BOARD OF VISITORS
Academic and Research Advancement Committee
June 11, 2026

MINUTES

The Academic and Research Advancement Committee of the Board of Visitors of Old Dominion University met on Thursday, June 11, 2026, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Kate and John Broderick Dining Commons. Present from the Committee were:

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P. Murry Pitts *(ex officio)*
Dennis M. Ellmer
Charlene A. Morring, Esq.
Keith H. Newby, Sr., MD
Bruce L. Thompson
D.R. "Rick" Wyatt
Cade Franklin *(Faculty Representative)*

Absent from the Committee:

Andrew Hodge, Chair
Brian K. Holland, Vice Chair
Juan M. Montero, II, MD
David J. Burdige, Ph.D. *(Faculty Representative)*

Also present from the Board:

Robert S. Corn
E.G. "Rudy" Middleton, III
Elza H. Mitchum
Claire M. Wulf Winiarek, Ph.D.

Also present were:

Alfred Z. Abuhamad, MD
Austin O. Agho, Ph.D.
Sylvia M. Ameen
Ashleigh T. Boothe
Luanne R. Bowman
Alonzo Brandon
David W. Flanagan
Annie M. Gibson
Annamarie A. Ginder, Esq.
Nina Rodriguez Gonser
Janice E. Hawkins, Ph.D.
Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D.
Adam Henken
Aaron M. Hodnett
Wayne L. Hynes
Stephanie J. Jennelle
LaToya D. Jordan
Mary Jo Karlis
Petros J. Katsioloudis, Ed.D.
Susan P. Kenter, Ph.D.
Brandi Hephner LaBanc, Ed.D.
Chrysoula Malogianni
Tom Odom
Kimberly Osborne
Brian K. Payne, Ph.D.
Yvette E. Pearson, Ph.D.
Stacy R. Purcell, Esq.
Chad A. Reed
Tina Russell
Romina G. Samson
September C. Sanderlin
Ashley L. Schumaker
Wood Selig, Ed.D.
Fred Tugas, Ed.D.
Eric W. Weisel, Ph.D.
JaRenae E. Whitehead-Cooper
Allen T. Wilson, Esq.
Kimberly J. Wilson
Maite Wilson

I. CALL TO ORDER

Secretary D.R. "Rick" Wyatt called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion made by Dr. Keith H. Newby, Sr. and seconded by Charlene A. Morring, Esq., the minutes of the Academic and Research Advancement Committee meeting held on June 11, 2026, as presented were approved by all members present and voting.

III. CLOSED SESSION

Secretary Wyatt recognized Mrs. Morring, 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 initial appointment of one faculty member with tenure and one dual employment." The motion was seconded by Dr. Newby, and approved unanimously by all members present and voting.

In addition to the Board members present, the following individuals were present during the closed session: President Brian O. Hemphill, Alfred Z. Abuhamad, Austin O. Agho, Sylvia M. Ameen, Luanne R. Bowman, Alonzo Brandon, Annie M. Gibson, Annamarie A. Ginder, Nina Rodriguez Gonser, Janice E. Hawkins, Stephanie J. Jennelle, LaToya D. Jordan, Brandi Hephner LaBanc, Kimberly Osborne, Brian K. Payne, Yvette E. Pearson, Stacy R. Purcell, Chad A. Reed, September C. Sanderlin, Ashley L. Schumaker, Wood Selig, Allen T. Wilson, and Maite Wilson.

IV. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND FOIA CERTIFICATION

At the conclusion of the closed session, Secretary Wyatt 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 (Ellmer, Morring, Newby, Pitts, Thompson, Wyatt).

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Morring and seconded by Dr. Newby, the Committee approved the initial appointment of one faculty member with tenure and one dual employment unanimously by all members present and voting.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Dr. Newby and seconded by Mrs. Morring, the Committee members approved 50 faculty appointments and 10 emeriti appointments unanimously by all members present and voting.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Morring and seconded by Dr. Newby, the Committee approved the following regular agenda items unanimously by all members present and voting: proposals for a new Ph.D. in Data Science and the closure of the BS and BA programs in African American and African Studies and closure of the MA program in Applied Linguistics.

VII. REPORT FROM DR. BRIAN K. PAYNE, PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Payne discussed the Promotions in Academic Ranks effective in the 2026-2027 academic year, shared information about student and faculty achievements, an overview of centralized graduate admissions, and a Strengthening Institutional Programs grant funded by the Department of Education.

VIII. REPORT FROM DR. ERIC W. WEISEL, ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENTERPRISE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Dr. Weisel provided an update on federal funding, observations from the University and across higher education, and an overview of the Old Dominion University National Security Institute.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.