

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF VISITORS  
FULL BOARD MEETING  
10:30 A.M., FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2022  
The Gateway Dining & Event Center  
(on the campus of Virginia State University)  
(No Public Comment Period Scheduled)**

**DRAFT AGENDA**

**10:30 a.m. FULL BOARD MEETING CONVENED**

**Rector Valerie K. Brown, Presiding**

- Roll Call (*Dr. Christine Darden, Board Secretary*)
- Invocation (*Pastor Graham*)
- Rector's Remarks
- Approval of Agenda
  - Resolution to Approve Naming of the Academic Commons Building
  - Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Academic Commons Building

*(Lunch is Served)*

- President's Remarks ..... Dr. Makola M. Abdullah

**BOARD APPROVALS**

- Full Board Meeting Minutes, February 4, 2022
- Affirmation of Board Documents
  - Board Bylaws
  - Board Code of Ethics
  - Board Statement of Governance
  - Board Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Rights & Responsibilities
- Approval of the Board Meeting Schedule, 2022-2023

*(Break for Technology Team Preparations)*

**CLOSED SESSION(S)**

- Consideration of Honorary Degrees, Promotion & Tenure, and other Awards
- Discussion of the President's Performance Evaluation

*(Break for Technology Team Preparations)*

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Academic & Student Affairs Committee**
  - **Action Item(s):**
    - Candidates Recommended for Promotion & Tenure
    - Nominees Recommended for Honorary Degrees
    - Nominee for Faculty Emeritus
    - Nominee for Distinguished Professor
  - **Information Item(s):**
    - Summary of Updates (Covid-19 Task Force, Enrollment Management, Academic & Student Affairs Division)
    - Reports from the Faculty and Student Representatives
      - Dr. Ceslav Ciobanu, Faculty Representative
      - Mr. Kameron Gray, Student Representative
    - Remarks from the Staff Senate
      - Ms. Fran Thomas, Chair
- **Facilities, Finance & Audit Committee**
  - **Approval Items:**
    - Resolution for Approval of Proposed Operating Budget for 2022-2023
    - Resolution for Approval of Unfunded Scholarships for 2022-2023
    - Resolution for Approval of Establishment of Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee
  - **Information Item(s):**
    - Summary of Updates (Division of Finance/Administration, Internal Audit, Office of Compliance, Technology Services)
- **Institutional Advancement Committee**
  - **Action Item:**
    - Acknowledgement of the Alumna of the Year
  - **Information Item:**
    - Summary of Updates (Government Relations, Communications, Institutional Advancement)
- **Personnel, Compensation & Governance Committee**
  - **Information Item:**
    - Summary of Updates (Office of Human Resources)

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**REPORT OF AFFILIATED FOUNDATION(S)**

- VSU Foundation Board ..... Ms. Brenda Stith-Finch, Chair

**LEGAL COUNSEL UPDATE (IF ANY)**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 22, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Valerie Brown, Rector, called the meeting of the Virginia State University (VSU) Board of Visitors (Board) to order in the Gateway Dining and Event Center at approximately 10:30 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

A quorum was present.

*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  
 Ms. Shavonne Gordon  
 Mr. Raul Herrera  
 Dr. Charlie W. Hill (*departed approximately 1:45 p.m.*)  
 Mr. Jon Moore  
 Mr. William L. Murray  
 Mr. Edward Owens  
 Mr. Xavier Richardson  
 Mr. Wayne Turnage (*arrived approximately 12:53 p.m.*)  
 Dr. Ceslav Ciobanu, Faculty Representative to the Board  
 Mr. Kameron Gray, Student Representative to the Board

*Administration Present:*

Dr. Makola Abdullah, President  
 Dr. Donald Palm, Provost/Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs  
 Kevin Davenport, Senior Vice President, Finance & Administrative  
 Shawri King-Casey, Senior Advisor, Institutional Ethics, Equity, and Compliance  
 Dr. Annie C. Redd, Special Asst to the President/Director, Board Governance, Operations, & Relations  
 Maurion Edwards, Chief Information Officer/Technology Services  
 Chief David Bragg, Associate Vice President, VSU Police Department  
 Regina Tyler-Barnett, Associate Vice President, Student Success & Engagement  
 Dr. Alexis Brooks-Walter, Asst. Vice Provost/Enrollment Management  
 Dr. Gwendolyn Dandridge, Associate Vice President/Director, Communications  
 Eldon Burton, Director of Government Relations  
 Dr. Tia Minnis, Vice Provost for Academic Success, Planning & Institutional Effectiveness

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*Legal Counsel Present:*

Cynthia Norwood, Senior Assistant Attorney General

*Other Attendees:*

Travis Edmonds, Technology Services  
Derrick Jennings, Technology Services  
Yourdonus James, Office of Conference Services  
Danette Johnson, President's Office  
Debbie Jefferson, President's Office  
Tasha Owens, Internal Audit  
Joseph Lyons, Student Success & Engagement  
Danny T. Giles, Staff Senate

**INVOCATION**

Rector Brown invited Pastor Graham to offer the invocation.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Rector Brown announced a change in the agenda wherein the Board would consider a resolution for the naming of the Academic Commons Building, then adjourn the meeting, and attend the groundbreaking ceremony for the new building. The Board would reconvene the meeting after lunch. The Board approved the agenda by voice vote.

Visitor Shavonne Gordon, chair of the Institutional Advancement Committee, presented the Resolution to Name the Academic Commons Building as the Alfred W. Harris Academic Commons Building. A motion was made and properly seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

The Rector adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:45 a.m. and the Board members departed for the groundbreaking ceremony.

