

OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF VISITORS
Friday, September 18, 2026

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Board of Visitors of Old Dominion University was held Friday, September 18, 2026 beginning at 10:39 a.m. in the Board Room of the Kate and John R. Broderick Dining Commons on the Norfolk campus. Present from the Board:

P. Murry Pitts, *Rector*
Susan Allen
Rob Broermann
Robert S. Corn
Peter G. Decker, III, Esq.
Mark T. Fleming, MD
Karla C. Johnson
Juan M. Montero, II, MD
Charlene A. Moring, Esq.
The Honorable Martha Mugler
Keith H. Newby, Sr., MD
The Honorable Kenneth. R. Plum
Bruce L. Thompson
Claire Wulf Winiarek, Ph.D.
Cade Franklin (*Student Representative*)

Absent from the Board:

Andrew Hodge, *Vice Rector*
D.R. (Rick) Wyatt, *Secretary*
Captain Janet H. Days, USN (Ret.)

Also present:

President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D.
Alfred Abuhamad, MD
Alonzo Brandon
Adam Buzbee
Annie Gibson
Melanie Graham
Kenneth Fridley
Adam Henken
Brandi Hephner LaBanc, Ed.D.
Aaron Hodnett
Stephanie Jennelle
LaToya Jordan
Mary Jo Karlis
Susan Kenter

Sarah Jane Kirkland
Tom Odom
Brian Payne, Ph.D.
Stacy Purcell, Esq.
Chad Reed
Nina Rodriguez Gonser
Tina Russell, DBA
September Sanderlin
Ashley Schumaker
Francisco Siercke
Wood Selig, Ed.D.
Bruce Waldholtz, MD
JaRenae Whitehead Cooper
Allen Wilson, Esq.

CALL TO ORDER

Rector P. Murry Pitts called the meeting to order at 10:39 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion made by Robert S. Corn and seconded by Dr. Keith H. Newby, Sr., the minutes from the Board of Visitors meeting on June 12, 2026, and the Special Board of Visitors Meetings on July 27 and August 20, 2026, were unanimously approved.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Rector Pitts began by acknowledging the Board members who have agreed to provide the needed leadership for our Committee structure. He thanked Vice Rector Andy Hodge, Secretary D.R. “Rick: Wyatt, and Susan Allen for continuing their Chair roles on the Academic & Research Advancement Committee; the Audit, Compliance, Human Resources, and Governance Committee; and Student Enhancement & Engagement and Digital Learning Committee respectively. Rector Pitts then thanked Peter G. Decker, III and Robert Broermann for rejoining as Committee Chair the Athletics Committee and Administration and Finance Committee. He noted that Claire Wulf Winiarek, Ph.D. will Chair the University Advancement & University Communications Committee and that her expertise and leadership is a welcome addition to the Committee.

Rector Pitts then offered a brief update from the annual Board of Visitors Retreat. It was a very informative and interactive two days. It provided a great platform for our new members to be brought up to speed with all of the great things happening at Old Dominion University. For our returning members, there was a great deal of pride in hearing the vision, seeing the passion, and understanding the direction from President Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D. and members of his team.

Rector Pitts stated that the Board of Visitors is proud – so very proud – of the first-year enrollment results, which were presented earlier that morning, and look forward to continued advancement and growth under President Hemphill’s leadership.

The Rector then explained that a tradition of the annual retreat is for the Board of Visitors to set a priority for the fiscal/academic year. He shared that their priority remains on the success and transformation of this institution. This priority will be referred to this year and Board priority as 2.0

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On behalf of the Monarch Nation, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters, I am honored to share an informational update as we have officially started the 2026-2027 academic year by welcoming new and returning students, faculty, and staff.

Addressing Food Insecurity Through A Proud Annual Tradition of Service With Monarchs Give Back

Monarchs Give Back, featuring our most ambitious goal yet of collecting 150,000 food and essential items to fight food insecurity across our campus and the regional community, is currently underway, and

collection efforts are in full swing. This tradition of service was established as part of my inauguration in the Fall of 2022. Since then, the Monarch Nation has provided more than 225,000 items.

Led by Vice President for Student and Campus Life Brandi Hephner LaBanc, Ed.D. and supported by a cross-functional committee structure, this campus-wide service endeavor directly supports our students through the Monarch Pantry and assists Norfolk Public Schools students and families, aligning seamlessly with our strategic vision as a Health Promoting University. The President's Challenge collection drive began on August 12, 2026 and concluded on September 11, 2026 with continued collection efforts culminating with a campus-wide celebration of impact on October 30, 2026. The University deeply appreciates the Board's continued support as Monarch Nation once again demonstrates the deep compassion and extraordinary generosity that define Old Dominion University!

