

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
9:00 A.M., THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026
Gateway Dining & Events Center
(on the campus of Virginia State University)**

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

INVOCATION

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- February 5, 2026

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS..... Dr. Makola M. Abdullah

CLOSED SESSION

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Enrollment Updates Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter
Vice President for Student Affairs/Enrollment Management

Resident’s Life Dr. Corey Scott
Special Assistant to Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter

Academic Affairs UpdatesDr. Tia A. Minnis
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

SACSCOC Updates Dr. Veronica Shuford
Assistant Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and Accreditation

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY APRIL 23, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

Visitor Cosgrove (Vice Chair) called the Academic and Student Affairs committee to order. The meeting was held at the Gateway Dining and Events Center on the 2nd floor.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present.

Committee Members Present:

Mr. Thomas Cosgrove (*Vice Chair*)
Mr Peter McPherson
Dr. Harold Green, Jr.
Ms. Morenike Miles
Dr. Victor Branch (*Virtual, due to medical*)
Dr. Joseph A.F. Chase
Dr. Robert Denton (*Absent*)
Dr. Leonard Haynes, III (*Chair*) (*Absent*)

Board Appointees:

Dr. Kenneth Lewis, Faculty Representative
Mr. Marquis Mason, SGA Representative

Other Members Present:

Dr. Valerie Brown
Dr. Kishore Thota
Mr. Jon Moore
Ms. Verndell Robinson
General Dennis Via
Mr Robert Thompson
Ms. Daphne Meeks

Administration Present:

Dr. Makola M. Abdullah, President
Dr. Tia A. Minnis, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Mr. Kevin Davenport, Senior Vice President for Finance & Administration /CFO
Mrs. Kendra White, Vice President for Institutional Integrity and Compliance
Dr. Willis W. Walter, Vice President for Advancement and External Engagement
Dr. Alexi Brooks-Walter, Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management
Dr. Annie Redd, Chief of Staff/Director, Board of Operations & Relations

Legal Counsel:

Mr. Nathan Moberley

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026
MEETING MINUTES
PAGE 2

INVOCATION

Visitor Cosgrove invited Rev. Thomas Wynn, Director of Campus Ministries, to offer the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The committee approved the agenda by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The committee approved the minutes from the February 5, 2026, meeting by voice vote.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Abdullah welcomed the attendees. For the students who were present, President Abdullah shared the role and importance of the Board of Visitors.

CLOSED SESSION

The Chair asked for a motion to enter a closed session for the Discussion or consideration of matters pursuant to 2.2-3711 (A)(1), specifically, "...assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body. . ." namely, items concerning promotion and tenure; and Discussion or consideration of honorary degrees or special awards pursuant to 2.2-3711 (A)(11); namely, review and approval of candidates for conferral of honorary degrees and special awards during the University's Spring 2026 Commencement exercises. The committee went into closed session. The Chair asked for a motion to return to open session. The motion was made, properly seconded, and approved by voice vote.

The Chair read a statement to certify that during its closed meeting, the Board discussed only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and only those public business matters identified in the motion convening the Board in closed session. The Committee voted by roll call vote to certify the meeting.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, reported on Virginia State's strategic enrollment, the 2026 outlook, and how the university is enhancing the student experience. Compared with Fall 2025, she reported increases in Fall 2026 for applications, admits (over 4,000), deposits, and housing applications. Initiatives such as "R U Trojan Ready" (a one-stop resource for all things admissions and enrollment) and the Fin Aid Friday web series have led to over 14,000 completed FAFSA applications. Other successful efforts include Open House events for high school seniors and their families, which drew over 3,000 attendees.