The Rector re-convened the Full Board meeting at approximately 12:10 p.m.

**RECTOR'S REMARKS**

Rector Brown acknowledged three board members who were retiring from the Board as of June 30, 2022: Ms. Thursa Crittenden, Dr. Charlie Hill, and Mr. Xavier Richardson. The Rector thanked these members for their two terms of service to the Board and Virginia State University. Rector Brown then invited President Abdullah to present his report to the Board.

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

President Abdullah shared more about his experience of being named to the U.S. President Board of Advisors on HBCUs. He highlighted several University initiatives and accomplishments including the addition of 3 new sports—Women's Soccer, Women's LaCrosse, and Men's LaCrosse in Fall 2022 followed by Men's Soccer in Fall 2023. President Abdullah gave construction updates on the new Alfred

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W. Harris Academic Commons Building, Rogers Stadium renovations, and the Admissions Building. He also recognized faculty, staff, and students for their achievements.

The President then welcomed and presented some VSU student leaders which included the 2022-2023 Royal Court and the Charlie Hill Leadership Institute Fellows.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

The Rector called for a motion to enter into closed session at 12:53 p.m. for the discussion of (1) personnel matters related to the employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, or performance of specific employees pursuant to Va. Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1), specifically relating to faculty promotion and tenure and the President's performance; and for (2) Honorary degrees or special awards pursuant to Va. Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (11), specifically relating to: discussion and consideration of honorary degrees, faculty emeritus honors, distinguished professor awards, and other awards. Cindy Norwood, Senior Assistant Attorney General, and Dr. Annie C. Redd, Special Assistant to the President/Board Liaison, remained in the closed session.

The Committee re-convened in open session at approximately 1:45 p.m. with a roll call vote that the Committee 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(s) by which the closed meeting was convened.

In open session, the Rector asked for motion for the Board to empower the Executive Committee to make the decision to extend the President's contract if certain conditions are met. The Executive Committee will then give the Rector the authority to negotiate and sign the revision. A motion was made and properly seconded; the motion carried by voice vote.

Rector Brown asked for a motion to bypass the chairs' committee summaries and other scheduled presentations and only consider action items due to time constraints. The motion was made and properly seconded; the motion carried by voice vote.

The Rector acknowledged Dr. Ceslav Ciobanu, Faculty Representative, and Kameron Gray, Student Representative, as this was their last board meeting; she expressed appreciation for their work.

### **BOARD APPROVALS**

The Board approved minutes from the February 4, 2022, meeting by voice vote (APPROVED). Dr. Charlie Hill was not present for the vote.

The Board affirmed the Board Documents, i.e., Board Bylaws, Board Code of Ethics, Board Statement of Governance, Board FOIA Rights and Responsibilities by voice vote (APPROVED). Dr. Charlie Hill was not present for the vote.

The Board approved the Board Meeting Schedule for 2022-2023 by voice vote (APPROVED). Dr. Charlie Hill was not present for the vote.

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The Board approved the recommendation of candidates for honorary degrees, promotion and tenure, professor emeritus, and distinguished professor by voice vote (APPROVED). Dr. Charlie Hill was not present for the vote.

**Honorary Degrees:** Mr. Huron F. Winstead; Dr. Keith Miller; Dr. Alma Adams

**Professor Emeritus and Distinguished Professor**

Dr. Cheryl Adeyemi, Mathematics & Economics

Dr. Maxwell Eseonu, Mathematics and Economics

**Promotion and Tenure Candidates by department**

Agriculture Research Station

Eunice Ndegwa, Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor

Toktan Taghavi, Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor

Teaching and Learning Department

Trina Spencer, Promotion to Full Professor

Shandra Claiborne-Payton, Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor

Ayana Conway, Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor

Education Leadership

Michael McIntosh, Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor

Languages and Literature

Pamela Reed, Promotion to Full Professor

Merry Byrd, Promotion to Full Professor

Deanna Mihaly, Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor

Jemayne King, Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor

Political Science & Public Administration

Charletta Barringer-Brown, Promotion to Full Professor

Sociology and Criminal Justice

Ifeoma Okoye, Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor

Mathematics and Economics

Mulugeta Kahsai, Tenure

Applied Engineering

Heng Li

The Board approved the Resolution for Approval of Proposed Operating Budget for 2022-2023 by voice vote (APPROVED). Dr. Charlie Hill was not present for the vote.

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The Board approved the Resolution for Approval of Unfunded Scholarships for 2022-2023 by voice vote (APPROVED). Dr. Charlie Hill was not present for the vote.

The Board approved the Resolution for Approval of Establishment of Audit & Compliance Committee by voice vote (APPROVED). Dr. Charlie Hill was not present for the vote.

The Board voted to acknowledge the Alumna of the Year, Ms. Holly Conrad Jackson by voice vote (APPROVED). Dr. Charlie Hill was not present for the vote.

**CLOSING REMARKS**

Rector Brown gave closing remarks stating that her first term ends on June 30<sup>th</sup> and how much she has enjoyed her time on the Board. Mr. Herrera, whose first term also ends June 30<sup>th</sup>, shared the same sentiments. The Rector indicated that the Governor's Office will inform the University about next year's board appointments in the very near future.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Rector adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:50 p.m.

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 Dr. Valerie K. Brown, Rector

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 Dr. Christine M. Darden, Secretary

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 Date

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 Date