

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
ANNUAL RETREAT
Friday, August 6, 2021**

Facilitator: Dr. Alvin J. Schexnider, Senior Fellow and Senior Consultant
for the Association of Governing Boards
Retreat Focus: Board Self-Assessment Workshop

Draft Agenda (as of 8.1.2021)

10AM Welcome and Introductions

- Rector Valerie Brown
- President Makola Abdullah
- Dr. Alvin Schexnider, AGB Senior Fellow and Senior Consultant, Facilitator

- A THOUGHT STARTER
 - A university or college can never be better than its board
 - The board chair and the president have primary influence on board effectiveness
 - Boards can be reluctant to change
 - Effective boards take their work seriously
 - Consider the urgency of Now!

- A Primer on Board Governance
 - Anatomy of Board Governance
 - Shared Governance
 - Fiduciary Duties and Responsibilities

11AM Higher Education Outlook

- Key Public Policy Issues in Higher Education from AGB
- Key Issues Confronting HBCUs
- Life After the Pandemic: Food for Thought

11:30AM Building a High Performing Board

- Best Practices
- Creating a Board Matrix
- Board Diversity and Alumni Representation

12 Noon Lunch

1:00PM Findings from the Board Self-Assessment

3:00PM Break

3:15PM Self-Assessment Input from Senior Leadership

4:00PM Crafting an Action Plan

5:00PM Wrap-up and Adjourn

Readings:

Artis Hampshire-Cowan, *Marshaling the President's Cabinet for Effective Governance*

Terrence MacTaggart, *The 21st Century Presidency: A Call to Enterprise Leadership*

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*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.

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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.

Valerie K Brown
Dr. Valerie K. Brown, Rector

9/17/21
Date

Christine M Darden
Dr. Christine M. Darden, Secretary

9/17/21
Date