Dr. Brooks-Walter introduced Dr. Corey Scott, Special Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. Dr. Scott introduced the wonderful staff of Residence Life who were in attendance. Dr. Scott wants all students to have a safe and nurturing environment. A

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026
MEETING MINUTES
PAGE 3

ribbon-cutting ceremony for Magnolia Hall, our newest residence hall, will accommodate our students and the rising enrollment. Renovations are being completed on the older residential halls. The anticipated housing capacity will be increased to around 4,169 for the academic year of 2026-2027. There are 8 initiatives that Housing will be fostering. Those initiatives are: 1. Build Community and Belonging 2. Strengthen Academic Integration 3. Deliver High-Quality Facilities and Services 4. Provide Proactive Student Support 5. Enhance Staff Engagement and Training 6. Use Data to Drive Decisions 7. Streamline Administrative Processes 8. Promote Safety and Security. To support student success, we have initiated our living learning communities that comprise: 1st Generation, Summer Bridge, Education & Honors; Trojan U (leadership), Pre-Medicine/ Health, Belonging; Residential Partnerships; SI-PASS (Supplemental Instruction – Peer Assisted Study Sessions); CCAMPIS (Child Care Access Means Parents In School); Counseling Center; Health Services; and PureLiving Housing. Residential partnerships such as SI-PASS (Supplemental Instruction – Peer Assisted Study Sessions), CCAMPIS (Child Care Access Means Parents In School), Counseling Center, and Health Services. The “PureLiving Housing” has been created for students who want to live a clean life, such as smoke-free and healthy living.

Dr. Tia A. Minnis, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, had the great honor of presenting students who have achieved excellence. **College of Engineering:** Emerging Researcher National STEM conference students Naima Fagon, Keman Berry, and Yavette Wilson won 1st place for their research in robotics, additive manufacturing, and quantum systems. Favour Adesoye and Elisha Barnes earned 2nd place and a \$10,000 prize in the eight-week Mastercard x AUC Data Science Initiative Data Challenge. Kyra Evans, Munsoo Bwalya, and Samantha A. Collins won 3rd place in the InternXL AI Innovation Challenge. Desmond Komla, a senior manufacturing engineer, is a manufacturing engineer at Tesla and won the BEYA Student HBCU Future Leader Award. The **College of Humanities and Social Sciences** held its 20th Undergraduate Research Symposium, where Bonnie Soto earned 1st place for her oral presentation “Unfinished”. Joshua Branch earned 2nd place for his poster. **College of Agriculture:** First-year students Nasye Bugg and Jayla Vega, who together won 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place at the 50th Annual Association of 1890 Research Directors’ Symposium.

Dr Veronica Powell Shuford, Assistant Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and Accreditation, presented Sustaining Excellence: VSU Accreditation Update. There is specialized accreditation with the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), American Psychological Association (APA), Accreditation Commission for Programs in Hospitality Administration (ACPHA), and Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). The next on-site visit will be held March 26-30, 2028. Dr. Shuford also shared the importance and purpose of SACSOC as our accreditation body. SACSCOC. The reaffirmation is underway, and Phase 1 has already started. The new SACSO president is Dr. Stephen Pruitt, and his 3 objectives are accountability and outcomes, governance and leadership expectations, and operational agility. Board engagement is now a core expectation for SACSCOC.

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026
MEETING MINUTES
PAGE 4

Dr. Desmond Stephens, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, talked about strengthening academic excellence through faculty development and AI initiatives. He introduced Dr. Michelle Mosely, Director of General Education and Faculty Excellence, who concentrates on Pedagogy, professional development, and AI education. She has hosted 63 sessions with 638 participants. There is a new Academic Innovation Center that holds spaces for collaboration, studying, and active learning. Lightening talks are held monthly for faculty to share about integrating AI in the classroom. Dr. Stephens holds faculty book clubs to talk about the trends, strategies, and future of AI. The president has created an AI Executive cabinet that includes Dr. Desmond Stephens (chair), Forrest Black (Distance Education), Dr. Gabriella Waters (Director, Center for Responsible AI), Derrick Jennings (CIO), Kerryn King (CTO), and Dr. Brian Sayre (Academic and Op AI Integration). Thurgood Marshall has given VSU a \$2 million AI Digital Transformation initiative grant. Classroom use of generative AI tools are in cooperated. Tired training has been incorporated, and Troy has been introduced as an interactive bot that is trained on VSU data and works in collaboration with CampusCore AI. The Center for Responsible AI is creating student opportunities, research endeavors, and internal/external training.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice Cosgrove called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was received, properly seconded, and the committee voted by voice vote. The chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:01 a.m.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date