

**MINUTES**

**BOARD OF VISITORS PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION  
FOR PROPOSED 2023-24 TUITION AND FEES**

March 2, 2023

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, March 2, 2023, in a virtual meeting that was livestreamed for the public on YouTube.

**Present**

Ed Baine (Vice Rector)  
Shelley Barlow  
Carrie Chenery  
Sandy Davis  
Greta Harris  
C. T. Hill  
Brad Hobbs  
Anna James  
Tish Long (Rector)  
Sharon Brickhouse Martin  
Melissa Nelson  
Chris Petersen

Also present were the following: President Timothy Sands, Kim O'Rourke (Secretary to the Board), Lori Buchanan, Al Cooper, Corey Earles, Kay Heidbreder, Tim Hodge, Ken Miller, April Myers, Mark Owczarski, Lisa Royal, Amy Sebring, Brennan Shepard, and Tracy Vosburgh.

During the public comment session, there were 82 concurrent viewers on YouTube and a total of 108 views.

Speakers: Caroline Lohr, Ben Beiter, Riley DeHority, Emily Burns, Rachel Maizel, Trevor Jeyeraj Samraj

Rector Long called the virtual 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 February 17, 2023; the public notice included information about the public comment period. (Copy filed with permanent minutes and marked Attachment A.)

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## TUITION WORKSHOP

The meeting began with a 15-minute tuition workshop presented 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 the proposed 2023-24 tuition and fees. (Copy filed with the permanent minutes and marked Attachment B.)

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## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Following the presentation, Rector Long 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. Speakers were asked to pre-register, and if any time remained, then call-ins would be given the opportunity to speak.

Eight individuals from the Virginia Tech community pre-registered to speak, including Caroline Lohr, president of the Undergraduate Student Senate (USS); Ben Beiter, president of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS); graduate students Riley DeHority, Emily Burns, and Rachel Maizel; and three other students (one graduate and two undergraduate) who did not join the Zoom webinar to speak. One international graduate student, Trevor Jeyaraj Samraj, called in during the public comment period to register and was able to speak. Four of the speakers submitted typed versions of their comments to be entered into the public record. (Copy filed with the permanent minutes and marked Attachment C.)

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

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The public was also given the opportunity to submit written comments through March 13, 2023. The Board of Visitors is scheduled to take action on the proposed tuition and fees for 2023-24 at its next regular meeting on March 20, 2023. All public comments will be provided to the Board in preparation for that meeting and will become part of the public record.

**Note:** Because the General Assembly did not finish its budget work by the close of the regular session on February 25, the Board delayed the vote on proposed tuition and fees for 2023-24 that was to have occurred on March 20, 2023.

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*Approved*

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Letitia Long, Rector

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Kim O'Rourke, Secretary