

**OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF VISITORS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, August 9, 2021**

MINUTES

The Executive Committee of the Board of Visitors of Old Dominion University met at 12:00 Noon on Monday, August 9, 2021, in the Board Room of the Kate and John R. Broderick Dining Commons on the Norfolk campus. Present from the Committee were:

R. Bruce Bradley, Rector
Yvonne T. Allmond
Robert S. Corn
Unwana B. Dabney (via Zoom)
Jerri F. Dickeski
Larry R. Hill
Toykea S. Jones (via Zoom)
Lisa B. Smith (via Zoom)

Also in attendance from the Board: Kay A. Kemper (via Zoom)
Ross Mugler (via Zoom)
Murry Pitts

Also present were:

Brian O. Hemphill, President (via Zoom)	R. Earl Nance
Austin Agho (via Zoom)	Tom Odom
Greg DuBois	September Sanderlin (via Zoom)
Annie Morris Gibson	Ashley Schumaker
Casey Kohler	Don Stansberry (via Zoom)
Donna Meeks	

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Rector called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. and welcomed those who are attending in person and via Zoom. He noted that President Hemphill is participating via Zoom since he is on the Monarch Nation Tour that starts this evening in Roanoke. President Hemphill said that from Roanoke they will go to Charlottesville then Northern Virginia for two events, then to Richmond, and then return to Hampton Roads for an event in Virginia Beach and the last event at the Priority Club on ODU's campus. Expected attendance is a low of 80 and a high of 401 at one event, with others ranging from 125 to 250. The format for each event will begin with a video followed by a 15-minute presentation and Q&A. Several Board members said they were planning to attend one of the events.

The Rector then called for approval of the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings held on March 22, 2021, and May 17, 2021. Upon a motion by Ms. Dickeski and seconded by Mr. Hill,

the minutes were approved by roll-call vote (*Aye: Allmond, Bradley, Corn, Dabney, Dickeski, Hill, Jones, Kemper, Mugler, Pitts, Smith; Nay: None*).

RECTOR'S REPORT

In his report to the Committee, Rector Bradley reminded Board members of the requirement to complete the Ethics Advisory Council's Conflict of Interest Training. Donna will follow up with those who have not yet done so.

As noted in the results of the Board's self-assessment survey conducted last year, Board members expressed an interest in having two-day Board meetings in order to have more time to discuss strategic issues. To kick that off, a Board retreat will be held on September 15. President Hemphill has sent a book to each of the Board members asking everyone to read it in advance for discussion with the author at the retreat. In doing so, be thinking of what the key issues are facing ODU in the coming years. For example, what is the right size for ODU and how do we get there? Another key issue is debt planning. The agenda for the retreat will be sent out soon and plans are to hold it at The Cavalier Hotel in Virginia Beach.

The Rector noted how impressed he was with the Provost's email announcing the Provost's Fellows. Provost Agho said that this was implemented five years ago and the Board will have an opportunity to hear from these individuals.

The Rector called on Ms. Lisa Smith for a report from the Board's Nominating Committee. Ms. Smith reported that the Committee is meeting today to decide on the slate of officers to serve from September 2021 through June 2022. This slate will be sent to Board members after today's meeting and presented for approval by the Board at the September meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In his report to the Board, President Hemphill provided an update on a number of important activities and initiatives:

COVID-19 Fall Plans – The Delta variant has created some challenges that had not been anticipated for the fall semester. On July 27, the CDC issued new guidance recommendations regarding vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals and mask requirements for public, indoor settings, specifically for areas considered as high transmission areas. Last Thursday Governor Northam announced that all State employees will have to show that they are vaccinated against COVID-19 or submit to weekly testing. As a result of these recent announcements, the administration had a number of discussions this past week and a campus communication will go out today or tomorrow announcing two critical items: vaccine requirements and required masking.

The University had previously announced the vaccine requirement for all students, but now the requirement extends to all faculty and staff. In the campus communication, health and religious exemptions are being offered, but those unvaccinated will be subjected to weekly testing. CDC guidelines will be followed for masking requirements, which at this time requires masking in all indoor settings whether vaccinated or unvaccinated. These requirements, although not popular, are

important in maintaining ODU's commitment to providing a healthy and safe environment. The University is well equipped to be able to deal with the situation as it evolves.

Fall Enrollment – With several weeks remaining before the start of the fall semester, a 2.2% decrease in headcount and a 4.6% decrease in FTEs compared to a year ago are anticipated. In general, students are enrolling a bit slower than in previous years and taking fewer classes. First-year students are down by 190 while transfer students are up by 40. Graduate degree-seeking students are down by 18. Overall headcount enrollment is expected to be 23,673 compared with fall 2020 enrollment of 24,207. In response to a question for Ms. Allmond, President Hemphill said that some of the transfer students are coming from the community colleges, but also there is a tendency for students to transfer closer to home during challenging times. In terms of FTEs, undergraduates are down 1033 and graduate students are up 219 for an overall decrease of 814 FTEs.

