPONSIBILITIES**, and **provide the necessary resources** that will allow us to do our jobs in alignment with the goals so stated.

Got any?



Thank you.

Virginia State University Faculty Senate Leadership 2025-2026



Kenneth W. Lewis, Ph.D., Chair
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Proposed VSU Faculty Senate Freedom of Speech Statement – 21 February 2024

Passed by VSU Faculty Senate in April 2024

If there is a bedrock principle underlying the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, it is that the government may not prohibit the expression of an idea simply because society finds the Idea itself offensive or disagreeable. If we, the Virginia State University Faculty Senate, find equivalence with this statement regarding the action of freedom of speech, *referencing Texas v. Johnson, 491 U.S. 397 (1989), Flag burning constitutes symbolic speech that is protected by the First Amendment*, then we acknowledge that we will not prohibit the expression of any verbal or written idea simply because we find the idea offensive or disagreeable. We, the VSU Faculty Senate, support the principles of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and respect that all who come to this campus shall be afforded the rights, privileges and responsibilities to exercise their freedom of speech afforded to them by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

First Amendment of the US Constitution:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

Return

PREMIER ADMINISTRATION STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



[SGA INSTAGRAM](#)



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Learn about the
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What are our pla
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Conclusion

Student level pe
VSU. Open dialo
questions.

52ND SGA ADMINIS



Who We Are ?

We are the advocating voice of the student body, comprised of 19 student leaders committed to the academic & social success of each classification on campus.



What We Do

We govern, we manage tasks and coordinate the hopes of thousands of students for change for a better experience for all. Staying true to our core values, we show all levels

ENT MISSION

ERSHIP SGA WILL REMAIN
SERVING AS THE VOICE OF THE
FOSTERING LEADERSHIP, AND
ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL
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S COMMUNITY.”

BUSINESS MARKETING MAJOR
VC VIRGINIA



Marqu

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION HELP DESK

MONDAY 10-3
TUESDAY 12-5
WEDNESDAY 10-3
THURSDAY 12-5
FRIDAY 10-3

STARTING MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST TO-GO CONTAINERS



MON-FRIDAY
 LUNCH: 11AM-2:30PM
 DINNER: 4:30PM-8:30PM
WEEKEND
 BRUNCH: 10:30AM-1:30PM
 DINNER: 4:30-8PM

JONES DINING, MILKED & GO FRESH SPACE



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY



2025-2026 PARKING GUIDE

Welcome back Trojans! All students and employees who park on campus must purchase a new parking decal for the 2025-2026 school year, as last year's decals expire on August 31, 2025. Decals will be available starting August 27, 2025, and payments must be made through the parking website. Vehicles without a valid decal after September 15, 2025, will be subject to ticketing and towing. Must be purchased online!

Executive Reserved	\$50
Faculty/Staff	\$150
Second/Third Permit (Faculty and Staff only)	\$200
Full Time / Part Time Student	\$85



CODE BLUE

AUGUST 27TH, 6:30PM-8PM FOSTER RM 300



PREP

VSU SERVICE IS EVERYTH

JOIN US!  **EVERY 3RD SATURDAY
08 AM - 11 AM
VSU
MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER**

**FOOD BANK
SERVICE**

VOLUNTEER DATES - FALL 2025
7/19 8/15 9/20 10/18 11/15



DIA ENT #S

REACH

Almost at the goal of
views for the past 30 days
r 83,000 viewers.

t Shared

onth alone we have shared
pieces of informational and
g content for our Trojans.

lowers

st 30 days we have gained
00 new followers.

Views

Interactions

New followers

Content you shared

942,666

Views

43.4%
Followers



Accounts reached

WHAT'S COMING UP FOR SGA



INAUGURATION & INSTALLATION *Ceremony*



VCS
VIRGINIA STATE
COLLEGE

Greater

**DON'T LET YOUR
SPEED BECOME
SOMEONE'S LAST MOMENT.**

**SLOW
DOWN**



**SPEED
LIMIT
25MPH**



ADVOCACY WHAT WE

SGA Is committed to being
tangible when it comes
and what we MAKE happen
Campus. we believe if
tough, then no one will

Outlets

art hours.
arts active
the outlet



Student Speeding

Speeding is an issue on
campus so we released a
public statement and met



THE BIG 4 RIGHT NOW



Residence Life

We plan to work hard with residence life to improve the living situations of all campus residents to further enhance the on campus living experience.

