

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF VISITORS  
Petersburg, Virginia 23806**

**MINUTES  
Thursday, April 14, 2011**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Felix Davis, Jr., Rector, called the meeting of the Virginia State University (VSU) Board of Visitors ("Board") to order in the Board Room in Virginia Hall at 1:08 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

A quorum was present.

*Board Members Present:*

Mr. Felix Davis, Jr., Rector  
Ms. Katherine E. Busser, Vice Rector (*absent*)  
Brigadier General (RET) Alfred J. Cade, Secretary  
Mr. Jerry B. Bias (*absent*)  
Mr. Harry Black  
Mr. Allyn Myles Carnam (*absent*)  
Ms. Erika T. Davis  
Dr. Mary Hatwood Futrell  
Ms. Catherine H. Gillespie (*absent*)  
Ms. Maureen D. Massey (*absent*)  
Mr. E. Ray Murphy  
Ms. Daphne M. Reid  
Mr. James H. Starkey, III  
Ms. Barbara Steverson  
Mr. Spencer L. Timm  
Dr. Ben U. Nwoke, Faculty Member Representative  
Ms. LaJessica Stringfellow, SGA Representative (*absent*)

*Administration Present:*

Dr. Keith T. Miller, President  
Dr. W. Weldon Hill, Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Dr. Michael M. Shackelford, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Dr. Robert L. Turner, Jr., Vice President for Development  
Mr. David J. Meadows, Vice President for Administration and Finance  
Mr. Cortez K. Dial, Chief of Staff  
Dr. Elliott L. Wheelan, Associate Vice President for Human Resources  
Ms. Joanne Curtis Taylor, Chief Audit Executive  
Mr. Jesse Vaughan, Special Assistant to the President

*Legal Counsel Present:*

Mr. Roscoe C. Roberts, University Legal Counsel  
Ms. Bonnie N. Degen, Legal Assistant, University Legal Counsel  
Ms. Christy G. Brown, Paralegal, University Legal Counsel

*Other Attendees:*

Ms. Thelma Murphy, spouse of Mr. E. Ray Murphy  
Ms. Sandra Starkey, spouse of Mr. James Starkey, III  
Mr. Jimmie Steverson, spouse of Ms. Barbara Steverson  
Ms. Nicolette Miller, spouse of Dr. Keith T. Miller  
Dr. Kenneth Bernard, Professor, Mathematics and Computer Science  
Dr. Joyce Edwards, Associate Professor, Sociology Social Work and Criminal Justice  
Dr. Deborah Goodwyn, Associate Professor and Chair, Language and Literature  
Dr. Keith Williamson, Associate Professor and Chair, Engineering, Science and Technology  
Mr. Travis Edmonds, Office of Information Technology

**OPENING REMARKS**

The Rector asked all present to pause for a moment of reverent silence.

The Rector highlighted significant events taking place on and off campus. He commended the Presidential Residence and Resource and Governance committee work as well as Board attendance at the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) tournament, and involvement in other events on behalf of the University.

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

President Miller discussed expanding educational opportunities for the citizens of the Southside Virginia region through a partnership with the New College Institute (NCI) in Martinsville, Virginia. The partnership would allow VSU to join NCI in providing degree opportunities for Southern Virginia residents and promote economic development in an area of the Commonwealth that experiences significant challenges. The University will submit its proposal on June 1, 2011, with a decision expected in July 2011.

The President introduced Dr. Keith Williamson to provide a brief overview of the Commonwealth Center for Advance Manufacturing (CCAM) partnership.

The Rector adjourned the meeting of the full Board at 1:48 p.m. for concurrent committee sessions.

**Board Meeting**  
**Friday, April 15, 2011**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Felix Davis, Jr., Rector, called the meeting of the Virginia State University (VSU) Board of Visitors (“Board”) to order in the Board Room in Virginia Hall at 8:33 a.m. Committee meetings were held on Thursday afternoon and the Board’s committee chair reports from those meetings are included in these minutes.

**ROLL CALL**

A quorum was present.