Signing House Bill 392 and Honoring Monarch Alumnus Dawann Steagall, Jr. '21

Earlier this week, the University was honored to host Governor Abigail D. Spanberger, along with state officials, healthcare advocates, and community members, for the ceremonial signing of House Bill 392, which is landmark legislation expanding healthcare education on cancer risks associated with sickle cell disease and the sickle cell trait. House Bill 392, patroned by Delegate Alex Askew of Norfolk, was ceremonially signed on September 16, 2026 at the medical campus in Waitzer Hall and named in memory of proud Monarch alumnus and public servant Dawann Steagall, Jr., who passed away this past May after a courageous battle with renal medullary carcinoma. This bill and its signing honor his enduring legacy of public service and self-advocacy.

In recognition of Dawann's dedicated contributions to our campus, our community, and our Commonwealth, Attorney General Jay Jones announced the establishment of the Dawann Steagall, Jr. Public Service Internship Clinic, to be housed within the Monarch Internship and Co-Op office, to prepare future leaders in civic engagement. This deserving acknowledgment of Dawann, his commitment, his passion, and his service clearly highlight the vital intersection of higher education, public service, and community health, aligning seamlessly with the University's commitment to driving systemic change through our academic mission and regional partnerships, including the Sentara-EVMS Comprehensive Sickle Cell Program, which is critical to providing care for sickle cell patients in our local region and beyond.

Pioneering The Future of Higher Education With Milestone Enrollment Through Strategic Vision and Collective Work

Last week, the University announced a historic enrollment milestone driven by its Forward-Focused Digital Transformation, topping 24,000 students for the first time in five years. Defying national higher education trends at a time of fierce competition in the midst of a demographic cliff, the University announced an impressive 14.5% overall increase in new students, which was highlighted by a 14% surge in new freshmen, a 24.4% jump in new graduate scholars, and a massive 31.8% expansion in online student growth. Updated numbers were shared earlier today as part of the in-depth enrollment presentation.

This remarkable momentum stands as a direct testament to the steadfast leadership of Executive Vice President for Enrollment, Transformation, and Technology and Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer Nina Rodriguez Gonser, whose strategic vision, paired with the collaborative and tireless work of her dedicated team, as well as campus partners, successfully removed barriers, reimaged the modern learning model, and effectively aligned the University's delivery, engagement, and offerings with the needs of today's learners.

This increased level of enrollment across all categories comes at a time when the University is retaining more students. The first-time, full-time retention rate has reached nearly 80%. This achievement represents a significant increase with the post-COVID-19 retention rate hitting a low of 72% just a few years ago. I

would like to acknowledge Vice President Hephner LaBanc and her team for their diligent work in making this possible.

Entering a New Era in Championship Effort and Monarch Excellence

Later today, we will join together to commemorate the selection of the new Director of Athletics.

As we usher in this new chapter, we stand at a pivotal moment in our institution's history. Without question, Tim House brings a modern vision for collegiate sports that balances relentless competitive drive with an unwavering commitment to the academic and personal growth of our student-athletes. His proven track record of generating transformational resources, coupled with his deep respect for community and culture, makes him the right choice and ideal leader to elevate Old Dominion University Athletics in the Sun Belt Conference and on the national stage. Together, under Tim's leadership, we will empower our student-athletes to excel to even greater heights in the classroom, truly dominate in competition, and proudly lead in our communities.

I want to take this time to acknowledge Wood Selig, Ed.D. for his long-standing tenure, many contributions, and significant impact. Over the course of the past 17 years, Dr. Selig's achievements range from academic success to specialized initiatives, such as expanded counseling support, a sharp focus on nutrition and wellness, and serving the community through broad-based volunteerism efforts. We will ensure that we properly celebrate Dr. Selig before he transitions from athletic administration to the classroom.

I also want to acknowledge Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer Chad Reed and members of the search committee, who provided their expertise and time to aid in this highly-competitive national search. The process was supported through CSA Search & Consulting, especially President Drew Turner.

Honoring the Life and Legacy of Lt. Col. Brandon A. Shah '07 Through A Deserving and Touching Tribute

On September 4, 2026, the Monarch Nation joined together to pay tribute to the extraordinary life, selfless service, and enduring impact of Lt. Col. Brandon A. Shah '07 with the unveiling of several permanent campus memorials between Rollins Hall and S.B. Ballard Stadium. To ensure his spirit of leadership continues to inspire future generations, the University formally dedicated the Lieutenant Colonel Brandon A. Shah Wing of Rollins Hall, unveiled a seven-foot granite monument and reflection area honoring his military service, and dedicated benches recognizing 45-year employee Linda Baker, affectionately known as "Ms. B," and the Army ROTC Cadet Class of 2026.