Scholarships

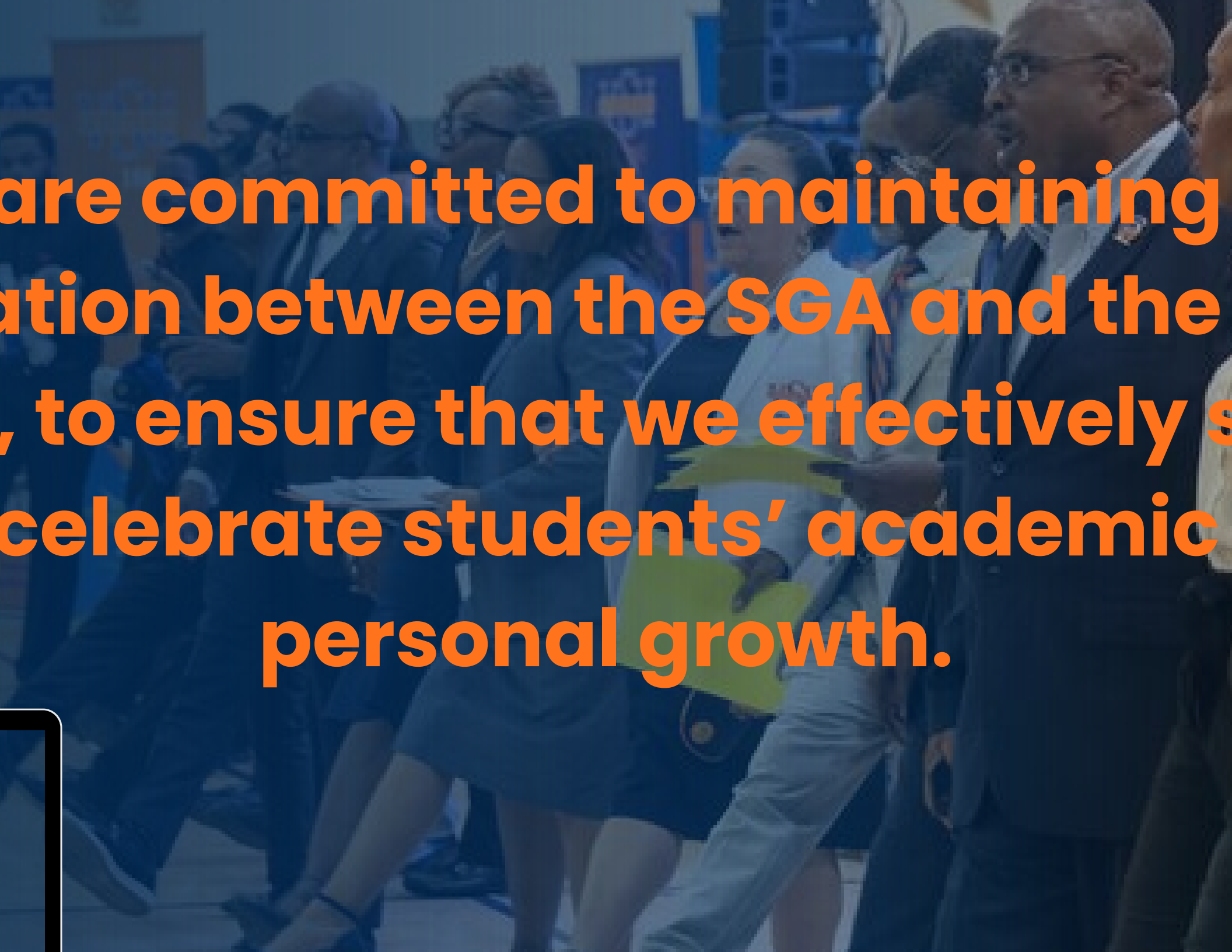
We are in search of funds to provide 10-20 scholarships to TROJANS this fall and spring semester to defray