In response to a question from Mr. Pitts, the President noted that a number of institutions are experiencing declining enrollments, but he anticipates a rebound the following year rather than this being a continuing trend. This will require a commitment to strategic areas of growth. In response to question by Mr. Mugler, President Hemphill said that the official dates for the "enrollment cliff" are 2025 to 2029 when a 15% decline in the overall high school population is expected. Some say that we're going to see it a year or two earlier, so this stresses importance of seeking strategic areas of growth as the University develops its Strategic Plan.

Budget Impact – The University received Federal and State funding to mitigate the budget impact due to COVID-19. \$62M in institutional funding was received along with \$37.9M in student emergency grants that go directly to the students. Some of the guidelines have changed as we've gone through the process. For the current fiscal year budget, we're closely monitoring credit hours, tuition revenue, and auxiliary student fees. For the fall, based on enrollment projections, a \$11.5M shortfall is expected, \$8M in tuition and \$3.5M in auxiliary fees. A number of measures are in place to ensure that we have a balanced budget. \$46M was carried forward from the prior fiscal year that will help mitigate the anticipated shortfall. The Board will receive a more detailed budget presentation at the September meeting. The budget is currently based on enrollment projections. Vice President Stansberry and his team are reaching out to potential students to encourage and assist them in registering for courses.

Continued State Support – President Hemphill acknowledged Governor Northam and the members of the General Assembly for their continued support of Old Dominion University. The Governor's budget for the special session included \$10M for the Online Virginia Network and \$100M for system-wide funding specifically for low- and middle-income students. SCHEV is developing the methodology for this funding and Old Dominion is likely to fare well given the students we serve. The State is providing support around the national issue of name, image and likeness for student athletes to be compensated for the use of their name, image and likeness. Wood Selig and his staff are working to educate themselves and student athletes on this issue.

Partnerships – ODU is proud to have many partnerships with great entities in Hampton Roads, across the Commonwealth and beyond. We're making great progress on the School of Public Health with Norfolk State University and Eastern Virginia Medical School. President Hemphill has spoken with the new president of EVMS and they are meeting the week of August 16. He also met with their new Rector about future partnership opportunities. He will be meeting with the

EVMS Board on September 10 as part of their retreat to discuss opportunities for partnership and engagement. Prior to that the presidents and rectors of ODU, EVMS and Sentara will be meeting to discuss partnership opportunities. There is a great deal of energy, excitement and synergy around health needs in the community and a genuine commitment to how we might address some of the health disparities in the region.

Upcoming Board Retreat – President Hemphill said that he hoped the Board members received Jeffrey Selingo's book and have started reading it in preparation for the day-long retreat on September 15. Mr. Selingo will be joining the group for an engaging conversation. In addition to the informal and structured time with Mr. Selingo, he and the Rector have been discussing the agenda and schedule that will be shared with the full Board within the coming weeks. The details for the off-site location are underway.

At the conclusion of his formal report, the Rector asked the President to share some of his initial impressions about the University. President Hemphill commented that a lot of great work has gone into building this institution. There are dedicated people here who are passionate about ODU. Unique opportunities exist in areas of research and growth. Development of the Strategic Plan will be a main area of focus and a timeline and more details will be shared with the Board. Old Dominion University is well-positioned but will need to take some strategic steps forward knowing that the competition is coming. He looks forward to engaging with his Cabinet to understand their passion, commitment and willingness to lean in on the work that needs to be done.

In response to a question from Ms. Jones, President Hemphill said that ODU Online presents some significant opportunities for growth but will require additional work collectively across the institution to achieve. ODU is better positioned than most of its peers in this realm. Another opportunity is the potential for key partnerships to drive the local economy and workforce development.

In response to a question from Mr. Pitt about the name, image and likeness issue, President Hemphill commented that it is changing the landscape of college athletics and stressed the importance of managing the process so that there are no missteps. Wood Selig is chair of the athletic directors for Conference USA so he is actively engaged in these discussions.

MOTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

The Rector called on Ms. Jones, who made the following motion, “Mister Rector, I move that this meeting be convened in closed session, as permitted by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A) (1) for the purpose of discussing two personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hill and approved by roll-call vote (*Aye: Allmond, Bradley, Corn, Dabney, Dickeski, Hill, Jones, Kemper, Mugler, Pitts, Smith; Nay: None*).

Joining the Board members in closed session were President Hemphill, Provost Austin Agho, Vice President Ashley Schumaker, and University Counsel Earl Nance.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND FOIA CERTIFICATION

At the conclusion of closed session, the Rector reconvened the meeting and the following Freedom of Information Act Certification was read: “Any person who believes that the Board discussed items which were not specifically exempted by law or not included in the motion, must now state where they believe there was a departure from the law or a departure in the discussion of matters other than that stated in the motion convening the closed session. I shall now take a vote of the Board. All those who agree that only lawfully exempted matters and specifically only the business matter stated in the motion convening the closed session were discussed in closed session say “aye.” All those who disagree say “nay.” The certification was approved by roll-call vote (*Aye: Allmond, Bradley, Corn, Dabney, Dickeski, Hill, Jones, Kemper, Mugler, Pitts, Smith; Nay: None*).

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Rector thanked Earl Nance and Greg DuBois for their service to the University and wished them well in their new endeavors.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to come before the Committee.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.