

## MINUTES

April 9, 2024

The Board of Visitors of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University met on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 1:15 p.m. in Torgersen Hall Boardroom (Room 2100), Virginia Tech Campus, 620 Drillfield Drive, Blacksburg, Virginia.

### **Present**

Edward H. Baine (Rector)  
David Calhoun (Vice Rector)  
Carrie H. Chenery  
Sandy C. Davis  
Nancy Dye  
Greta J. Harris  
Brad Hobbs  
William Holtzman  
Donald Horsley  
Anna L. James  
Letitia A. Long  
L. Chris Petersen  
John Rocovich  
Jeff Veatch

### **Constituent Representatives:**

William Storey, Undergraduate Student Representative  
Emily Tirrell, Graduate/Professional Student Representative  
LaTawnya Burleson, Staff Representative  
Janice Austin, Administrative and Professional Faculty Representative  
Joseph Merola, Faculty Representative

Also present were the following: President Timothy Sands, Kim O'Rourke (Secretary to the Board), Mac Babb, Whit Babcock, Lynsay Belshe, Eric Brooks, Bob Broyden, Brock Burroughs, Cyril Clarke, Al Cooper, Megan Duffy, Corey Earles, Alisha Ebert, Juan Espinoza, Ron Fricker, Cliff Gaines, Ellington Graves, Tony Haga, Dee Harris, Kay Heidbreder, Tim Hodge, Elizabeth Hooper, Frances Keene, Sharon Kurek, Andrew Marinik, Elizabeth McClanahan, Nancy Meacham, Bryanna Meredith, Ken Miller, Mike Mulhare, April Myers, Rob Ogle, Mark Owczarski, Charlie Phlegar, Sharon Pitt, Jon Porter, Lori Rose, Lisa Royal, Amy Sebring, Brennan Shepard, Dee Dee Somervell, Aimée Surprenant, John Tarter, Jon Clark Teglas, Rob Viers, Tracy Vosburgh, Lisa Wilkes and other guests and students.

The meeting was livestreamed for the public via YouTube; there were 47 concurrent viewers on YouTube and a total of 39 views.

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There was no public comment period.

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Rector Baine convened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He introduced Megan Duffy, the new head coach for Women's Basketball, who was welcomed warmly.

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**APPROVAL/ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONSENT AGENDA OPEN ITEMS\***  
*(Refer to Attachments A through Q)*

[\*Note: Items on the consent agenda are matters of importance that have been reviewed carefully by members of the board in preparation for the meeting but have been determined not to require discussion by the board or its committees.]

Rector Baine asked for a motion to approve/accept the consent agenda open session items as listed. The motion was made by Mr. Rocovich, seconded by Mr. Hobbs, and approved unanimously.

- **Minutes from November 6, 2023, BOV Meeting**
- **Amendment of Minutes of June 6, 2023, BOV Meeting – Attachment A**
- **Minutes from November 14-15, 2023, BOV State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) Orientation Meeting – Attachment B**
- **Minutes from March 26, 2024, Public Comment Period – Attachment C**
- **Minutes from April 3, 2024, Student Selection Committee - Attachment D**
- **Report of Information Session on April 8, 2024 - Attachment E**
- **Minutes from April 9, 2024, Committee Chairs Meeting – Attachment F**
- **Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee General Report (4/9/24) - Attachment G**
- **Buildings and Grounds Committee General Report (4/9/24) - Attachment H**
- **Compliance, Audit, and Risk Committee General Report (4/8/24) – Attachment I**
- **Finance and Resource Management Committee General Report (4/8/24) - Attachment J**

*From the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee Consent Agenda:*

- **Resolution to Approve Appointment of Interim Executive Director of Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research - Attachment K**
- **Resolution to Approve Appointment and Reappointments to the Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research and Development Advisory Board - Attachment L**
- **Resolution to Discontinue Current Bachelor of Landscape Architecture and Approve New Bachelor of Landscape Architecture in the College of Architecture, Arts, and Design – Attachment M**
- **Resolution to Discontinue Master of Arts in Data Analysis and Applied Statistics – Attachment N**
- **Resolution to Update Title of Approved M.S. in Applied Data Science to M.S. in Data Science – Attachment O**

*From the Buildings and Grounds Committee Consent Agenda:*

- **Resolution to Approve an Appointment to the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority – Attachment P**

*Consent agenda information item; no Board of Visitors action required:*

- **Report of Research and Development Disclosures - Attachment Q**

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Rector Baine asked for a motion to approve the resolution to amend the bylaws of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors. The motion was made by Mr. Rocovich, seconded by Ms. James, and approved unanimously.

**Resolution to Amend the Bylaws of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors**

**That the resolution to amend the bylaws of the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors with respect to certain requirements for electronic meetings be approved.** (Copy filed with the permanent minutes and marked Attachment R.)

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**REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Rector Baine called on Ms. Chenery for the report of the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee.

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**REPORT OF THE BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

Rector Baine called on Ms. Harris for the report of the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

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**REPORT OF THE COMPLIANCE, AUDIT, AND RISK COMMITTEE**

Rector Baine called on Mr. Calhoun for the report of the Compliance, Audit, and Risk Committee.

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**REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Rector Baine called on Ms. James for the report of the Finance and Resource Management Committee.

As part of the Finance and Resource Management Committee report, approval of the following resolution was moved by Ms. James, seconded by Mr. Rocovich, and passed unanimously.