Campus

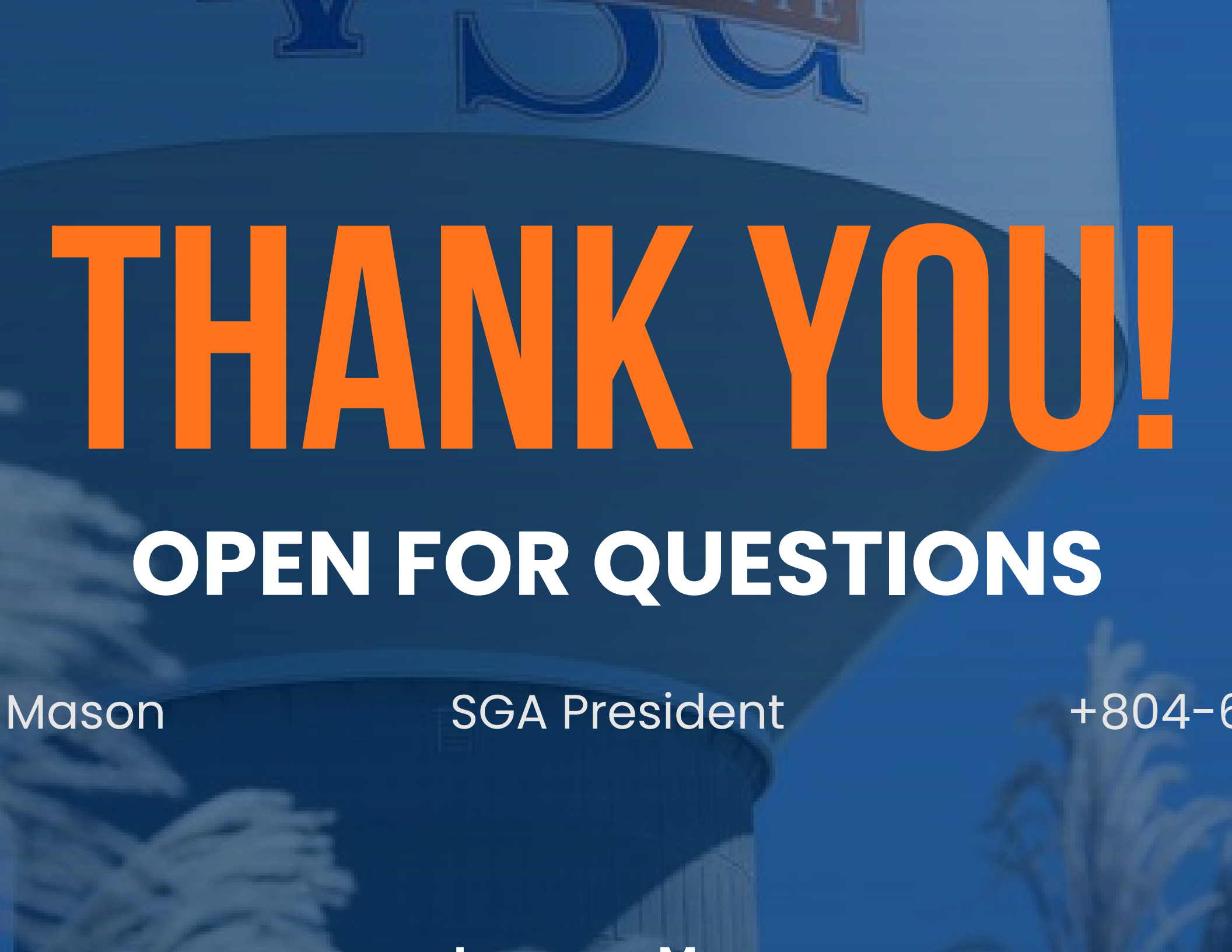
We look
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advocate



**are committed to maintaining
ation between the SGA and the
, to ensure that we effectively s
celebrate students' academic
personal growth.**



THANK YOU!

OPEN FOR QUESTIONS

Mason

SGA President

+804-6

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT GIFT, NAME A SPACE, AND
ESTABLISH AN ENDOWED FUND**

September 12, 2025

WHEREAS, pursuant to Virginia Code § 23.1-2705(A), the Virginia State University Board of Visitors (“Board of Visitors”) “may take, hold, receive, and enjoy any gift, grant, devise, or bequest to the board or to or for the benefit of the University;” and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Virginia Code § 23.1-2705(A), “[a]ny such gift, grant, devise, or bequest shall be used for the purposes designated by the donor, or if no purposes are designated, for the general purposes of the board.”

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2025, Virginia State University (“University”) received a philanthropic gift of \$100,000 (the “Gift”) from Dr. Valerie Brown and K.W. Brown Ministries, Inc. (collectively, the “Donors”); and

WHEREAS, the Gift was contributed in two equal installments of \$50,000 and is designated for the creation of an endowed scholarship fund and for the naming of a classroom or designated common space within the Alfred W. Harris Academic Commons; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Valerie Brown, a 1978 alumna of the University, is recognized for her lifelong dedication to spiritual leadership, youth development, and educational philanthropy; and

WHEREAS, a commemorative plaque shall be installed and a portion of the Gift reserved to support the upkeep of the named space; and

WHEREAS, the Gift and endowed fund shall be managed in accordance with University and Virginia State University Foundation policies and the guidelines stipulated in the forthcoming Memorandum of Understanding; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Visitors acknowledges and confirms the receipt and acceptance of the \$100,000 donation made by Dr. Valerie Brown and K.W. Brown Ministries, Inc. for the dual purpose of naming rights and endowment establishment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the naming of a selected classroom or designated common space in the Alfred W. Harris Academic Commons as agreed upon by the Donors and the University, with a commemorative plaque to be installed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the endowed fund be established and managed in collaboration with the Virginia State University Foundation in accordance with applicable policies, and that all relevant documentation be archived in the Office of Institutional Advancement and filed among the permanent records of the University.

Victor Branch, Rector

Kishore Thota, Secretary

Date

Date

*Resolution of Exemplary Service
Demonstrated by*

Edward Owens

*Member, Board of Visitors
Virginia State University*

WHEREAS, Mr. Edward Owens was appointed to the Virginia State University Board of Visitors by The Honorable Ralph Northam, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, in July 2021; and

WHEREAS, he served on the Virginia State University Board of Visitors with distinction for four years, and in recognition of his exemplary contributions to education, public service administration, and business leadership, he held key roles including Member of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee, Chair of the Institutional Advancement Committee, and a Member of the Executive Board; 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 Edward Owens 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 12th day of September 2025; and be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Secretary of the Board of Visitors presents to Edward Owens 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.

Victor K. Branch, Rector

Verndell Robinson, Secretary

Date

Date