BOARD OF VISITORS COMMITTEE CHAIRS MEETING
MINUTES

March 20, 2023

The Committee Chairs of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University met in open session on Monday, March 20, 2023, at 7:30 a.m. in the Old Guard Salon at The Inn at Virginia Tech, 901 Price’s Fork Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060.

Committee Chairs Present
Ms. Letitia Long (Rector, Exec Comm Chair)
Mr. Ed Baine (Vice Rector, FRM Chair)
Ms. Shelley B. Barlow (B&G Chair)
Ms. Sharon B. Martin (CAR Chair)
Dr. Melissa Nelson (ARSA Chair)
Mr. Chris Petersen (G&A Chair)

Absent

Also present at the meeting were President Timothy Sands, Kim O’Rourke (Secretary to the Board), Cyril Clarke, Chris Kiwus, Sharon Kurek, Nancy Meacham, Ken Miller, Ellen Plummer, Amy Sebring, Jon Clark Teglas.

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Rector Long convened the meeting of committee chairs and explained that the purpose was to identify topics for the Board’s next information session in June and possibly beyond. The committee chairs developed the following list:

1. Innovation Campus – focus on faculty, research, and programs; Amazon update.
2. Access and affordability update
3. Medical school – determine what Virginia Tech wants in terms of making contributions to medical workforce, goal related to residency programs, partnership with Carilion – provide foundation for deeper dive in August, at which time the Board might take an official position.
4. Research – look at outcomes/indicators of top 100 global universities to determine gaps and how Virginia Tech is addressing these through health sciences, research institutes, destination areas, etc.
5. Parking and transportation
6. Constituent reports (5)
7. New at every meeting – (either at info session or full board) time for open session discussion by board members to discuss any items posted in the portal for information (IT transformation, Innovation Campus, etc.) or items from any committee agenda.
Beginning in June, the Board will be returning to the 2017 meeting model wherein the Compliance, Audit, and Risk Committee meets on the morning of the first day, the information session occurs that afternoon, and then the rotating committee meets. On the second day, the other committees will meet in the morning, and the full Board will meet in the afternoon.

Future information session (or possibly retreat) topics:

- Future of medical school and also partnership with Carilion, Children’s National, and the Commonwealth, etc. – deeper dive in August or later building on introduction at June meeting.
- Northern Virginia task force – In August, presentation by Julie Ross on task force’s assessment of what we have, the organizational construct, and vision, to be followed at a later meeting with a deeper dive into the vision.
- Educational Mission: Provost Clarke’s roadmap - online learning along with student curriculum and support – August or later
- Result of revisiting Beyond Boundaries – June or later
- Impact of pending court decisions on intercollegiate athletics – June or later
- Impacts of Supreme Court ruling on enrollment management/admissions – June or later
- Moss Arts Center – revenue-generating potential, maximizing facility utilization – wait for new Dean of Architecture, Arts, and Design, who may have some ideas.
- Research – focusing on a specific part of the research portfolio.
- Feature work of an individual researcher or research team that has attained recent recognition (10 min) so that Board can learn how their minds work, what motivates them – to occur periodically on an ongoing basis. (Linsey Marr’s induction into the National Academy of Engineering was cited as an example.)
- Innovation Campus – presentations in June and November. The June focus presentation would cover faculty, research, and programs. The November focus would be on students, curriculum, and student support services.

Topics for the August retreat may be drawn from the above and/or the results of the Board’s upcoming self-assessment. The first part of the retreat should continue to include orientation.

Presenters should be coached to assume that Board members have read their PowerPoint presentation in the portal (meaning that the slides must be in final form for discussion at dry runs) and to spend their time before the Board highlighting the key points, challenges, etc., and answering questions.

Note: Prior to each Board meeting, the IT dashboard will be updated and an IT Transformation PowerPoint including tasks marked as on time, delayed, or completed will be placed in the portal. Also, an Innovation Campus update report will be placed in the portal for the Board’s information. This enables the Board to determine at what meetings they would like to have an in-depth presentation on specific aspects of those initiatives.

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 a.m.

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Letitia A. Long, Rector

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Kim O'Rourke, Secretary