M I N U T E S

An orientation session for newly appointed and reappointed members of the Old Dominion University Board of Visitors was held on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at 12:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Kate and John R. Broderick Dining Commons on the Norfolk campus. Present from the Board:

R. Bruce Bradley, Rector
Brian K. Holland
Elza H. Mitchum
P. Murry Pitts

Also present:

Brian O. Hemphill, President
Austin Agho
Morris Foster
Casey Kohler
Donna Meeks
Tom Odom
Chad Reed
Nina Rodriguez-Gonser

September Sanderlin
Ashley Schumaker
Wood Selig
Amanda Skaggs
Don Stansberry
Allen Wilson

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS BY RECTOR BRADLEY

The Rector called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. and welcomed Brian Holland and Elza Mitchum to the Board. He noted that new members Dennis Ellmer and Rudy Middleton were unable to attend due to previous commitments. He commented that it was an exciting time to be on the Board with Old Dominion University being seen as an institution on the rise under the leadership of President Hemphill. Among the many initiatives in which the University is currently involved is the EVMS/ODU collaboration. Murry Pitts has been a key part of that as the Board’s representative on the leadership team. The new Maritime School is also a huge opportunity for ODU, which is uniquely positioned to capitalize on its location and resources, as well as the whole area of coastal resiliency. Finally, digital learning is a new focus for the institution with our new Vice President for Digital Learning. More details on these initiatives will be shared at the upcoming Board retreat.

The Rector concluded his remarks by commenting that there are two particularly important things to know about President Hemphill. First, he has done a masterful job in staying connected with members of the General Assembly and the Governor, regardless of political party. And second, he
has also surrounded himself with people – both inherited and new - who are incredibly competent, highly efficient, are of good character, but are also humble.

**GENERAL OVERVIEW BY PRESIDENT HEMPHILL**

The President thanked the Rector for his kind words about him and his team. He welcomed Mr. Holland and Mr. Mitchum and commented on the strength of this Board. Board members genuinely love this institution and are committed to work they are doing. They provide excellent guidance and counsel to him on critical issues facing the institution. He was excited about the Governor’s most recent appointment and what each of you will bring to the table.

Throughout the day, you will have the opportunity to get a good snapshot of the administrative divisions. Each of the presenters are following a similar template to provide consistency and you will get a good feel on the organizational structure of the institution. Presentations on Athletics and Fundraising are not included since you both know those topics very well. As the Rector mentioned, this is definitely an exciting time to be part of the ODU family.

**DIVISION PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION**

Austin O. Agho, Ph.D., Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, shared the mission of the Division, its areas of focus and priorities, its organizational structure, data on faculty and degree programs, faculty recognition and awards, budget by unit, and upcoming challenges. These challenges include faculty and staff recruitment and retention, enrollment, maintaining R1 status, faculty compensation, and faculty diversity. He provided information on the importance of the institutional accreditation process and the SACSCOC reaccreditation that is currently ongoing, as well as the specialized accreditations for various academic fields.

Chad Reed, Vice President for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview on the Divisions’ mission, its areas of focus and priorities, its organizational structure, position allocations, operating budget, and upcoming challenges. These challenges include the EVMS merger and integration, transforming the accounting and financial reporting operations, addressing vacancies, improving the customer service experience and realigning expectations, long-term financial planning, and master planning efforts.

Don Stansberry, Ph.D., Vice President for Student Engagement & Enrollment Services, also shared the Division’s mission, areas of focus and priorities, organizational structure, budget, and upcoming challenges. These challenges include addressing the enrollment cliff, post COVID-10 reengagement, student retention, staff, adjusting to student demographic and behavioral changes, financial burden and perception of the value of higher education, and development of skills employers are demanding.

Nina Rodriguez-Gonser, Interim Vice President for Digital Learning, shared the mission and vision of the Division, areas of focus and priorities, organizational structure, budget, and upcoming challenges. The goal for her division is to double enrollment in five years, and includes five strategic priorities – talent management, new marketing strategy, student support improvements, digital innovation, and new business model.
Morris Foster, Ph.D., Vice President for Research, provided an overview of the mission of the division, areas of focus and priorities, organizational structure, budget, and upcoming challenges. The upcoming challenges include retaining the R1 status in the next Carnegie Classification in 2024, the opportunity for greater integration with the EVMS research enterprise, building Data Science collaborations with JLab and NASA Langley, leveraging regional growth in Offshore Wind Energy and Autonomous Systems as well as Spaceflight at Wallops Flight Facility, developing a distinctive state and national niche in Coastal Resilience, and continuing to grow the Applied Research enterprise.

September Sanderlin, Vice President for Human Resources, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, shared the mission for both the Department of Human Resources and the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity. She shared the areas of focus and priorities for both departments, as well as the Division’s organizational structures, and budget. Upcoming challenges include the EVMA affiliation, managing the “great resignation,” and managing competing expectations.

ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Amanda Skaggs, Chief Audit Executive, shared the mission of the University Audit Department, its organizational structure, and budget. Upcoming challenges include open action items, audit timelines and budget overruns, audit universe coverage, and the recruitment of an administrative position.

Al Wilson, Assistant Attorney General and University Counsel, said that counsel is appointed by the Attorney General and coordinated through the Education Section the primary role is to advise the Board and senior leadership on legal issues and management of legal risk. He reviewed the legal framework for public institutions of higher education, with particular emphasis on the Conflicts of Interests and the Freedom of Information Acts. He also described what constitutes Board records and meetings, and provisions for electronic meetings and closed sessions.

The meeting adjourned at 3:51 PM.