OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF VISITORS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, May 17, 2021

MINUTES

The Executive Committee of the Board of Visitors of Old Dominion University met at 12:00 Noon on Monday, May 17, 2021. The meeting was held electronically via the Zoom application pursuant § 4-0.01(g) of Chapter 1289 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly. Present from the Committee:

Kay A. Kemper, Rector
Yvonne T. Allmond
R. Bruce Bradley
Robert S. Corn
Unwanna B. Dabney
Larry R. Hill
Toykea S. Jones
Lisa B. Smith

Absent from the Committee: Jerri F. Dickseski

Also in attendance from the Board: Robert Broermann
P. Murry Pitts

Also present were:

John Broderick, President
Austin Agho
Alonzo Brandon
Greg DuBois
Annie Morris Gibson
Morris Foster
Casey Kohler

Kevin Leslie
Donna Meeks
R. Earl Nance
Tom Odom
September Sanderlin
Amanda Skaggs
Jay Wright

CALL TO ORDER AND RECTOR’S REPORT

The Rector called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. She congratulated President Broderick for his receipt of the Darden Award from the CIVIC organization. This award in honor of Joshua Darden is given every year to the outstanding individual and organization who have contributed to the welfare of the Hampton Roads community. Sentara was the recipient of the organization award. Old Dominion University was part of the foundation of CIVIC over 20 years ago and has continued its support. She invited Board members to attend the event on November 17 at the Decker Half Moon Center when the awards will be presented.
The Rector reminded board members of their requirement to take the online Conflict of Interest training. So far, only three members have taken the training to date. Participation by the Board in this training is important as well in order for the University to meet reaccreditation requirements.

The Rector asked Earl Nance and Donna Meeks to discuss the legal requirements and plans for Board meetings after June 30 when the Governor’s emergency order will be lifted. Mr. Nance confirmed that the Board may continue to meet electronically until then but has the discretion to meet in person if desired. Ms. Meeks added that some board members have expressed an interest in meeting in person, so the preliminary plan for the June meeting is for the committees to meet via Zoom and the full Board meeting to be held in person at the Broderick Dining Commons. Additionally, given the feedback received from the Board’s self-assessment survey in December, two-day meetings (Thursday/Friday) have been scheduled for the 2021-2022 academic year beginning in September. If there is still any discomfort with the committee meetings being held in the smaller committee rooms in the Broderick Dining Commons, they could be held in the larger Board Room as long as no two meetings are held concurrently. Another possible meeting location is the Priority Auto Club at the football stadium. No decisions need to be made for the September meeting and beyond, but plans will need to be finalized for the June meeting.

Following a brief discussion, where it was noted that the June Board meeting would be President Broderick’s last meeting with the Board, the Governor is expected to lift capacity limitations for in-person events on May 28, President Broderick noted his comfort with meeting in person, luncheon participants would be limited, and Board members would be given the option to meet in person or via Zoom, the decision was made to proceed with Zoom committee meetings on June 16 and hybrid meetings on June 17.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

In his report to the Committee, President Broderick provided an update on the eight graduation ceremonies that were recently held. One was held virtually, in which Rector Kemper participated and Senator Mark Warner spoke and included 6,200 views from students and family members. The remaining seven began on Thursday morning and ended on Saturday afternoon and were held at the football stadium. In total, about 4,000 students participated. The first two ceremonies were for the 2020 graduates and had about 1,200 attendees. The remaining five ceremonies had about 3,000 participants. With each graduate receiving five guest tickets, that meant close to 20,000 family members were able to participate. He thanked Provost Agho and Vice President Stansberry for participating alongside him in each of the ceremonies, and congratulated Karen Meier and her staff and Mike Fryling from Global Spectrum for a job well done. Because of competing athletic events, special ceremonies were held for members of the women's tennis and the men’s baseball teams.

President Broderick noted how well the Owens House opening went and said that Cecelia Tucker wrote an opinion piece about the significance of the opening. Another article is expected to come out soon. The Mayor and City Manager attended the Chemistry Building opening and toured the facility, and now members of City Council would like to tour the building as well. This is a great way to showcase ODU’s efforts in STEM-H. As students, faculty and staff return to the campus, they will be impressed with these new facilities.
President Broderick introduced Kevin Leslie, Executive Director of the Hampton Roads Biomedical Consortium, for an overview of this joint project with ODU, EVMS and Sentara. Vice President Morris Foster first provided some history of the consortium, which was created last July by the General Assembly, followed by the hiring of Dr. Leslie in December. The legislation creating the consortium had two goals: (1) to improve population health in the region and, (2) to provide a boost to a biomedical economic cluster. A study was conducted and concluded that focus be on a digital health approach rather than a lab-based approach.

Dr. Leslie provided additional background information on his education and experience. He described the structure, membership and budget for the Consortium and the members of its Board of Directors comprised of two representatives from each member institution and two at-large members. The Consortium will be located on the 2nd Floor of the Tri-Cities Center and reports to VMASC within the ODU hierarchy but represents the broader Consortium and all of its members. It is also designated as 501C3 as a governance mechanism and to engage in some of its external partnerships.

A listening tour among stakeholders in the community was conducted to get a better sense of the anticipated outcomes, find out what has worked and what hasn’t, and to strengthen partnerships. Among his findings was an overwhelmingly positive sentiment that this approach will be successful, and there is a willingness to work together to make it happen.

The vision of the HRBRC is to be a vehicle to enable healthier lives through collaboration, with a focus on physical, mental and economic health. The three pillars are: (1) increasing the biomedical research profile and productivity of the region (science); (2) addressing health disparities through research and community partnerships (equity); and (3) fostering biohealth innovation and commercialization (innovation). The planned activities to achieve this include directly funding research projects, capital investments, new regional partnerships, research superstructure, events and series, and outreach and education.

Completion of the HRBRC headquarters is anticipated by the end of the calendar year and will have much of the same trappings of a traditional department but the layout of the space is non-traditional and will enable collaboration. Some cutting-edge technology will be housed here, including a printer that can print in 1,000 different materials such as bone, tissue, and organ matrices, that changes in game in terms of education and prototyping in the healthcare space. A 5G hub for prototyping and building medical devices unique in the state will also be housed here to support the Internet of Medical Things. Data infrastructure is also an important element in terms of capability and security for the ability to engage with major health systems while remaining HIPAA compliant.

Dr. Leslie highlighted two current projects. Digital Neighborhoods is a collaboration with ODU, EVMS, Sentara, Norfolk State, CHKD and the City of Norfolk to build a digital twin of the communities in the region in order to figure out where are the biggest needs and what solutions will offer the most bang for the buck. Data is being combined from totally different domains, both qualitative and quantitative in nature, whether its acreage, green space and sidewalks or health and crime data, zoning permits, etc. The second is an emergency project with the Virginia Department
of Health and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management on vaccine vulnerability that aided in vaccine distribution.

**MOTION FOR CLOSED SESSION**

The Rector called on Ms. Jones, who made the following motion, “Madam 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 the compensation of specific employees of the Board, namely the President of the institution.” The motion was seconded by Mr. Hill and approved by roll-call vote *(Aye: Allmond, Bradley, Broermann, Corn, Hill, Jones, Kemper, Pitts, Smith; Nay: None).* Joining the Board members in closed session were Greg DuBois, Earl Nance, Jay Wright, and Donna Meeks.

**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, Broermann, Corn, Dabney, Hill, Jones, Kemper, Mugler, Pitts, Smith; Nay: None).*

**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 was adjourned at 13:50 p.m.