During the ceremony, I was deeply privileged to present Lt. Col. Shah's wife, Katherine Shah, with the Presidential Medallion for Public Service in recognition of her profound contributions to our community and her leadership in launching the LTC Brandon A. Shah Leadership Foundation, which will provide crucial scholarships and development opportunities for ROTC and JROTC students. Lt. Col. Shah's legacy was further celebrated during our September 5, 2026 home football opener, where the Monarchs wore commemorative uniforms in his honor and designated Shah's Corner at S.B. Ballard Stadium, forever weaving his u

This concluded President Hemphill's report.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative to the Board of Visitors Cade Franklin began his presentation by updating the Board members on his activities over the summer. He completed a summer internship at CMA CGA, as well as a summer Internship Course, while assisting with the Old Dominion University summer Open House. He also traveled and spent time with his family and friends.

Mr. Franklin then stated what he plans to focus on during the fall semester, the remainder of 2026, and the spring 2027 semester. He ended his presentation with an overview of the Monarchs Give Back! Initiative and shared the QR code with all attendees to donate.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Academic and Research Advancement Committee of the Board of Visitors was held at 1:36 PM on September 17, 2026. The minutes from the June 11, 2026, meeting were approved.

The Committee recessed and reconvened in closed session to discuss the recommendations for the award for the initial appointment of two faculty members with tenure, two named professor appointments, one named chair appointment, and two dual employments. The Committee convened again in open session.

Committee members approved the initial appointment of two faculty members with tenure, two named professor appointments, one named chair appointment, and one dual employment by unanimous vote. The resolution was brought to the Board and was approved unanimously.

Committee members approved the consent agenda items, which are the appointment of 48 faculty members and six emeriti appointments by unanimous vote. The resolutions, were brought to the Board and was approved unanimously.

Brian Payne, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, provided a review of eminent scholar appointments, a discussion of the University's Strengthen Institutional Programs grant, an overview of the School of Cybersecurity, highlights of the Perry Honors College's successes, and an update on the University's new Center for Faculty Excellence. Dr. Rhett Epler, Assistant Professor of Marketing, will also present on how he integrates improvisation into his courses.

Kenneth Fridley, Vice President for Research and Economic Development, provided an update on the Strategic Research Framework, a discussion on advancing the University as an R1 institution, and a guest presentation by Dr. Lobat Tayebi, Professor and Batten Endowed Chair and Director of the Institute for Engineering in Medicine, Health, and Human Performance, titled "Engineering the Connection to Advance Health Innovation."

AUDIT, COMPLIANCE, HUMAN RESOURCES, and GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

A yesterday's meeting of the Audit, Compliance, Human Resources, and Governance Committee, the Vice President for Audit, Compliance, and Risk Management, Vice President LaToya Jordan, presented the results of three recently completed audit engagements: the CS Gold System, Endowment and Gift Spending, and Financial Reconciliation Processes.

The audit of the CS Gold System concluded that the control environment generally meets the University's internal control expectations and provides a sound foundation for the secure and reliable operation of the system. The audit received an "Effective" rating.

The Endowment and Gift Spending audit found that key controls and governance practices supporting stewardship of donor-funded resources are in place, and no instances of misuse of donor supported resources were identified. The audit received a "Partially Effective" rating, reflecting opportunities to better connect and strengthen existing practices across the University's complex, multi-divisional environment.

The audit of Financial Reconciliation Processes also received a "Partially Effective" rating. The review recognized meaningful progress in strengthening the University's reconciliation environment while

identifying opportunities to enhance the effectiveness of identifying, monitoring, and resolving outstanding reconciling items.

Vice President Jordan also provided an update on the Fiscal Year 2027 Audit Work Plan approved by the Board in June. Since that time, three engagements have been completed, and seven are currently underway. She anticipates presenting the results of several of these engagements at the December Board meeting.

She then reported on the status of corrective actions for open audit findings. Since the June report, management has completed corrective action on 10 findings, reducing the total number of open findings, and demonstrating noteworthy progression to completion on remaining findings' corrective action.

Vice President Jordan also updated the Committee on the Fiscal Year 2025 financial statement audit being conducted by the Auditor of Public Accounts. The audit remains in progress and is expected to conclude in late September or early October, with the related internal control report anticipated in late October or early November. The Project Manager for the audit engagement will present the results to the Committee in December.

