

**OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY**  
**BOARD OF VISITORS**  
**Academic and Research Advancement Committee Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 24, 2025**

**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Academic and Research Advancement Committee of the Old Dominion University Board of Visitors was held on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 2:40 p.m. in the Board Room of the Kate and John Broderick Dining Commons on the main campus of Old Dominion University.

Present from the Committee were:        Andrew Hodge, Chair  
    Brian K. Holland, Vice Chair  
    P. Murry Pitts (*ex officio*)  
    Juan M. Montero, II  
    Bruce L. Thompson  
    D.R. (Rick) Wyatt

Absent from the Committee:                Dennis M. Ellmer

Also, in attendance from the Board:     Robert S. Corn  
    E.G. (Rudy) Middleton, III  
    Florencia Segura  
    Raquan (Ray) Griffin (*Student Representative*)

Also present were:

Brian O. Hemphill	Kimberly Osborne
Alfred Abuhamed	Brian Payne
Austin Agho	Yvette Pearson
Luanne Bowman	Stacy Purcell
Alonzo Brandon	Chad Reed
David Burdige	Vincent Rhodes
Kenneth Fridley	Shannon Robinson
Elijah Gartrell	Nina Rodriguez Gonser
Annie Gibson	Tina Russell
Brandi Hephner LaBanc	Romina Samson
Stephanie Jennelle	September Sanderlin
Latoya Jordan	Wood Selig
Mary Jo Karlis	Eric Weisel
Amber Kennedy	Kelsey Wilkinson
Susan Kenter	Allen Wilson
Casey Kohler	Gregory Wilson
Chrysoula Malogianni	Maite Wilson
Elsbeth McMahon	

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Andrew Hodge called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Hodge and seconded by Mr. Pitts, the minutes of the December 6, 2024, meeting were approved by unanimous vote (*Aye: Hodge, Holland, Pitts, Thompson, and Wyatt; Nay: None; Absent: Ellmer and Montero*)

## **III. CLOSED SESSION**

The Chair recognized Mr. Pitts, who read the following motion: “Mr. Chair, I move that this meeting be recessed, and, as permitted by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1), we reconvene in closed session for the purpose of discussing the recommendations for the award of tenure to 23 faculty members and the initial appointment of one faculty member with tenure.” The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and approved by unanimous vote (*Aye: Hodge, Holland, Pitts, Thompson, and Wyatt; Nay: None; Absent: Ellmer and Montero*).

In addition to the Board members present, the following individuals were present during the closed session: Brian O. Hemphill, Alfred Abuhamed, Austin Agho, Luanne Bowman, Alonzo Brandon, Kenneth Fridley, Annie Gibson, Brandi Hephner LaBanc, Latoya Jordan, Kimberly Osborne, Brian Payne, Yvette Pearson, Chad Reed, Nina Rodriguez Gonser, September Sanderlin, Wood Selig, Allen Wilson, and Maite Wilson.

## **IV. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND FOIA CERTIFICATION**

At the conclusion of the closed session, the Chair reconvened the meeting. The following Freedom of Information Act certification was read: Any person who believes that the committee 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 roll-call vote of the committee. All those who agree that only lawfully exempted matters, and specifically only the business matters 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 a roll-call vote (*Aye: Hodge, Holland, Montero, Pitts, Thompson, and Wyatt; Nay: None; Absent: Ellmer*).

Upon a motion made by Mr. Pitts and seconded by Mr. Wyatt, the committee approved the award of tenure to 23 faculty members and the initial appointment of one faculty member with tenure by unanimous vote (*Aye: Hodge, Holland, Montero, Pitts, Thompson, and Wyatt; Nay: None; Absent: Ellmer*).

## **V. CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Pitts and seconded by Mr. Thompson, committee members approved 44 faculty appointments and eight emeriti appointments by unanimous vote (*Aye: Hodge, Holland, Montero, Pitts, Thompson, and Wyatt; Nay: None; Absent: Ellmer*).

## **VI. REGULAR AGENDA**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Pitts and seconded by Mr. Wyatt, committee members approved the designation resolutions by unanimous vote. (*Aye: Hodge, Holland, Montero, Pitts, Thompson, and Wyatt; Nay: None; Absent: Ellmer*).

## **VII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. Report from Dr. Brian Payne, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs**

Dr. Payne provided updates on several items including (1) SCHEV approval of new certificates (e.g., Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare, Artificial Intelligence in Cyber Defense, Cultural Competency Leadership, Uncrewed Aerial Systems Engineering, and Spanish for Healthcare Professions), (2) changes to SCHEV's approval processes, (3) ongoing Dean searches, (4) faculty achievements, (5) the Student Experience Project, (6) academic activities related to artificial intelligence (AI), and (7) experiential learning tracking. Cybersecurity students Gregory Wilson and Elijah Cartrell described their experiences in the Cyber LeADERS program.

### **B. Report from Dr. Kenneth Fridley, Vice President for Research and Economic Development**

Dr. Fridley provided an update on research and economic development. He indicated that recent updates from the 2025 Carnegie Classifications confirm ODU's R1 classification as a mixed undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral university. Dr. Fridley provided an overview of ODU's research and funding portfolio and the institution's intellectual property and patent process. He also described ODU's research goals and shared research thrust areas that will be used to coordinate research across the institution. The four strategic research thrust areas he described are Coastal Resilience, Health Innovations, Maritime Systems, and National Security. Dr. Fridley indicated that five cross-cutting areas complement these thrust areas: AI and Machine Learning, Autonomous and Network Systems, Computational and Data Science, Cybersecurity and Network Security, and Modeling and Simulation. Dr. Fridley discussed ongoing changes to federal grants.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.