

Industry Council(s)

Minutes

February 20, 2026

Gilbane at 1408 Roseneath Road, Richmond 23230

8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Attendees:

Members: Bernard Robinson (Chair), Reggie Booker, John Cario, Mason Cowan, Steve Farbstein, Linda Melton, Maggie Reed, Carl Johnson, Dante Washington, Diane Hamilton, Ervin Clarke and Andy Shulick.

Staff: Emmanuel Omojokun, Ephrem Eyob, Venkat Mummalaneni, Hari Sharma and Jonathan Young.

Other Attendees: Adolph Brown and Lyndon Patrick.

Chair Bernard Robinson convened the group and provided a brief update including inviting attendees to the May 17 retirement celebration for Dr. Omojokun. Robinson also requested a motion to approve the minutes from the September meeting and said minutes were accordingly approved unanimously.

Maggie Reed welcomed attendees to Gilbane and provided the group with exciting news relevant to Gilbane projects including at the CarMax Park and Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

Dr. Emmanuel Omojokun provided an update to the group relevant to academics, faculty and staff, community, conferences and accreditation. Relevant to the latter. Dr. Omojokun advised that though the accrediting body AACSB was initially scheduled to visit this year instead the organization will come in 2027 likely in the fall.

The group subdivided and convened a deliberative conversation relevant to what characteristics/skills/experience should be sought in a successor to Dr. Omojokun, i.e. a new Dean. When the group reconvened, the following synopsis was recorded. The Industry Council(s) recommends for consideration a Dean that is 1) a bridge to the community and invests in community building 2) is accessible to students and prioritizes hands-on interface with said students 3) experience in industry with less emphasis on a preferred degree 4) is collaborative and a team-builder that prioritizes corporate relations 5) aims to promote AI and accordingly ethical uses 6) experience in launching new programs 7) is unorthodox or non-traditional in her/his deliberations 8) adept at public interface 9) is either an entrepreneur herself/himself or has entrepreneurial attributes 10) unafraid to surround herself/himself with smart people 11) teams well with the VSU administration 12) be amenable to alternative pedagogy 13) be innovative and creative 14) can speak the language of a Gen Z 15) is not limited to experience at a HBCU 16) can solicit monies 17) aims to allow the College to be able to change on a dime to meet market demand 18) and values AACSB accreditation.

Bernard Robinson at 9:30 a.m. adjourned the group and agreed to identify a next date for the group to meet at a date TBA.