To wrap up the Audit department update, as required by the professional standard framework University Audit adheres to, Vice President Jordan confirmed that University Audit remains organizationally independent and free from any impairments to independence or objectivity.

Vice President Jordan concluded her presentation providing an update on recent activities of the University Compliance Department, noting that efforts continue to focus on building a more connected and proactive compliance program by strengthening the underlying framework, clarifying compliance responsibilities across the University, improving coordination among responsible units, and providing consistent support to those areas. She emphasized the importance of collaboration and ongoing engagement with university leaders and operational partners to better understand and address compliance needs across the institution.

Then, Executive Vice President for Administration and Chief Operating Officer Ashley Schumaker presented the resolution to approve the Administrative and Professional Faculty appointments. The Committee approved the resolution, and I now bring it before the Board and they were approved unanimously.

STUDENT ENHANCEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT AND DIGITAL LEARNING COMMITTEE

The Student Enhancement & Engagement and Digital Learning Committee met on Friday, September 18, 2026, at 9:00 AM. The minutes of the June 12, 2026, meeting were approved.

Brandi Hephner LaBanc, Ed.D., Vice President of Student and Campus Life, reported strong progress made toward the university's first-time, full-time retention goal. Retention for the Fall 2025 cohort reached 79.5%, exceeding the strategic plan's 2025 goal of 77%. Drivers behind these gains included proactive cross-departmental interventions, the implementation of Old Dominion University's first retention dashboard, and intentionally varied and targeted outreach efforts. Vice President Hephner LaBanc shared key initiatives already in progress for the Fall 2026 cohort based on the lessons learned from these successes.

Vice President Hephner LaBanc highlighted two efforts focused on fostering belonging and positively impacting retention through sustained student engagement. Students who participated in one or more Monarch Experience events were retained at a rate that outpaced their peers. Additionally, students involved in student organizations were retained at 84.5%, rising to 94% for those who held officer positions. Bridget Weikel, Ph.D., Associate Vice President for Wellbeing and Belonging, reported on Old Dominion University's commitment to becoming a Health Promoting University. Dr. Weikel described ways the

initiative embeds well-being into institutional practices and then highlighted the university-wide executive sponsorship and the implementation strategy.

Garrett Shelton, Chief of Police and Assistant Vice President for Public Safety highlighted critical public safety enhancements such as the deployment of 157 AED and Stop the Bleed stations across campuses, the addition of an Assistant Director of Threat Assessment, and the Police Department's first public safety counseling intern.

Executive Vice President for Enrollment, Transformation, and Technology Nina Rodriguez Gonser opened the presentation by introducing Senior Associate Vice President of Digital Innovation Chrysoula Malogianni, Ph.D. Dr. Malogianni emphasized that ODU's work with AI and digital transformation is driven by exceptional leadership and staff dedication, highlighting expanded Research & Cloud Computing capabilities.

Executive Director of Research and Cloud Computing John Pratt detailed infrastructure upgrades, including high-performance computing, cloud systems, AI capabilities, and a Secure Research Environment. In 2026, these tools powered 2.66 million compute hours across nearly 19,800 research jobs. The ecosystem supports 124 AI-driven projects, including the GeoSEA geospatial unit and MonarchSphere.

Assistant Vice President for Digital Learning and Strategic Operations Jennifer Simmons shared that transitioning to an accelerated eight-week online course model required redesigning 892 courses with 532 faculty members and 1,087 faculty trainings. The team also developed a custom agentic AI tool for Canvas, powered by Google Vertex, that automated key course-build steps and saved build hours. Dr. Malogianni reported that more than 530 courses were taught in upgraded Forward-Focused classrooms during Fall 2025 and Spring 2026, supported by over 3,000 technology installations.

These initiatives contributed to strong enrollment outcomes presented by Executive Vice President Rodriguez Gonser. Total university enrollment surpassed 24,000 for the first time since 2020, while the incoming freshman class showed increased academic quality, with a 15% rise in students with GPAs above 3.7. Online growth was particularly strong, driven partly by the new October second eight-week entry point, which attracted 654 registered students, including 371 returning students, supporting recruitment and retention.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Administration and Finance Committee met Thursday, September 17, 2026.

Ashley Schumaker, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, provided an update on three notable capital projects. Included in the updates were a report on current design status for the Engineering and Arts Building, construction progress for the Biological Sciences Building and a video highlight of the Public Safety Building renovation kick-off event.

