An orientation session for newly appointed members of the Old Dominion University Board of Visitors was held on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at 12:00 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
Susan Allen
Andrew Hodge
Juan M. Montero II, MD
P. Murry Pitts
D.R. Wyatt

Also present:
Brian O. Hemphill, President
Austin Agho
Ken Fridley
Nina Rodriguez Gonser
Jaime Hunt
Brandi Hephner LaBanc
Donna Meeks
Chad Reed
September Sanderlin
Ashley Schumaker
Amanda Skaggs
Allen Wilson

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS BY RECTOR BRADLEY

The Rector called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and welcomed Susan Allen, Andrew Hodge, Dr. Juan Montero, and Rick Wyatt to the Board. He commented that it was an exciting time to be on the Board of Old Dominion University with the list of initiatives that are underway under the leadership of President Hemphill, including the EVMS/ODU integration, School of Logistics and Maritime, and School of Data Sciences.

President Hemphill, as former president of Radford University, had already established a number of key relationships in the General Assembly. As a non-partisan, he goes across both sides and is welcomed by both sides of the aisle and has established genuine friends with Del. Barry Knight from the House and Senator Louise Lucas, who have been instrumental in the EVMS integration. We are hopeful that the General Assembly will soon reach consensus on the budget, which include
funding for the merger. The targeted date for the merger is January 1, 2024. President Hemphill has also led the development of the University’s new Strategic Plan.

The Rector described the two-day quarterly meeting format and noted that board members were asked to pick two committees they wished to serve on, and he will try to appoint everyone to at least one of those committees. Since each committee meeting is held separately, he encouraged the new members to attend as many of the committee meetings as possible to learn more about the University.

**GENERAL OVERVIEW BY PRESIDENT HEMPHILL**

President Hemphill welcomed the new members and commented on the strength of this Board, noting that this has been board he has worked with by far. This Board has a genuine passion for the work they are doing and care about this institution. They come from different sectors and genuinely like each other.

The President provided a general overview of the University and then a more detailed presentation on the ODU/EVMS integration. Throughout the day, his administrative team will provide a glimpse of their organizations. Each is following a similar template to provide consistency and you will get a good feel on the organizational structure of the institution.

**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, accomplishments, and opportunities and challenges. These include student success (retention and graduation); experiential learning opportunities for students; academic program reviews, excellence in teaching, research, and service; ODU/EVMS integration; faculty and staff recruitment, with a focus on diversity; undergraduate and graduate enrollment; maintaining R1 research status; and faculty compensation.

Chad Reed, Vice President for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview of the Division’s mission, areas of focus and priorities, organizational structure, position allocations, operating budget, and upcoming challenges. These challenges include the EVMS merger and integration, planning and budget operations; accounting and financial reporting operations, customer service experience and realignment of expectations, long-term financial planning, and the ODU Master Plan.

Dr. Wood Selig, Director of Athletics, provided an overview of the Department’s mission, organizational structure, budget, and highlights from the 2022-2023 academic year. He shared ticket sales to date for the 2023 football season and efforts underway to create a collective to support student athletes.

Nina Rodriguez Gonser, Vice President for Digital Learning, shared the mission and vision of the Division, areas of focus and priorities, organizational structure, budget, and upcoming challenges. These challenges including securing strategic funding for technological advancements, furthering
talent development program, establishing an appropriate business model, and encouraging faculty support.

Ken Fridley, Ph.D., Interim Vice President for Research, provided an overview of the mission of the division, areas of focus and priorities, organizational structure, budget, and challenges and opportunities. These include retain and fortify R1 status in Carnegie Classification; increase collaboration and partnerships with the EVMS research enterprise; build data science collaborations with JLab and NASA Langley; leverage regional growth in offshore wind energy, autonomous systems, and spaceflight at Wallops Flight Facility; develop distinctive state and national position in Coastal Resilience; and continue to grow both fundamental and applied research enterprises.

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 budgets. Upcoming challenges include the EVMS integration and managing competing expectations.

Jaime Hunt, Vice President for University Communications and Chief Marketing Officer, shared the Division’s mission and vision, organizational structure, priorities, budget, and major projects for the upcoming year. These include build operational infrastructure; roll out a new brand platform; support recruitment efforts, provide training and tools for campus, maintain licensing opportunities, and expand earned media efforts.

ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

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

Al Wilson, University Counsel, shared that this position is appointed by the Attorney General and coordinated through the Education Section and 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 and the Conflict of Interests and Freedom of Information Acts. He also described what constitutes Board meetings and provisions for closed meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.