

*Times are approximate*

**DRAFT**

**Board of Visitors New Member Orientation**

**Minutes**

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

**Campus Location:** *President's Conference Room, Suite 530, 5th Floor*

**Board of Visitors Members Present**

Dr. Harold Watkins

Dr. Michael Thornton

**University Structure and Executive Leadership**

Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston, University President

Ms. Pamela F. Boston, University Counsel and Senior Assistant Attorney General

Dr. Aurelia T. Williams, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs (I)

Dr. Gerald Ellsworth Hunter, Vice President for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer

Dr. Justin L. Moses, Vice President for Operations and Chief Strategist for Institutional Effectiveness

Dr. Tanya White, Vice President and Chief of Staff

Dr. Melody Webb, Vice President/Athletics Director

Dr. Leonard Brown, Vice President for Student Affairs

Mr. Eric W. Claville, J.D., M.L.I.S., Executive Advisor to the President, Governmental Relations

Mr. Clifford Porter, Vice President for University Advancement

Dr. Melissa J. Barnes, Interim Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management

**STAFF PRESENT**

Ms. Sher're Dozier, Clerk to the President for the Board of Visitors

**Dr. Adams-Gaston** extended a warm welcome to each member and thanked them for their service as members of the Board.

**Dr. Harold Watkins** thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication and expressed his sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve on the Board.

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**Dr. Michael Thornton** shared that he is a proud graduate of Norfolk State University's Class of 1986 and expressed his pride in the University's continued growth and achievements. He also informed of his enthusiasm about working collaboratively with fellow Board members and contributing to the University's ongoing success.

**Ms. Pamela F. Boston** shared that she represents the Office of the Attorney General and expressed her enthusiasm about working with the newly appointed Board members.

**Dr. Aurelia T. Williams** provided an overview of the University's organizational structure and highlighted its more than 30 undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degree programs. She also discussed the University's ecosystem and its role in supporting student success and institutional growth. Dr. Williams emphasized initiatives aimed at enhancing employee success, improving student retention and graduation rates, and strengthening academic programs and outcomes.

**Dr. Justin L. Moses** provided an overview of his role at the university and discussed key topics, including student retention, admissions, and financial aid. He also highlighted the importance of Title IX and its impact on the institution

**Dr. Gerald Ellsworth Hunter** reviewed the structure of the Division of Finance and Administration and provided hard-copy materials for reference. He also discussed the University's tuition and fee structure, as well as the University's operating budget and key financial priorities.

**Dr. Melody Webb** highlighted the growth and opportunities within the Athletics Department, particularly in the areas of student-athlete recruitment and program development. She also highlighted the appointment of Michael Vick as head football coach. Dr. Webb discussed the (NIL) Transfer Portal on collegiate athletics, highlighting the opportunities they present for student-athletes.

**Dr. Leonard Brown** shared that he serves as the Vice President for Student Affairs and provided an overview of the division's organizational structure, which includes the Dean of Students Office, Counseling Center, Career Services, Spartan Health, Wellness Center, Student Support Services, Military and Veterans Services, Housing Services, and International Services. He emphasized the division's commitment to student success and discussed ongoing initiatives designed to support

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student development and well-being. He also informed that the University is currently in the process of housing selections for the upcoming academic year.

**Mr. Mr. Eric W. Claville** shared that he serves as the Executive Advisor to the President for Governmental Relations and highlighted the tremendous growth and progress taking place across the University. He discussed several key initiatives, including the Living-Learning Dining initiative, and emphasized their role in enhancing student experience. Mr. Claville also highlighted the University's increased visibility and recognition through its role in hosting major events and programs, further strengthening Norfolk State University's presence and impact.

**Mr. Clifford Porter** provided an overview of the various foundations that support the University and highlighted the areas under his leadership, including the Marketing Department, Special Events Department, Development, and Stewardship. He expressed his sincere gratitude for the investments made through the “Now Is Our Time” Campaign.

**Dr. Mellisa Barnes** shared that she has been a member of the Norfolk State University community since 1989 and provided an overview of her role and responsibilities within the University. She highlighted her years of service and experience, as well as her commitment to supporting the institution’s mission and continued success.

**Dr. Adams-Gaston** informed the Board that Dr. Watkins will serve on the Executive Committee and as a member of the Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee. She also announced that Dr. Thornton will serve on the Strategic Finance Committee and the Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee. In closing, she thanked everyone for their attendance, engagement, and valuable contributions shared throughout the meeting.