

**OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF VISITORS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Monday, October 25, 2021**

**MINUTES**

The Executive Committee of the Board of Visitors of Old Dominion University met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, October 25, 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  
Jerri F. Dickeski

Absent from the Committee: Larry R. Hill  
Toykea S. Jones

Also in attendance from the Board: Carlton F. Bennett (via Zoom)  
Peter G. Decker, III  
Jay Harris (via Zoom)  
Kay A. Kemper (via Zoom)  
Ross Mugler  
Murry Pitts (via Zoom)  
Maurice Slaughter (via Zoom)  
Lisa B. Smith  
Armistead B. Williams

Also present were:

Brian O. Hemphill, President	Tom Odom
Austin Agho	September Sanderlin
Alonzo Brandon	Ashley Schumaker
Morris Foster	Wood Selig (via Zoom)
Todd Johnson	Don Stansberry
Donna Meeks	Allen Wilson

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Rector called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.2, the following Board members participated in the meeting via Zoom:

- Carlton Bennett, from his office in Virginia Beach; unable to attend in person due to a work conflict

- Jay Harris, from his office in Bristol, Connecticut; unable to attend in person due to a work conflict
- Kay Kemper, from her home in Florida; unable to attend in person due to a personal scheduling conflict
- Murry Pitts, from his office in Newport News; unable to attend in person due to a work conflict
- Maurice Slaughter, from his home in Florida; unable to attend in person due a personal scheduling conflict

A quorum of the Executive Committee was physically present.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Rector asked for approval of the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on August 9, 2021. Upon a motion by Ms. Dickseski and seconded by Ms. Allmond, the minutes were approved by roll-call vote (*Ayes: Allmond, Bradley, Corn, Dickseski; Nays: None*).

### **RECTOR'S REPORT**

The Rector reported that all Board members were asked to join this meeting in order to be engaged in the decision about the athletic conference.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Hemphill recognized Mr. Todd Johnson for stepping in as Interim Vice President for Administration & Finance while a search is being conducted for the new vice president to take Greg DuBois' place. He provided an update on the following:

COVID-19 - The University is continuing to experience positive trend lines, with high vaccination rates, an overall compliance rate of 94%, and a low number of cases averaging one to two per day. President Hemphill expressed his appreciation to Vice President Stansberry for his leadership in this endeavor.

Homecoming - Homecoming was a wonderful celebration with ODU's alumni, campus, and community. It was great to see so many Monarchs come back home. Highlights included an Alumni Chat (which was new this year), an open house for the new Chemistry Building, the Alumni Honors dinner, 40 Under 40, and the Sports Hall of Fame.

Fall 2022 Recruitment - This past Saturday, the University hosted its first Open House for the Fall 2022 class. Work to build the next class is in full swing.

Branding, Marketing and Communication Task Force Update - The Task Force is getting close to the finish line. A variety of subgroups are finishing up their work in the next week, with a

November 1st deadline. The broader group will continue to discuss and formulate its recommendations and a final report will be in hand before the Thanksgiving holiday. The President recognized Vice President Schumaker for her leadership on this Task Force.

Strategic Planning Progress - Nominations have been received from individuals and areas across campus for the strategic planning groups and we are in the final stages of identifying the membership for each of the 12 groups. The appointment memorandums and campus announcement will be distributed this week. Planning for internal and external focus groups are underway. During the December Board meeting, all of the focus group sessions will have occurred and an assessment on the outcomes and themes, as well as next steps, will be provided.

### **MOTION FOR CLOSED SESSION**

The Rector recognized Ms. Allmond, who made the following motion, "Mr. Rector, I move that this meeting be convened in closed session, as permitted by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A), subsections (6), (7), and (8) for the purposes of discussing the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the University would be adversely affected; consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the University; and consultation with legal counsel retained by the University regarding a specific legal matter requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel." The motion was seconded by Ms. Dickseski and approved by roll-call vote (*Ayes: Allmond, Bradley, Corn, Dickseski; Nays: None*).

In addition to the Board members present, President Brian O. Hemphill, Vice President Ashley Schumaker, and University Counsel Allen Wilson were present during the closed session.

### **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 (*Ayes: Allmond, Bradley, Corn, Dickseski; Nays: None*).

### **ATHLETICS PRESENTATION**

President Hemphill and Athletic Director Wood Selig presented information on Old Dominion University's potential membership in the Sun Belt Athletic Conference. Members of the Board of

Trustees of the Old Dominion Athletic Foundation and select donors were invited to participate via Zoom and to comment following the presentation.

Travel comparisons for the Sun Belt Conference with the addition of ODU, JMU, Marshall and USM and a potential new Conference USA with the addition of Liberty were shared. Media exposure comparisons were also shared, noting that the Sun Belt's partnership with ESPN extends through 2030-31. Dr. Selig highlighted the Sun Belt's football, basketball and baseball programs.

The budgets of the Sun Belt Conference members with the four new teams ranks Old Dominion University second highest next to James Madison University. The budget includes a Conference USA exit fee of \$4M, the Sun Belt's annual distribution of \$1.1M, the annual conference fee, and the travel savings generated by regional east and west divisions. President Hemphill noted that the Sun Belt has agreed to waive the entry fee for the new members.

The Sun Belt conference leadership has over 50 years of combined league experience under the leadership of Commissioner Keith Gill. It's offices are located in the Superdome in New Orleans. Competition could begin in the fall of 2023 or possibly the fall of 2022.

In response to a question from Mr. Mugler, it was noted that student fees would not increase as a result of the move to Conference USA.

Board members and guests expressed their support of the move to the Sun Belt Conference. Ms. Dickeski moved that the Board of Visitors approves the move to the Sun Belt Conference. The motion was seconded by Ms. Allmond and approved by roll-call vote (*Ayes: Allmond, Bradley, Corn, Dickeski; Nays: None*).

President Hemphill asked Board members and guests to keep this information confidential until the announcement is made on Wednesday. A press conference will be held on Thursday at 9:00 a.m. The Rector thanked and congratulated President Hemphill and Athletic Director Wood Selig.

### **OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no old or unfinished business to come before the Committee.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to come before the Committee.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.