

MINUTES

**BOARD OF VISITORS PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION
FOR PROPOSED 2021-22 TUITION AND FEES**

March 8, 2021

In accordance with *Code of Virginia* §23.1-307(E), requiring boards of visitors to hold public comment sessions prior to acting on any proposed increase in undergraduate tuition or mandatory fees, an ad hoc committee of Virginia Tech's Board of Visitors met in open session on Monday, March 8, 2021, in Assembly Hall of the Holtzman Alumni Center on the Blacksburg campus. Appropriate COVID-19 safety protocols were followed.

Present

Horacio Valeiras (Rector)
Ed Baine
Shelley Barlow
Carrie Chenery
Greta Harris
Sharon Brickhouse Martin
Preston White

Also present were the following: President Timothy Sands, Kim O'Rourke (Secretary to the Board), Eric Brooks, Cyril Clarke, Al Cooper, Corey Earles, Kari Evans, Kay Heidbreder, Tim Hodge, Ken Miller, Mark Owczarski, Dwayne Pinkney, and a member of the media.

Rector Valeiras called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. In accordance with *Code of Virginia* §23.1-307(D), a public notice of the proposed range of increase in tuition and fees was issued on February 18; the public notice included information about the public comment period. (Copy filed with permanent minutes and marked Attachment A.)

TUITION WORKSHOP

The meeting began with a 15-minute tuition workshop presented by Dwayne Pinkney, Senior Vice President and Chief Business Officer. Dr. Pinkney's PowerPoint presentation covered affordability and financial aid to Virginia Tech students, student success rates, the level of state support, how state support and tuition revenue are used, and factors influencing tuition development, as well as the proposed 2021-22 tuition and fees. (Copy filed with the permanent minutes and marked Attachment B.)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Following the presentation, Rector Valeiras called on Ms. O'Rourke to review the guidelines for the one-hour public comment period. Each speaker was allotted three minutes to speak and were to limit their comments to the topic of tuition and fees. Speakers were asked to pre-register, and if any time remained, then walk-ins would be given the opportunity to speak.

Four individuals from the Virginia Tech community registered to speak, including Miles Guth, president of the Student Government Association (SGA); Maruf Hoque, president of the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA); Sabrina Sturgeon, graduate student representative to the Board of Visitors; and Kase Poling, a graduate student. The speakers brought typed versions of their comments to be entered into the public record. (Copy filed with the permanent minutes and marked Attachment C.)

There were no walk-in speakers.

The public comment session ended at 2:30 p.m.

The public was also given the opportunity to submit written comments through March 14, 2021. The Board of Visitors is scheduled to take action on the proposed tuition and fees for 2021-22 at its next regular meeting on March 22, 2021. All public comments will be provided to the Board in preparation for that meeting and will become part of the public record.

Horacio Valeiras, Rector

Kim O'Rourke, Secretary