

MINUTES

**BOARD OF VISITORS PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION
FOR PROPOSED 2022-23 TUITION AND FEES**

March 22, 2022

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 Tuesday, March 22, 2022, in Assembly Hall of the Holtzman Alumni Center on the Blacksburg campus. Appropriate COVID-19 safety protocols were followed.

Present

Ed Baine (Vice Rector)
Carrie Chenery
Sharon Brickhouse Martin
Chris Petersen
Preston White

Also present were the following: President Timothy Sands, Kim O’Rourke (Secretary to the Board), Janice Austin, Mac Babb, John Barbish, Callan Bartel, James Bridgeforth, Cyril Clarke, Al Cooper, Holli Drewry, Corey Earles, Kari Evans, Paolo Fermin, Ron Fricker, Rachel Gabriele, Tom Gallemore, Debbie Greer, Kay Heidbreder, Tim Hodge, Chris Kiwus, Jack Leff, Caroline Lohr, Nancy Meacham, Scott Midkiff, Ken Miller, Phil Miskovic, Mark Owczarski, Ellen Plummer, Lauren Pollard, Brennan Shepard, Don Taylor, and Todd VandeVord.

Vice Rector Baine called the meeting to order at 1:45 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 March 4; 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 Chris Kiwus, Interim Senior Vice President and Chief Business Officer, and Ken Miller, Vice President of Finance. Mr. Miller’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 2022-23 tuition and fees. (Copy filed with the permanent minutes and marked Attachment B.)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Following the presentation, Vice Rector Baine 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.

Three individuals from the Virginia Tech community registered to speak, including Caroline Lohr, president of the Undergraduate Student Senate (USS); Jack Leff, president of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS); and James Heagerty, an undergraduate student. Mr. Heagerty was unable to attend so he asked Undergraduate Representative to the Board, Paolo Fermin, to read his comments. The speakers brought printed versions of their comments to be entered into the public record. (Copies filed with the permanent minutes and marked Attachment C.)

There were no walk-in speakers.

The public comment session ended at 3:00 p.m.

The public was also given the opportunity to submit written comments through March 28, 2022. The Board of Visitors is scheduled to take action on the proposed tuition and fees for 2022-23 at its next regular meeting on April 4, 2022, contingent upon the General Assembly approving a budget prior to that date. All public comments provided in writing will be provided to the Board in preparation for that meeting and will become part of the public record.

Letitia Long, Rector

Kim O'Rourke, Secretary