**Resolution to Approve the Tuition and Fee Rates for 2024-25**

**That the proposed tuition, fee, room and board rates be approved, effective Fall Semester 2024.** (Copy filed with the permanent minutes and marked Attachment S.)

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As part of the Finance and Resource Management Committee report, approval of the following resolution was moved by Ms. James, seconded by Mr. Rocovich, and passed unanimously.

**Approval of Year-to-Date Financial Performance Report  
(July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023)**

**That the report of income and expenditures for the University Division and the Cooperative Extension/Agricultural Experiment Station Division for the period of July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, and the Capital Outlay report be approved.**  
(Copy filed with the permanent minutes and marked Attachment T.)

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**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

As President Sands began his oral remarks, a small group of protestors who were seated in the room quietly holding signs expressing their support of Palestinians in the Israel-Hamas conflict began to chant, disrupting the meeting. President Sands addressed the protestors and asked them to cease chanting. When the protestors continued chanting and disrupting the meeting, the Virginia Tech Police were asked to escort the protestors out of the meeting. The protestors were escorted out peacefully, and after the meeting resumed, a few returned and sat silently, some with their signs.

A copy of President Sands' remarks to the Board of Visitors is filed with the permanent minutes and marked Attachment U.

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**CONSTITUENT REPORTS (no action required)**

The student representatives delivered their constituent reports orally at the board’s Information Session on April 8, 2024. The staff, administrative and professional faculty, and faculty representatives delivered their constituent reports orally at the full board meeting on April 9, 2024.

- Undergraduate Student Representative – William Storey
- Graduate and Professional Student Representative – Emily Tirrell
- Staff Representative – LaTawnya Burleson
- Administrative and Professional Faculty Representative – Janice Austin
- Faculty Representative – Joseph Merola

(Copies filed with the permanent minutes and marked Attachment V.)

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### **Motion to Begin Closed Session**

Mr. Calhoun moved that the Board convene in a closed meeting, pursuant to § 2.2-3711, Code of Virginia, as amended, for the purposes of discussing:

1. Appointment of faculty to emeritus status, the consideration of individual salaries of faculty, consideration of endowed professors, review of departments where specific individuals' performance will be discussed, and consideration of personnel changes including appointments, resignations, tenure, and salary adjustments of specific employees and faculty leave approvals.
2. The status of current litigation and briefing on actual or probable litigation.
3. Fundraising activities.
4. Special awards.

all pursuant to the following subparts of 2.2-3711 (A), Code of Virginia, as amended, .1, .7, .9, and .11.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Rocovich and passed unanimously. The livestream was suspended during the closed session.

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### **CLOSED SESSION REPORTS (No Board action required)**

1. Litigation report – Ms. Kay Heidbreder
2. Fundraising report – Mr. Charlie Phlegar

Mr. Calhoun departed the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

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Closed session ended at 3:41 p.m.

### **Motion to Return to Open Session**

Following the closed session, members of the public were invited to return to the meeting, and the livestream resumed. Rector Baine asked Ms. James to make the motion to return to open session. Ms. James made the following motion:

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Visitors of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provision of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Board of Visitors that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Visitors of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge: (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Board of Visitors.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Davis and passed unanimously.

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Upon motion by Mr. Rocovich and second by Ms. James, unanimous approval was given to the following group of resolutions as considered in closed session. Items marked with an asterisk were considered by the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee and the Finance and Resource Management Committee.

- **Resolutions to Approve Appointments to Emeritus/a Status (36)** - Attachment W
- **Resolutions to Approve Appointments to Endowed Chairs, Professorships, or Fellowships (11)** - Attachment X
- **Resolution to Approve Appointments to Alumni Distinguished Professor (3)** - Attachment Y
- **Resolution to Approve Appointments with Tenure (6)** - Attachment Z
- **Resolution to Approve Appointments with Tenure-to-Title (2)** – Attachment AA
- **Resolution to Approve Faculty Research Leaves (84)** - Attachment BB
- **Resolution to Approve Exception to the Virginia Conflict of Interests Act (1)** – Attachment CC
- **\*Ratification of Personnel Changes Report** – Attachment DD
- **Resolutions to Approve Conferral of Special Awards (2)** – Attachment EE
- **Resolutions to Approve Facility Namings (4)** – Attachment FF

(Copies are filed with the permanent minutes and marked as noted above.)

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**Ratification of 2024-25 Student Representatives to the Board of Visitors**

On behalf of the Selection Committee, which consisted of the members of the Executive Committee and the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee, Rector Baine presented nominations for the 2024-25 undergraduate and graduate student representatives to the Board. Upon motion by Ms. Chenery and second by Mr. Petersen, unanimous approval was given to the Ratification of the 2024-25 Student Representatives to the Board of Visitors as considered in Closed Session. The 2024-25 representatives will be:

- Leslie Orellana (undergraduate student representative) and
- William Poland (graduate/professional student representative).

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**Appointment of the Nominating Committee for Officers of the Board**

Rector Baine appointed the **Nominating Committee** that will bring nominations for Rector and Vice Rector for 2024-2025 to the June board meeting.

Chair: Greta Harris  
 Members: Brad Hobbs  
 Chris Petersen

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**Appointment of the 2024 Retreat Planning Committee**

Rector Baine appointed the **Retreat Planning Committee** that will work along with President Sands and Ms. O'Rourke to plan the annual board retreat to be held on August 26.

Members: Nancy Dye  
 Tish Long

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The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

The dates of the next regular meeting are June 10-11, 2024, in Blacksburg, VA.

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Edward H. Baine, Rector

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Kim O'Rourke, Secretary