

Draft – Subject to Committee Approval

**OLD DOMINON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF VISITORS
Athletics Committee**

December 11, 2025

MINUTES

The Athletics Committee meeting took place in the Board Room (Room 2206) of the Kate and John R. Broderick Dining Commons from 4:00 PM – 5:00PM on Thursday, December 11, 2025. Present from the Committee were:

Andrew Hodge (*ex-officio*) *Acting Chair*
P. Murry Pitts (*ex-officio*)
Susan Allen
Robert M. “Bob” Tata, Esq.
Dennis Gregory (*Faculty Representative*)

Also present from the Board:

Gregg Eure
William Giandoni
Leslie Henderson Murphy
Brian Holland
Kedar Lavingia
E.G. “Rudy” Middleton III
Juan Montero II
Florencia Segura
Bruce Thompson
Claire Wulf Winiarek
D.R. “Rick” Wyatt
Darcy Judd (*Student Representative*)

Also present were:

Brian O. Hemphill, President
Nicole Turner
Tim Kovacs
Alfred Abuhamad
Carolyn Crutchfield
Bruce Stewart
Annie Gibson
Annamarie Ginder
Austin Agho
Kimberly Osborne
Ron Moses
Latoya Jordan
Rick French
Stephanie Jennelle
Alonzo Brandon

Brandi Hepner LaBanc
Mary Jo Karlis
Chad Reed
Ashley Schumaker
Camden Wood Selig
Kieran Donohue
Allen Wilson
Nina Rodriguez Gonzer
Robert Davis, Jr.
Danielle Cohea
Elizabeth Jones
Adam Henken
Brian Payne
Ken Fridley

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Andrew Hodge at 4:01PM.

2. Approval of the June 13, 2025 Minutes

3. Value of Owning a Day on ESPN

Dr. Camden Wood Selig, Director of Athletics

Dr. Wood Selig provided a detailed report on Old Dominion University's recent national exposure on ESPN Thursday, November 13, owning ESPN for a day. ESPN's *SportsCenter* broadcast live from campus during the afternoon. The broadcast was intentionally aligned with Military Appreciation initiatives, emphasizing the university's proximity to Naval Station Norfolk, the largest naval base in the world. Thousands of students attended the live broadcast, and the event was supported by President Hemphill and senior university leadership. ESPN representatives described the broadcast as the most successful on-campus *SportsCenter* they have conducted to date.

A featured segment included remarks by ESPN anchor and ODU alumnus Jay Harris, who reflected on his professional journey, recent health challenges, and the personal support he received from the ODU community. National viewership for the afternoon broadcast reached approximately 250,000 viewers.

That evening, the ODU football game against Troy aired nationally on ESPN marking the only college football coverage nationally during that time window. The Monarchs' 33–0 victory drew approximately 509,000 viewers, making it the most-watched Sun Belt Conference game of the season and outperforming several ACC and Big 12 matchups that same week. Athletics staff estimated the total media value of the day's ESPN exposure at \$861,000. Game-day enhancements, including aerial drone coverage and extended commentary, further reinforced the national perception of ODU's program quality and game-day atmosphere. Additional ESPN features included coverage of Head Football Coach Ricky Rahne's Navy F-18 training experience, coordinated external relations, as well as appearances by the head men's and women's basketball coaches in on-air segments supporting campus engagement.

4. Sports Medicine Restructuring with Mental Health and EVMS

Mr. Kieran Donohue, Assistant Athletic Director for Development and Admin

Dr. Selig introduced Assistant Athletic Director for Athletic Development and Administration, Kieran Donahue. Mr. Donohue formally recognized the retirement of Scott Johnson following 37 years of service and introduced Liz Jones as the new Associate Athletic Director for Sports Medicine, who previously served at William & Mary.

Mr. Donohue announced a new, formalized partnership with EVMS Medical Group. As part of this collaboration, Dr. Greg Bentz, MD, has been appointed Chief Medical Officer for ODU Athletics. This appointment establishes a formal, independent medical governance structure consistent with NCAA best practices. Under this model, student-athletes will benefit from increased on-campus physician access, expanded sideline medical coverage for all home contact sports, and improved coordination across orthopedic, specialty, and mental health services.

