

**MACON & JOAN BROCK  
VIRGINIA HEALTH SCIENCES AT OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**December 5, 2024**

**Board Room of the Kate and John R. Broderick Dining Commons on the Norfolk Campus**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Bruce D. Waldholtz, MD, Chair  
Bruce Bradley, Vice Chair  
G. Robert Aston  
Robert J. Bianchi, Rear Adm.  
Rob Broermann  
Ted Chambers, MD (Remote)  
George A. Faatz  
Tim Faulkner  
Mark Fleming, MD  
Hon. Daun Hester  
Hon. S. Chris Jones  
W. Ashton Lewis, Sr.  
Keith H. Newby, Sr., MD  
Hon. Blythe A. Scott, Esq.  
Brian Hemphill, PhD, President, ex officio  
Alfred Abuhamad, MD, Executive Vice President, ex officio

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Bob Aston  
Ashton Lewis

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Sylvia Ameen  
Christine Boswick  
Alonzo Brandon  
Tammy Chrisman  
Francis Counselman, MD  
Brant Cox  
Ken Fridley  
Annie Gibson  
Annamarie Ginder, Esq.  
Ray Griffin  
Brandi Hephner LaBanc  
Helen Heselius

Mary Jo Karlis  
Donna Meeks  
Juan Montero, MD  
Tom Odom  
Kimberly Osborne  
Stacy Purcell  
Chad Reed  
Nina Rodriguez Gonser  
Ashley Schumaker  
Heidi Smith  
Fred Tugas  
Al Wilson, Esq.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Bruce Waldholtz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:52 a.m. and noted a quorum was present. The Chair reminded the Board that one member was attending remotely, and per policy, all action items would be voted by roll call.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon a motion made and seconded, the minutes of the September 9, 2024, Board of Directors meeting were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**

Dr. Alfred Abuhamad, Executive Vice President for Health Sciences, provided recommendations for salaried and non-salaried faculty appointments and presented them to the Board for action.

**RESOLVED**, that upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved by roll call vote the recommendation for faculty appointments, as distributed.

Dr. Abuhamad updated the Board of Directors on various administrative matters of Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences at ODU (VHS). Recruitment for the chairs of Dermatology, Otolaryngology, and Biomedical Sciences, and for the Dean of the Eastern Virginia Medical School and the Ellmer School of Nursing are ongoing, with multiple on-campus interviews scheduled for December.

Dr. Abuhamad discussed the planning activities underway with the schools under VHS to effectively coordinate VHS activities, including a review of education programs, research, clinical care, and community outreach. The VHS will take part in the next school wide strategic planning process.

Dr. Abuhamad provided an overview of the faculty and academic policy review, recommendation, and approval cycle, as we continue aligning legacy EVMS policies with ODU policies. Dr. Abuhamad reported that a new position of Chief Transformation Officer has been created within the medical group to assist the group with implementing efforts that are underway to improve the patient experience and faculty productivity.

Finally, Dr. Abuhamad shared that the Joint School of Public Health was approved by SCHEV, and a Council of Education in Public Health visit has been scheduled for November 2025.

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**

Dr. Francis Counselman, Vice Dean for Graduate Medical Education, presented the Annual Institutional Review to the Board of Directors. The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACCGME), the accrediting body of residency and fellowship programs in the US, requires medical schools to complete an Annual Institutional Review, which is a comprehensive evaluation

of its graduate medical education programs to demonstrate effective oversight and compliance with ACGME standards. This review only covers ACGME accredited programs, which, for ODU, includes 15 residency programs and 17 fellowship programs. For the most recent period reviewed, we received Continued Accreditation status, which is the highest status achievable. Both the resident/fellow and faculty surveys indicated a mostly favorable opinion and evaluation of the programs. All citations have been resolved.

#### **REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE**

Rear Admiral Bianchi reported on the first meeting of the Finance Subcommittee. After reviewing the subcommittee's responsibilities included in the Charter of Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences Board of Directors, the subcommittee was provided a restated FY2025 budget converting the legacy EVMS-approved budget into a format consistent with ODU's budget. Additionally, the Fiscal Year 2026 budget timeline was reviewed, incorporating the Commonwealth budgeting process. The subcommittee discussed the engagement of Huron Consulting to perform a tuition study for the EVMS legacy school programs, which will inform the tuition strategy for the next several years. The study aims to align tuition with ODU following our commitment to the Commonwealth. Management continues to monitor enrollment trends closely and anticipates leveraging resources at ODU to increase enrollment.

Po Chou, CEO of the EVMS Medical Group, reported on its activities.

#### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Dr. Waldholtz shared student perspectives regarding the volunteer-led HOPES Clinic and Summer Scholars programs. Dr. Waldholtz discussed the importance of palliative care and how the SIM center could be utilized in advancing training in this area. The Committee discussed strategies, such as shortening medical education programs, to address physician shortage in the workforce and the importance of teaching communication skills to students and residents.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Heidi Smith  
Recording Secretary  
Board of Directors  
Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University