

MINUTES

**BOARD OF VISITORS PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION
FOR PROPOSED 2026-27 TUITION AND FEES**

April 2, 2026

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 Thursday, April 2, 2026, in a virtual meeting that was livestreamed for the public on YouTube.

Present

Rosa Atkins
Nancy Dye
William Holtzman
Starlette Johnson
Jim Miller
Robert Moser
J. Pearson
John Rocovich (Rector)
Margaret Ann Smith

Also present were the following: President Timothy Sands, Kim O’Rourke (Secretary to the Board), Simon Allen, Al Cooper, Corey Earles, Kay Heidbreder, Tim Hodge, April Myers, Mark Owczarski, Julie Ross, Lisa Royal, Amy Sebring, and Dee Dee Somervell.

During the public comment session, there were 43 concurrent viewers on YouTube and a total of 62 views.

Speakers: Emma Roshioru (President of the Undergraduate Student Senate), Pooja Bhagawat (President of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate), Kristopher Charles Hite, Juno Bartsch, Emilie Helmbold, Sajib Acharjee Dip, Min Zhang, Shallon M. Jozi, Caili Harris, and Andrew Gunsch.

Jim Miller, chair of the Board’s Finance and Resource Management Committee, presided over the meeting and called the virtual meeting to order at 1:30 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 15, 2026; the public notice included information about the public comment period. (Copy filed with permanent minutes and marked Attachment A.)

BUDGET/TUITION PRESENTATION

The meeting began with a 15-minute presentation by Amy Sebring, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Ms. Sebring’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 proposed ranges for 2026-27 tuition and fee increases. (Copy filed with the permanent minutes and marked Attachment B.)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Following the presentation, Mr. Miller called on Ms. O’Rourke to review the guidelines for the 30-minute public comment period. Each speaker was allotted three minutes to speak and were to limit their comments to the topic of tuition and fees.

Ten individuals from the Virginia Tech community pre-registered to speak. However, two individuals withdrew and three did not join the Zoom meeting to speak. One additional individual signed up to speak while the virtual public comment meeting was in session. In total, 6 individuals gave public comments: Emma Roshioru (undergraduate student), Kristopher Charles Hite (faculty), Juno Bartsch (graduate student), Emilie Helmbold (graduate student), Shallon Jozi (graduate student), and Thomas Feely (undergraduate student). Speakers were instructed to send typed versions of their comments to bov@vt.edu to be entered into the public record. (Copies filed with the permanent minutes and marked Attachment C.)

The public comment session ended at 2:07 p.m.

The public was also given the opportunity to submit written comments through April 6, 2026. The Board of Visitors is scheduled to take action on the proposed tuition and fees for 2026-27 at its next regular meeting on April 14, 2026. All public comments will be provided to the Board in preparation for that meeting and will become part of the public record.

James Miller, FRM Committee Chair

Kim O’Rourke, Secretary