

OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF VISITORS
Academic and Research Advancement Committee Minutes
Thursday, April 23, 2026

MINUTES

A meeting of the Academic and Research Advancement Committee of the Old Dominion University Board of Visitors was held on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 1:49 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 C. Hodge, Chair
Brian K. Holland, Vice Chair
P. Murry Pitts (*ex officio*)
Dennis M. Ellmer
Juan M. Montero, II
Charlene A. Moring
Keith H. Newby
Bruce L. Thompson

Absent from the Committee: D.R. “Rick” Wyatt
David J. Burdige (*Faculty Representative*)

Also present from the Board: Robert S. Corn
Mark T. Fleming
E.G. “Rudy” Middleton, III
Elza H. Mitchum
Kenneth “Ken” Plum
Claire M. Wulf Winiarek
Darcy Judd (*Student Representative*)

Also present were:

President Brian O. Hemphill	Petros Katsioloudis
Alfred Abuhamad	Susan Kenter
Austin Agho	Brandi Hephner LaBanc
Tom Allen	Tom Odom
Sylvia Ameen	Kimberly Osborne
Jonna Bobzien	Brian K. Payne
Ashleigh Boothe	Yvette Pearson
Luanne Bowman	Stacy Purcell
Alonzo Brandon	Chad Reed
Kristy Carlisle	Mark Rehfuss
Laura Delbrugge	Shannon Robinson
David Flanagan	September Sanderlin
Kenneth J. Fridley	Ashley Schumaker
Annie Gibson	Wood Selig
Nina Rodriguez Gonser	Balša Terzić
Adam Henken	Eric Weisel
Stephanie Jennelle	JaRenae Whitehead-Cooper
LaToya Jordan	Allen Wilson
Mary Jo Karlis	Maite Wilson

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Andrew Hodge called the meeting to order at 1:49 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion made by Rector Pitts and seconded by Ms. Moring, the minutes of the December 11, 2025, meeting were approved by unanimous vote (*Aye: Ellmer, Hodge, Holland, Montero, Moring, Newby, Pitts, Thompson; Nay: None; Absent: Wyatt*).

III. CLOSED SESSION

The Chair recognized Mr. Holland, 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 17 faculty members, the initial appointment of three faculty members with tenure, and one appointment of the Rosanne Keeley Norris Endowed Chair.” The motion was seconded by Dr. Moring and approved by unanimous vote (*Aye: Ellmer, Hodge, Holland, Montero, Moring, Newby, Pitts, Thompson; Nay: None; Absent: Wyatt*).

In addition to the Board members present, the following individuals were present during the closed session: President Brian O. Hemphill, Alfred Abuhamad, Austin Agho, Sylvia Ameen, Luanne Bowman, Alonzo Brandon, Kenneth J. Fridley, Annie Gibson, Nina Rodriguez Gonser, Stephanie Jennelle, LaToya Jordan, Brandi Hephner LaBanc, Kimberly Osborne, Brian K. Payne, Yvette Pearson, Stacy Purcell, Chad Reed, September Sanderlin, Ashley Schumaker, Wood Selig, Allen Wilson, 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: Ellmer, Hodge, Holland, Montero, Moring, Newby, Pitts, Thompson; Nay: None; Absent: Wyatt*).

Upon a motion made by Ms. Moring and seconded by Mr. Holland, the committee approved the award of tenure to 17 faculty members, the initial appointment of three faculty members with tenure, and the appointment of the Rosanne Keeley Norris Endowed Chair by unanimous vote (*Aye: Ellmer, Hodge, Holland, Montero, Moring, Newby, Pitts, Thompson; Nay: None; Absent: Wyatt*).

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Dr. Newby and seconded by Mr. Thompson, the committee members approved 47 faculty appointments and 11 emeriti appointments by unanimous vote (*Aye: Ellmer, Hodge, Holland, Montero, Moring, Newby, Pitts, Thompson; Nay: None; Absent: Wyatt*).

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Dr. Newby and seconded by Ms. Moring, the committee approved the following regular agenda items by unanimous vote: proposals for a new MS in Applied Behavior Analysis, a new MS in Geographic Information Science and Technology, and a new MS in Human Services Leadership, and the

closure of the BS and MEd programs in Early Childhood Education by unanimous vote (*Aye: Ellmer, Hodge, Holland, Montero, Moring, Newby, Pitts, Thompson; Nay: None; Absent: Wyatt*).

VII. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Dr. Payne provided an overview of faculty accomplishments, retention plans, first-year excellence programming, the Academic Affairs Summit, a new doctoral program in cybersecurity, and leadership development training in the Division of Academic Affairs.

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

Dr. Fridley provided a review of FY25 research and development expenditures and an update on the Strategic Research Framework. In addition, Dr. Baša Terzić, University Professor and Professor in Physics, delivered a presentation titled “Towards AI-Enhanced Tabletop Campus Accelerator Facilities via the Accelerator Cluster,” highlighting innovative approaches to integrating artificial intelligence into campus-based accelerator technologies.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.