Mr. Donohue reported on the integration of sports medicine with student-athlete mental health and wellbeing services. This coordinated approach, developed in collaboration with Dr. Sonja Lund and campus mental health professionals, is designed to support student-athletes holistically.

In addition, ongoing academic and clinical partnerships with the Macon and Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences include concussion research and testing with the Athletic Training program and interdisciplinary collaboration with Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Nutrition Sciences.

Dr. Selig also announced the opening of a new student-athlete-only dining facility scheduled for January. The facility will be located at Whitehurst along the waterfront and will serve breakfast and dinner five days per week. Nutrition plans will be tailored by sport and position, with access extended to all varsity student-athletes, spirit squads, and select staff. The training table is intended to serve both as a performance enhancement and a recruiting advantage, reflecting best practices across Division I athletics.

5. Athletic Committee Representation

Dr. Camden Wood Selig, Director of Athletics

Dr. Selig reported on the extensive national and conference leadership roles held by several athletic department personnel and student-athletes. These appointments reflect the department's growing influence and reputation within collegiate athletics governance and decision-making. Highlighted roles included service on NCAA academic and eligibility committees, national athletic development leadership organizations, Sun Belt Conference administrative leadership, national basketball selection and advisory committees, and NCAA championship site representation. Student-athlete leadership was also recognized through national conference representation for Division I football and men's basketball.

6. Men's Basketball Student-Athlete and SAAC President

Mr. Robert Davis, Jr.

Men's basketball student-athlete and Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) president Mr. Robert Davis, Jr. discussed the goal of SAAC this year was uniting student athletes with an emphasis on cross-sport integration, leadership development, and increased engagement among student-athletes. He noted a measurable increase in student-athlete attendance at ODU athletic events. Two ODU athletes, Mr. Robert Davis and football athlete Mr. Koa Naotala serve as national reps for football and men's basketball in the NCAA's expanded committee structure. Mr. Davis thanked President Hemphill, Dr. Selig, and University leadership for implementation of the new training table facility which was advocated by the SAAC group.

7. ODU Football Success

Dr. Camden Wood Selig, Director of Athletics

Dr. Selig provided a comprehensive review of the football program's 2025 season. The Monarchs concluded the regular season with a 9-3 record, including an undefeated 6-0 mark

at home. Defensive performance was cited as a particular strength, with five opponents held to seven points or fewer, including one shutout. During November competition, the team outscored opponents by a combined margin of 136–26. Over the past three seasons, the program has compiled a 15–9 record, placing it among the top competitors in the Sun Belt Conference. Scheduling strategies were also discussed, including a reduction in Power Four non-conference matchups to support competitive balance and student-athlete welfare. Adjustments will allow lucrative guarantee games and feature regional opponents.

**8. Thurmond Family ODU Head Football Coach
Mr. Ricky Rahne**

Head Football Coach Ricky Rahne expressed appreciation for institutional support of the football program. He highlighted the importance of program continuity with staff stability, team morale and culture, and academic achievement, noting multiple semesters in which team GPAs exceeded 3.0.

Coach Rahne discussed the team's selection to the Cure Bowl in Orlando, citing favorable timing, family accessibility, and preparation considerations. He also addressed roster management, transfer portal timing, and student-athlete education related to NCAA regulations. He discussed bowl logistics, team morale, and postseason preparation.

Dr. Wood Selig closed the meeting noting that Coach Rahne has signed a new 4-year contract. Women's soccer coach Angie Hind, who led ODU to three conference championships and NCAA appearances in the last five years, is resigning and returning to Scotland. There will be upcoming jersey retirements for Ronnie Valentine, a former men's basketball player, and Adrienne Goodson, a former women's basketball player who helped lead ODU to a National championship at their Alumni games in January.

9. Adjourned at 5:00PM