*Board Members Present:*

Mr. Felix Davis, Jr., Rector  
Ms. Katherine E. Busser, Vice Rector  
Brigadier General (RET) Alfred J. Cade, Secretary  
Mr. Jerry B. Bias (*absent*)  
Mr. Harry Black (*arrived 8:45 a.m.*)  
Mr. Allyn Myles Carnam (*absent*)  
Ms. Erika T. Davis (*absent*)  
Dr. Mary Hatwood Futrell  
Ms. Catherine H. Gillespie (*absent*)  
Ms. Maureen D. Massey (*absent*)  
Mr. E. Ray Murphy  
Ms. Daphne M. Reid  
Mr. James H. Starkey, III  
Ms. Barbara Steverson  
Mr. Spencer L. Timm  
Dr. Ben U. Nwoke, Faculty Member Representative (*arrived 9:05 a.m.*)  
Ms. LaJessica Stringfellow, SGA Representative

*Administration Present:*

Dr. Keith T. Miller, President  
Dr. W. Weldon Hill, Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Dr. Michael M. Shackelford, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Dr. Robert L. Turner, Jr., Vice President for Development  
Mr. David J. Meadows, Vice President for Administration and Finance  
Mr. Cortez K. Dial, Chief of Staff

Dr. Elliott L. Wheelan, Associate Vice President for Human Resources  
Ms. Joanne Curtis Taylor, Chief Audit Executive

*Legal Counsel Present:*

Mr. Roscoe C. Roberts, University Legal Counsel  
Ms. Bonnie N. Degen, Legal Assistant, University Legal Counsel  
Ms. Christy G. Brown, Paralegal, University Legal Counsel

*Other Attendees:*

Dr. Kenneth Bernard, Professor, Mathematics and Computer Science  
Ms. Peggy Davis, Director of Athletics  
Mr. Jason Lamont Jackson, Head Coach, Women's Track Team  
Ms. Dominique Deshone King, Student, Women's Track Team  
Ms. Samantha Elizabeth Edwards, Student, Women's Track Team  
Ms. Faith Sharice Brock, Student, Women's Track Team  
Mr. Rob Blandford, Director of Investments, Spider Management Company, LLC  
Ms. Ali Bayler, Director of Investor Relations, Spider Management Company, LLC  
Mr. Kevin Stoudt, CFA, Associate Director of Investments, Spider Management Company, LLC  
Mr. Travis Edmonds, Office of Information Technology

**OPENING REMARKS**

The Rector asked all present to pause for a moment of reverent silence.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Rector Davis called for approval of the minutes of the Board meeting held January 13-14, 2011 and the Presidential Residence Committee meeting held March 15, 2011. A motion for their approval was made by Ms. Busser, seconded by Ms. Reid, and the minutes were approved by roll call voice vote.

**PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT**

President Miller gave a brief recap of his presentation given Thursday. He discussed: his meeting with the Historical Society of Petersburg; his interactions with University students in the Residence Hall during the Pizza and Pop with the Presidents series; the Trojan Explosion's performance at the Honda Battle of the Bands; the General Assembly session; the Virginia Black Legislative Caucus' visit to the University; numerous key note speeches to area churches and civic organizations; and broadcast program interviews.

President Miller discussed the feasibility studies for the law school, the medical/physician assistant program, and the veterinary medicine program. A report from the consultant on the demand and the market is expected by the end of April 2011, with information to be presented to the Board in the fall.

Ms. Peggy Davis, Director of Athletics, introduced Mr. Jason Lamont Jackson, Head Coach of the Women's Track Team. Mr. Jackson highlighted the successes of the team and introduced the nationally recognized VSU 4 x 4 relay team: Ms. Dominique Deshone King, Ms. Samantha Elizabeth Edwards and Ms. Faith Sharice Brock.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Academic and Student Affairs**

Dr. Mary Hatwood Futrell, Chair of the **Academic and Student Affairs Committee**, highlighted the committee's agenda items.

Provost Hill discussed academic quality measures including: State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) measures; Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) measures; discipline-specific accreditation; student honors and awards; nationally/globally competitive programs; graduate tracking and marketing indices; and sponsored research.

Ms. Ofoosuwa Abiola is the University's first student Fulbright Scholar majoring in Individualized Studies with a 4.0 grade point average. She will spend the 2011-2012 academic year as a full-time teaching assistant in Morocco.

Provost Hill provided the Board with an update on the faculty promotion and tenure review process. A task force and time line have been developed to assist the administration in getting a recommendation to the Board at the September 2011 meeting.

