

Faculty Assembly Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2025
Hofheimer Hall Room 757
and Zoom

Present: Cipi, A. (Zoom); Collins, J.; Handel, R; Hampton, J. (Zoom); Hosseini, A.; Kopec, M. (Zoom); Latimer, K. (Zoom); Nyalwidhe, J.; Okigbo, C. (Zoom); Sinacori, J. (Zoom); Takcas, P. (Zoom); Topalli, K.

Guests:

Abuhamad, A.; Dobrian A.; Dickinson, B. (Zoom); Henry, M. (Zoom); Louis, J.; Ricks-Santi, L. (Zoom); Wellman, L. (Zoom)

1. Called to Order (5:05 PM) Hosseini
2. Approval of September meeting minutes- approved
3. Other business – Guests: Drs. Alfred Abuhamad, Anca Dobrian, and Judette Louis
 - I. An overview of the proposed faculty rank policy was presented. Starting on July 1, 2026, VHS will have tenure-track faculty and career-track faculty. Existing VHS tenured faculty members will be incorporated into ODU’s system with their tenure status preserved. All other current faculty members will have two years to decide if they want to be on the tenure track or the career track. The tenure track will have a traditional university tenure clock. If a faculty member chooses to be on the tenure track, they will be allowed an off-ramp to move back to the career track during the tenure clock window, but this decision can only be made one time. Ranks will include instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, and professor. Career track faculty members will have adjectives specifying their primary responsibility (i.e., teaching, research, or clinical). Community faculty will be renamed faculty of practice.
 - II. Dr. Abuhamad provided an update on the Macon & Joan Brock VHS EVMS Medical Group at ODU. The medical group had a net profit of three to four million dollars during the most recent year with the current year being more challenging due to the transition from Allscripts to Epic.



- III. Dr. Dobrian provided data on faculty turnover for all departments including community faculty. In 2024-25, there was a 6.3% overall turnover rate. From 2025 to date, there was a 1.4% turnover rate. The overall growth in 2024-25 was 180%, and the corresponding growth for 2025 year to date has been 277%.
 - IV. Dr. Louis reported that each department is working on growth strategies. Over the next two to three years, the school is anticipated to have more medical group offices throughout Hampton Roads. These offices will also offer training opportunities for students and residents. Dr. Louis also reported that she would like to enhance the reputation of the medical school through more research activities. Also, some programs in the Elmer College of Health Sciences will be expanding class sizes.
 - V. Dr. Collins reported that there is likely to be a shortage of anesthesiologists particularly early in 2026 which may affect the number of surgeries scheduled by the Department of Surgery.
 - VI. Dr. Abuhamad reported that the affiliation agreement with Sentara is working as expected. VHS is in a good place from a financial standpoint.
 - VII. Dr. Abuhamad reported that the medical school had roughly 10,000 applicants during the most recent application cycle.
 - VIII. Dr. Abuhamad reported that school will have a new Joan P. Brock Institute for Nutrition Science and Health. This institute was formed by a \$15,000,000 donation from Joan P. Brock and an additional \$5,000,000 raised from other donors.
4. Faculty Assembly President's report Hosseini
- Dr. Hosseini described plans for the ODU to shift from 16 weeks to eight weeks for fully online courses.
5. Dr. Handel encouraged faculty to complete the Well-Being Index as part of the current WBI campaign.
6. Action Items
- I. The meeting closed with a discussion of potentially inviting Dr. Michael Henry, Chair of Biomedical and Translational Sciences, to an upcoming meeting.
7. Adjourn (6:00)

Coming Up:



MACON & JOAN BROCK
VIRGINIA HEALTH SCIENCES
AT OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

Next Meeting: **December 15** (executive committee only)

Next Full Faculty Assembly Meeting:

January 26, 2026, Room 757 Hofheimer Hall or Zoom.

<https://odu.zoom.us/j/92380322718>