



**BOARD OF VISITORS**  
**Academic and Research Advancement Committee**  
**September 17, 2026**

**MINUTES**

The Academic and Research Advancement Committee of the Board of Visitors of Old Dominion University met on Thursday, September 17, 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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Keith H. Newby, Sr., MD, Vice Chair  
P. Murry Pitts (*ex officio*)  
Juan M. Montero, II, MD  
Charlene A. Morring, Esq.  
Bruce L. Thompson  
D.R. (Rick) Wyatt  
David J. Burdige, Ph.D. (*Faculty Representative*)

Absent from the Committee:

Andrew Hodge, Chair  
Janet H. Days

Also present from the Board:

Robert A. Broermann  
Robert S. Corn  
Karla C. Johnson  
Cade Franklin (*Student Representative*)

Also present were:

|                           |                               |                             |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alfred Z. Abuhamad, MD    | LaToya D. Jordan              | Chad A. Reed                |
| Sylvia M. Ameen           | Mary Jo Karlis                | Tina Russell                |
| Alonzo Brandon            | Petros J. Katsioloudis, Ed.D. | Romina G. Samson            |
| Rhett Epler, Ph.D.        | Susan P. Kenter, Ph.D.        | Ashley Schumaker            |
| Kenneth J. Fridley, Ph.D. | Brandi Hephner LaBanc, Ed.D.  | Francisco Siercke           |
| Annie M. Gibson           | Kevin A. Leslie               | Lobat Tayebi, Ph.D.         |
| Nina Rodriguez Gonser     | Chrysoula Malogianni, Ph.D.   | Eric W. Weisel, Ph.D.       |
| Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D.  | Erika Marsillac, Ph.D.        | JaRenae E. Whitehead-Cooper |
| Janice E. Hawkins, Ph.D.  | Tom Odom                      | Allen T. Wilson, Esq.       |
| Adam Henken               | Brian K. Payne, Ph.D.         | Maite Wilson                |
| Aaron Hodnett             | Yvette E. Pearson, Ph.D.      |                             |
| Wayne L. Hynes, Ph.D.     | Stacy R. Purcell, Esq.        |                             |
| Stephanie J. Jennelle     | Shannon M. Robinson, Ed.D.    |                             |

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair, Dr. Keith Newby, called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon a motion made by Dr. Newby 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**

Dr. Newby 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 of the initial appointment of two faculty members with tenure, two named professor appointments, one named chair appointment, and two dual employments.” The motion was seconded by Rector P. Murry Pitts, 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, Kenneth J. Fridley, Annie M. Gibson, Nina Rodriguez Gonser, Janice E. Hawkins, Stephanie J. Jennelle, LaToya D. Jordan, Brandi Hephner LaBanc, Brian K. Payne, Yvette E. Pearson, Stacy R. Purcell, Chad A. Reed, Allen T. Wilson, and Maite Wilson.

**IV. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND FOIA CERTIFICATION**

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

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Morring and seconded by Bruce L. Thompson, the Committee approved the initial appointment of two faculty members with tenure, two named professor appointments, one named chair appointment, and two dual employments unanimously by all members present and voting.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Morring and seconded by Mr. Thompson, the Committee members approved 48 faculty appointments and six emeriti appointments unanimously by all members present and voting.

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

Dr. Payne provided an overview of recent appointments of eminent scholars, the University's Strengthen Institutional Programs Grant, the School of Cybersecurity, and the recent successes of the Perry Honors College. He also shared an update on the University's new Center for Faculty Excellence. Additionally, Dr. Rhett Epler, Assistant Professor of Marketing, will present on how he incorporates improvisation into his courses.

**VII. REPORT FROM DR. KENNETH J. FRIDLEY, VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Dr. Fridley provided an update on the Strategic Research Framework and discussed efforts to advance the University toward R1 institution status. He also introduced a guest presentation by Dr. Lobat Tayebi, Professor, Batten Endowed Chair, and Director of the Institute for Engineering in Medicine, Health, and Human Performance, titled "Engineering the Connection to Advance Health Innovation."

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m.