Executive Vice President Schumaker then presented information on four special projects the University completed in honor of the heroism and memory of Lieutenant Colonel Brandon A. Shah '07 to reflect the resilience of the monarch community after the tragic events on March 12, 2026. Projects included were The Loft, The Memorial, the proposed Lieutenant Colonel Brandon A. Shah Wing and Shah's Corner.

Next, Executive Vice President Schumaker shared the proposed 2026 Amended Six-Year Plan. She highlighted the 2026 Plan made changes to tuition and fee rates as approved for 2026-27 and accounted for the associated revenue impact. All other key assumptions and all strategic priorities were maintained.

Last, Executive Vice President Schumaker presented two actions items for Committee approval. The Committee voted in favor of recommending approval of the University's amended Six-Year Plan and the Board approved unanimously. The Committee then voted in favor of recommending approval of the honorific renaming of the Rollins Hall Annex as the Lieutenant Colonel Brandon A. Shah Wing and the Board approved unanimously.

Chad Reed, Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer, presented the University's Financial Performance Report as of June 30, 2026. The report reflected a positive fiscal year-end operating result, with a surplus of \$111.81 million across all programs. Total revenues reached \$1.12 billion, while total expenses were \$1.01 billion, compared to budgeted amounts of \$1.07 billion and \$1.03 billion, respectively.

Mr. Reed then provided an update on the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Operating Budget. He discussed the impact of the Commonwealth's budget, which was finalized on June 29, following the University's budget approval on June 12. Key changes included increases in base operating support, adjustments to central appropriations, changes affecting compensation and benefits, and additional funding for undergraduate need-based financial aid.

Mr. Reed also briefed the Board on the financial impact of the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP) and pending enrollment changes. As these factors continue to be finalized, a budget adjustment is expected to be presented at the upcoming Board meeting.

Last, Mike LaRock, Associate Vice President for Foundations, provided the Educational Foundation Investment Update which included highlighting the June 30, 2026, investment value of the Educational Foundation portfolio of \$457.8 million and additional \$200.3 million attributed to the EVMS Foundation.

UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT AND UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The University Advancement and University Communications Committee met on September 17 and had multiple items for review. Alonzo Brandon, Vice President for University Advancement, provided a year-to-date fundraising update, reporting \$13.2 million in funds raised and highlighting several significant gifts and their impact on the University's priorities. Vice President Brandon also shared University Advancement's key activities and accomplishments for the quarter, and the division's focus on strategic planning and preparing for the year ahead. In addition, he discussed post-merger engagement plans for the ODU Foundation and Alumni Association, focusing on strengthening collaboration and expanding engagement opportunities in support of University Advancement's goals and priorities.

Ashley Schumaker, Executive Vice President for Administration and Chief Operating Officer, provided an update on three key items in University Communications. Included in the updates were a report on the latest edition of the Monarch Magazine, including the publication process and related statistics; research and media and public relations; and University licensing.

Executive Vice President Schumaker presented information on the increasing visibility of Monarch Magazine and future plans to expand distribution readership on a broader scale. This included highlights of a significant increase in digital engagement.

Next, Executive Vice President Schumaker shared how Old Dominion University's expanded research publications are translating capabilities, strategic strengths and regional advantages to position the University for new opportunities, additional partnerships, and greater visibility. She also noted significant media coverage on a number of critical issues, such as Dr. Holly Gaff's TickBot and the significant flooding event in early August.

The last updates provided insight on the success of royalty revenue and scholarship growth, the third annual Fan Fest featuring new product and supported by former Monarch All-American quarterback Taylor Heinicke and the remarkable success of the blue camo football uniform and related jersey sells in honor of Lt. Col. Brandon A. Shah.

MOTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

Rector Pitts recognized Dr. Keith Newby, Sr., MD, who read the following motion: “Mr. Rector, I move that this meeting be convened in closed session, as permitted by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A), subsections (1), (3), (7), and (8) for the purposes of discussing the appointment and performance of specific employees; the discussion of the disposition of real property where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the University’s bargaining position or negotiating strategy; consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members pertaining to actual or probable litigation because doing so in an open meeting would adversely litigating posture; and consultation with legal counsel on specific matters.”

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND FOIA CERTIFICATION

At the conclusion of closed session, Rector Pitts reconvened the meeting and 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 Board. All those who agree that only lawfully exempted matters and specifically only the business matters stated in the motion convening the closed meeting were discussed in the closed meeting say “aye.” All those who disagree say “nay.” The certification was approved by roll call vote. (*Aye: Allen, Broermann, Corn, Decker, Fleming, Johnson, Montero, Morring, Mugler, Newby, Pitts, Thompson, and Wulf Winiarek; Absent: Days, Hodge, Plum, and Wyatt*)

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM