DRAFT

NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF VISITORS
Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 22, 2026

I. Call to Order/ Establish Quorum

Dr. Harold Watkins, Chair, called the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting to order at 12:34 p.m. A quorum was established with a 4-0 roll call vote.

Committee Members Present
Dr. Harold Watkins, Chair
Dr. Keisha Samuels
Dr. Tony Brothers
Mr. Edward Sanders

Committee Member(s) Absent
Dr. L.D. Britt
Mr. Michael Andrews

NSU Administrators and Staff Present
Dr. Javaune Adams- Gaston, President
Ms. Pamela F. Boston, University Counsel and Senior Assistant Attorney General
Dr. Melissa Barnes, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management (I)
Dr. Davida H. Williams, Associate Vice Price for Auxiliary Enterprises & Services
Dr. Isaiah Lucas, Executive Director Housing and Residence Life
Dr. Tanya S. White, Vice President and Chief of Staff
Mrs. Sandra Williamson- Ashe, Office of the Provost
Mr. David Simon Jr., Dean for Students
Ms. Shante Williams,Counseling Center
Mr. Kenneth Radford, Office of Information Technology
Mr. Brian Covington, Chief of Police
Ms. Danielle Jones, Assistant Vice President University Controller
Mr. Demitrius Purnell, Student Government Association President
Mr. Terry Woodhouse, Associate Vice President for Capital Planning and Facilities Management
Mr. Dennis Jones, Executive Director of Budget
Mrs. Kimberly Gaymon, Scheduler/ Financial Services Specialist
Mrs. Bonisha Townsend- Porter, Student Affairs
Dr. Terrye L. Venable, Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs
Ms. Patricia Porter- Mayfield, Deputy Athletic Director

Mr. Kentrell Kearny, Director of
Compliance- Athletics
Mrs. Phillita Peeples, Executive Assistant to Internal Audit and Compliance
Ms. Sher're Dozier, Clerk to the University President for the Board of Visitors

II. Recommend Approval of Electronic Participation

N/A

III. <u>Recommend Approval of the May 7, 2026, Committee Meeting Minutes</u>

<u>Mr. Edward Sanders, motioned, second by Dr. Tony Brothers, with a 4-0 roll call vote, the Committee unanimously approved May 7, 2026, Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting minutes.</u>

IV. Discussion Items

Academic Affairs Update- Dr. Aurelia T. Williams, Provost and Vice President for Academic and Faculty Affairs

a) **Entrepreneurship and Innovation**- School of Business offers an entrepreneurship degree track, while the Innovation Center provides several programs including the following:
   - Startup Studio
   - AI- Powered Business Builder
   - Cash Flow Ready
   - Spark Innovation Challenge
   - Partnership with the Office of Procurement is being developed to provide students with comprehensive support in launching small businesses.

b) Artificial Intelligence Initiatives
   - Preparing students for an increasingly AI driven world
   - The university's approach emphasizes responsible AI use, interdisciplinary collaboration, research, and workforce preparation.

c) AI Pedagogy and Curriculum
   - Participating in the ACQ Institute
   - Faculty development opportunities are being provided through the Office of Extended Leaning and the Center for Teaching and Learning
   - Faculty have completed at least five generative AI training modules, with many completing all six.

d) Student AI Development
   - Incoming freshmen have opportunities to earn IBM digital badges in AI.

e) Research and External Funding
   - $700,000 from the Department of Energy for AI and machine learning workforce development.
   - Nearly $400,000 from the National Science Foundation to advance responsible AI and cybersecurity.

f) Academic Program Development

- Establishment of a minor and concentration in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence.
- Development of deep learning courses.
- Expansion of AI-related instruction beyond traditional computer science and STEM disciplines.
- **School of Business initiatives**
- **Approximately $700,00 in Title II funding across two fiscal years to support technology improvements and analytical tools.**
- Continued development of an AL laboratory.
- Development of a proposed MBA in Business Analytics with an AI and Machine learning concentration.
- Exploration of applied analytics and community- focused initiatives.

g) External Partnership and future Development

- Expanding campus engagement through the AI Ready NSU initiative during the Fall.
- Advancing faculty hiring scheduled for Spring 2026.
- Evaluating the impact of AL initiatives on student learning, research productivity, and career preparation.

h) Establishment of Agency Center

With the Approval from Dr. Adams- Gaston, Dr. Williams announced tat Norfolk State University is establishing the Agency Center for Artificial Intelligence Research and Societal Impact.

The floor was opened for questions:

None

Student Affairs Update- Dr. Leonard Brown, Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Brown provided updates on the Division of Student Affairs, highlighting Career Services, post – graduation outcomes, student engagement, retention, and graduation rates, and on- campus housing.

a. Career Services and Career Fair participation

- Career fair participation has increased significantly since Fall 2021.
- A decline in participation occurred during Fall 2025, largely due to the loss of several federal employees who were unable to participate because of changes at the federal level.
- Spring 2026 recorded the highest career fair participation rate to date.

b. Post- Graduation Outcomes

- The increase from 66% to 73 % represents a seven-percentage point improvement, thanks to the collaboration across campus.

c. Student Engagement, Retention, and Graduation Initiatives.

Ongoing partnership with Dr. Watts' research to establish baseline student success targets for selected student groups within Student Affairs. These co-curricular experiences are recognized by NASPA aa high- impact practices because they contribute to.

- Student persistence and retention.
- Improved learning and degree completion.
- Stronger student engagement
- Increased sense of belonging.
- Improved overall student success.

d. Student populations were initially selected for analysis:

- Spartan Legion.
- Greek Life members.
- Residential leaders, including undergraduate Resident Assistants.

1. Spartan Legion
   - First to Second year retention rates were higher than the university's overall retention rates.
   - Retention rates were comparable to national public university benchmarks.
   - Significant decline was identified during the sophomore spring semester.
2. Greek Life and Residential Leaders
   The analysis identified graduation rates as an opportunity for additional intervention and improvement.
3. Date- Informed Interventions and Assessment- The research process has provided valuable insight for Student Affairs staff who work directly with these student populations. The committee will receive future updates regarding:
   Implementation of data-informed strategies.
   Student participation and feedback.
   Changes in retention and graduation outcomes.
   Assessment of whether interventions are producing positive results.

e. On Campus Housing and Residential Capacity

Proximity Housing Partnership

- Approximately 3,150 students are housed on campus.
- Approximately 525 students housed at Proximity
- Approximately 20 students remain in hotel accommodation.

Future housing challenges- Old Dominion purchased the Proximity property during the summer. As a result, Norfolk State's continued use of the property beyond the current academic year is unlikely.

The Floor was opened for Questions:

None

C. Enrollment Management Update- Dr. Justin Moses, Vice President for Operations and Institutional Effectiveness

1. 0.27 % increase from Fall 2025- Fall 2026
2. Total Enrollment for Fall 2026 is 6,575 students.
3. 0.17% decrease in undergraduate students
4. 3.84% increase in graduate students
5. College of Science, Engineering, and Technology remains the university's largest college.

The Floor was opened for Questions:

Mr. Sanders asked for Dr. Moses to explain the enrollment cliff for the new board members.

Dr. Moses explained that there have several population shifts. People are having less children, less people are coming out of High School and going straight to college. A lot of people are looking at that return on investment of investing in college education. So, they may say, hey, you know what? Instead of going to a four-year institution, I may go to a two-year institution, or I may go into a certificate program, or I may go to the military and not go to college at all.

Those are all the different factors that people are weighing in, not just students, but their families.

D. Athletics Update- Dr. Melody Webb, Vice President and Director of Athletics

Dr. Webb expressed the following:

- Norfolk State University Athletics continues to demonstrate strong performance, earning the MEAC Talmadge Layman Hill Men's All-Sports Award for the third consecutive year. Highlights include a national championship in tennis, national recognition in baseball, international competition in men's basketball, and record-setting community support, with 48,357 fans attending Homecoming.
- The university is also investing in athletic facility improvements and expanding national exposure through the MEAC Network.
- Despite these accomplishments, NSU Athletics faces challenges from evolving NCAA regulations, NIL policies, and federal legislation.
- Changes to student-athlete eligibility rules are particularly concerning given NSU's large population of working students.
- Athletics leadership remains focused on adapting to these changes, maintaining compliance, supporting student-athletes, and ensuring the university's continued competitiveness and long-term success.

The Floor was opened for Questions:

None

V. Public Comments- there were no public comments.

VI. There being no further business, Dr. Harold Watkins adjourned the meeting at 1:47p.m. The motion was made by Dr. Tony Brothers and second by Dr. Keisha Samuels, with a 4-

0 roll call vote, the Committee unanimously approved the Adjournment.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dr. Harold Watkins, Chair

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Sharea' Williams, Executive Assistant
for Operations and Institutional Effectiveness

NSU BOV ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL VOTE

October 22, 2026

Item	Dr. Harold Watkins (Chair)	Dr. Keisha Samuels	Dr. Tony Brothers	Mr. Edward Sanders	Mr. Michael Andrews (Absent)	Dr. L.D. Britt (Absent)	Totals
Quorum	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	A	A	4-0
Recommendation of Electronic Participation	-	-	-	-	A	A	-
Approval of Minutes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	a	A	4-0
Adjourned	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	A	A	4-0