On behalf of the committee, Dr. Futrell presented for approval, the Sponsored Research Policy Manual with the provision that Legal Counsel will conduct further review and make revisions to the manual as necessary. The motion carried by roll call voice vote.

On behalf of the committee, Dr. Futrell presented for approval, the recommendation for the six-school/college structure Reorganization Plan; discussion ensued. The motion carried by roll call voice vote.

Dr. Shackelford discussed enrollment and indicated that the University is anticipating a 5.5% increase in student enrollment from last fall. A rise in transfer students is anticipated as well.

Mr. Dial provided a report on Threat Assessment and discussed the personalized training being developed for each school and the implementation of the online testing and questionnaire tool which is due to launch May 1, 2011.

### **Resource and Governance Committee**

Ms. Daphne M. Reid, Chair of the **Resource and Governance Committee**, discussed the establishment of the President's evaluation instrument and timeline.

Dr. Futrell moved that the Board approve an exception to Article III, Section 1.2 of the Board's bylaws to allow an officer nominee to have less than one year remaining on his/her term of appointment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Murphy, and carried by roll call voice vote. Rector Davis recused himself.

On behalf of the committee, Ms. Reid presented and moved for approval Board Officer recommendations with an effective date of July 1, 2011: Mr. Davis, Rector; Ms. Busser, Vice Rector; and BG (RET) Cade, Secretary. The motion carried by roll call voice vote.

On behalf of the committee, Ms. Reid presented for approval Committee Chair recommendations: Dr. Futrell, Chair, Academic and Student Affairs Committee; Mr. Starkey, Chair, Development Committee; Mr. Murphy, Chair, Facilities, Finance, and Audit Committee; and Ms. Reid, Chair, Resource and Governance Committee. The motion carried by roll call voice vote.

On behalf of the committee, Ms. Reid presented for approval Resources and Governance Committee recommendations: Ms. Reid, Chair, Mr. Bias; BG (RET) Cade, Mr. Black, Mr. Carnam, Ms. Davis and Mr. Starkey. The motion carried by roll call voice vote.

### **Facilities, Finance, and Audit Committee**

Mr. E. Ray Murphy, Chair of the **Facilities, Finance and Audit Committee**, asked Mr. Meadows to give a brief overview of the proposed schedule of tuition and fees for academic year 2011-2012: \$520 increase for resident undergraduates (7.9%); \$614 increase for resident graduates (7.9%); \$852 increase for nonresident undergraduates (5.6%); \$852 increase for nonresident graduates (5.3%). Discussion ensued. On behalf of the committee, Mr. Murphy moved for approval the resolution for Tuition and Fees for Academic Year 2011-2012, and the motion carried by roll call voice vote.

Mr. Meadows discussed the proposed University Operating Budget for fiscal year 2012 totaling 156.4 million dollars. This represents an increase of 5.7 million dollars over fiscal year 2011. Discussion ensued. On behalf of the committee, Mr. Murphy moved for approval the balanced Operating Budget for fiscal year 2011-2012, as certified by the Vice President for Administration and Finance. The motion carried by roll call voice vote.

Mr. Meadows discussed Gateway Phase II, and Mr. Murphy moved for approval, the 9C Bond Financing Resolution for Gateway 500 Phase II. The motion carried by roll call voice vote.

Mr. Murphy highlighted the audit report; the audit for the current fiscal year is underway and going well.

The Governor has approved, once established, the consolidation of internal audit departments within the state under the supervision of the Office of State Inspector General for the Commonwealth.

Ms. Busser inquired as to the status of the report on the grade change process. She requested that a written policy be put in place to bring closure to the issue. Ms. Curtis Taylor gave a brief update on the audit findings regarding the report; discussion ensued. Dr. Futrell requested that the finalized policy be distributed to all administrators, faculty, and students after adoption.

### **Development Committee**

Mr. James H. Starkey, III, Chair of the **Development Committee**, began his report by providing an update on Spider Management. Mr. Starkey introduced the following individuals representing Spider Management: Mr. Rob Blandford, Director of Investments; Ms. Ali Bayler, Director of Investor Relations; and Mr. Kevin Stoudt, CFA, Associate Director of Investments. Mr. Blandford, Ms. Bayler and Mr. Stoudt provided an update and presentation on the University's endowment. Mr. Blandford highlighted the two strategic themes: restructure the emerging market portfolio and increase European and U.S. exposure. Mr. Timm recused himself prior to the Spider Management report.

