

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Huron Winstead, Rector, called the Board Meeting to order in the Gateway Dining and Event Center (Salon A) on the campus of Virginia State University at approximately 2:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

Mr. Huron F. Winstead, Rector
Dr. Valerie Brown
Ms. Thursa Crittenden
Ms. Pamela A. Currey
Dr. Daryl C. Dance
Mr. Michael Flemming
Mr. Charlie W. Hill
Mr. Raul R. Herrera
Ms. Jennifer Hunter (*absent*)
Mr. Paul Koonce (*arrived 3:06 p.m.*)
Mr. Xavier Richardson (*absent*)
Mr. Glenn Sessoms
Mr. James J.L. Stegmaier
Mr. Wayne Turnage (*arrived 3:06 p.m.*)
Mr. Gregory Whirley (*absent*)
Dr. Zoe Spencer, Faculty Representative to the Board (*absent*)
Mr. Joseph Hines, Student Representative to the Board

Administration Present:

Dr. Makola Abdullah, President
Dr. Donald Palm, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs
Mr. Kevin Davenport, Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Hubert Harris, Vice President for Administration
Dr. G. Dale Wesson, Vice President for Research and Economic Development
Dr. Jamel Hodges, Associate Vice President for Student Success and Engagement
Mr. Rodney Hall, Assistant Vice President, Enrollment Management
Ms. Sheila Alves, Internal Chief Audit Executive
Dr. Annie C. Redd, Special Assistant to the President/Board Liaison
Mr. Eldon Burton, Director of Government Affairs

Legal Counsel Present:

Ms. Ramona Taylor, University Legal Counsel

Other Attendees:

Dr. Maxine Sample, Faculty Senate Vice chair (sitting in for Dr. Spencer)
Ms. Yourdonus James, Director of Conference Services
Ms. Danette Johnson, Executive Assistant to the President

OPENING REMARKS

The Rector invited Rev. Jasmyn Graham, Director of Campus Ministries, to offer the invocation. The Rector then introduced and welcomed Mr. Raul Herrera, new Board member, and Joshua Hines, new Student Representative, to the Board of Visitors. The Rector also offered condolences to the families of VSU Alumni, Mrs. Ruby Williams Evans and Mr. Kenneth Ray Washington.

There were no approvals by the Board.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President, thanked Board members for making time to meet with him over the summer months. He and the respective vice presidents introduced new faculty and staff to the Board: Rev. Jasmyn Graham, Director of Campus Ministries; Mr. Eldon Burton, Director of Government Affairs; Dr. Michael Powell, Chief Information Officer; Dr. Lenneal Henderson, Interim Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences; Dr. Tammy McClain-Smith, Director, Distance Education.

DIVISION UPDATES

Dr. Donald Palm and Mr. Rodney Hall gave updates which included new students and returning students expected to enroll in Fall 2019. Dr. Donald Palm and Dr. Tia Minnis presented updates on the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan which included a review of the (1) strategic plan priorities and the (2) timeline for implementation of the strategic plan.

Mr. Kevin Davenport reviewed the University cash balances report as of June 30, 2019. In summary, the University ended the June 30, 2019, fiscal year as follows:

- (1) a higher surplus in educational and general funds than the prior year primarily attributable to funds received from the State for the IT network modernization project which are planned to be spent in the 6/30/20 fiscal year;
- (2) lower cash balance in auxiliary funds than the prior year due to the use of funds for the Harris Hall/Daniel Gym project and for student financial aid needs;
- (3) lower cash balance in Cooperative Extension and Agriculture Research as compared to the prior year related to the spending of carryforward and other funds for research and extension purposes.

Ms. Reshunda Mahone reviewed the final Fiscal Year 2019 Institutional Advancement fundraising results as follows:

- (1) Raised \$3.3M in total contributions from 2,234, which is up 7% in dollars and down 9% in donors over fiscal year 2018 results.
- (2) Raised more dollars from every major constituent group (Alumni, Alumni Association, Faculty/Staff, and Corporations/Foundations/Organizations) during fiscal year 2019 compared to fiscal year 2018.

Ms. Mahone also responded to action items assigned by the IA Committee at its June 2019 Committee. She presented information on the (1) North Carolina System brand donor advised fund, (2) survey of the Commonwealth of Virginia public higher education institutions to determine their gift fees or

administrative fees on endowed funds, (3) VSU's cost per dollar raised, and (4) recommendation of steps and plan to determine if we are ready to launch a fundraising campus for VSU.

CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Thursa Crittenden, Board Secretary, moved that the Board convene a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1); (A)(7); and (A)(29) of the Code of Virginia at 4:02 p.m. for discussion of personnel matters specifically regarding the President's contract. The motion called for President Makola Abdullah, Deb Love, Senior Assistant Attorney General, and Dr. Annie C. Redd, Board Liaison, to attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary, and/or their presence would aid the Board in its consideration of this matter.

The Board reconvened in open session at 4:40 p.m. in accordance with §2.2-3712(D) of the *Code of Virginia*. Ms. Crittenden conducted a roll call in which all Board members present certified that the Board discussed or considered only those public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened.

Mr. Glenn Sessoms made the motion to extend the President's contract for 3 years and to give authority to the Rector to work with the Office of the Attorney General Counsel to draft and execute a new contract. Ms. Pamela Currey seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 12 members voting for it. Members Jennifer Hunter, Xavier Richardson, and Gregory Whirley were not present for the vote.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Rector reminded Board members and the gallery that the Board's Annual Social would begin after the Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Rector adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:00 p.m.



Heron F. Winstead, Rector

8/13/19

Date



Thursa D. Crittenden, Secretary

9.13.19

Date