The University's major gifts received through April 1, 2011, total \$180,000. Mr. Starkey discussed the Capital Campaign, and the committee looks to develop a comprehensive plan to organize and carry out the campaign with a draft available for Board discussion at the November 2011 meeting.

Dr. Turner discussed the Presidential Inauguration scheduled for Friday, September 23, 2011.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Mr. Starkey moved for approval the 2011-2012 Board meeting schedule. The motion was seconded by Ms. Busser and carried by voice vote.

The Board discussed the proposed Weapons on Campus Policy. Dr. Futrell moved for approval, the Weapons on Campus policy, which will be enforced by the administration. The motion was seconded by Ms. Busser and carried by roll call voice vote.

### **Presidential Residence Committee**

The committee came together on March 15, 2011 to discuss alternatives for the property. On behalf of the committee, Mr. Murphy moved for approval the commencement of a needs assessment and strategic vision in light of the location to construct a multifunctional Development Center that would maintain the current historical significance of the area to be presented by the September 2011 meeting. The motion was seconded by BG (RET) Cade and carried by roll call voice vote.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

In accordance with §§ 2.2-3711(A)(1), (A)(7) and (A)(10) of the *Code of Virginia*, the Board convened in closed session at 12:23 p.m. to discuss personnel matters, honorary degrees or special awards and consultation with legal counsel. The motion provided that President Miller, Dr. Hill, and Attorney Roberts attend the closed meeting as their presence was deemed necessary to aid the Board in its deliberations.

The Board reconvened in open session at 12:40 p.m., in accordance with § 2.2-3712(D) of the *Code of Virginia*. BG (RET) Cade conducted the poll in which all Board members certified that the Board only discussed personnel matters, honorary degrees or special awards and consulted with legal counsel, as authorized by law. All Board members present certified compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

On behalf of the Academic and Student Affairs committee, Dr. Futrell presented and moved for approval, the applications presented for promotion and/or tenure. The following faculty were recommended: Oluwarotimi Odeh, promotion and tenure; Yan (Grace) Zhong, promotion and tenure; Hari Sharma, promotion; Jacqueline D. Burleson, promotion and tenure; Merry L. Byrd, tenure; Zaccheaus O. Ogunnika, tenure; Gwendolyn B. Thornton, promotion; Christopher M. Caldwell, promotion; Stephen I. Rockenbach, promotion and tenure; Glen Harris, promotion and tenure; Weidong Mao, promotion; ZewelANJI Serpell, promotion and tenure; and Zhifu Xie, promotion. The motion carried by roll call voice vote.

On behalf of the Academic and Student Affairs committee, Dr. Futrell presented and moved for approval the Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters to be conferred upon Ms. Susan L. Taylor and Lieutenant General Dennis L. Via. The motion carried by roll call voice vote.

On behalf of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Dr. Futrell presented and moved for approval the 2011 Alumnus of the Year and Friend of the University Award presented to Mr. Charles A. Brockett. The motion carried by roll call voice vote.

On behalf of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Dr. Futrell presented and moved for approval the Professor Emeritus award presented to: Valery Y.R. Bates Brown; Conrad Gilliam; Anthony Hankins; Tadesse Mabrahtu; and Golakota Jagannadham. The motion carried by roll call voice vote.



On behalf of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Dr. Futrell presented and moved for approval Dean appointment recommendations: Jewel Hairston, Interim Dean, College of Agriculture; Andrew J. Kanu, Interim Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Education; Mirta M. Martin, Dean, Reginald F. Lewis College of Business; Larry Brown, Dean, College of Natural Health and Sciences; Delores R. Greene, Dean, College of Education; and Keith M. Williamson, Dean, College of Engineering. The motion carried by roll call voice vote.

On behalf of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Dr. Futrell presented and moved for approval the sabbatical leave request of Arthur Abraham and Hua Shen. The motion carried by roll call voice vote.

There being no further business, the Rector adjourned the meeting of the Board at 12:46 p.m.

  
Felix Davis, Jr., Rector

  
Alfred J. Cade, Secretary

Sept 22, 2011  
Date

Sept 22 2011  
Date