

**BOARD OF VISITORS  
FULL BOARD MEETING  
December 9, 2022  
MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order/Establish Quorum**

Mr. Devon Henry, Rector, called the Norfolk State University Board of Visitors meeting to order at approximately 8:42 a.m. He thanked everyone for all of their work which makes the meeting run smoothly.

Rector Henry commented on the previous evening. All who attended were able to go to the University House and interact with the field coaches, faculty, and staff. One of the quotes from the faculty was that this was a once in a lifetime opportunity for the athletes to be able to sit around with the President and Board of Visitors and allow students to engage. Rector Henry credited Dr. Adams-Gaston stating that this can happen because of the culture of care that is being created at Norfolk State University, one that shows that we are excited about the success of our students.

He went on to comment on the upcoming Commencement, with an exciting commencement speaker. Also, the university is excited and the alum are excited about the upcoming trip to Pasadena where the Marching Spartans will take part in the Rose Bowl Parade. Rector Henry thanked everyone who had any part in making this happen.

A quorum was established with a 12-0 Roll Call vote. Below is a list of individuals that joined the meeting.

Participants – Board Members

Mr. Devon M. Henry, Rector  
Mrs. Heidi Abbott  
Mr. Dwayne B. Blake  
Ms. Mary L. Blunt, Vice Rector  
Bishop Kim W. Brown, Secretary  
Dr. Katrina Chase  
The Honorable James W. Dyke, Jr.  
Mr. BK Fulton  
Mr. Conrad Hall  
Mr. James Jamison  
Mr. Delbert Parks  
Dr. Harold Watkins, II

Non-Participants – Absent Board Members

Mr. Gilbert Bland

Participant – Faculty Representative to the Board

Dr. Geoffroy de Laforcade, Professor of History and Interdisciplinary Studies

Participant – Student Representative to the Board

Indya Richards, SGA

Participant – Counsel

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

Mr. James Wright, Associate University Counsel and Senior Assistant Attorney General

Participants – NSU Administrators and Staff

Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston, President

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

Dr. DoVeanna Fulton, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs

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

Dr. Leonard E. Brown, Vice President, Student Affairs

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

Mr. Clifford Porter, Vice President, University Advancement

Ms. Tanya S. White, Chief of Staff

Dr. Dawn Hess, Chief Compliance Officer

Mrs. Derika Burgess, Chief Audit Executive

Mrs. Kimberly Gaymon, Scheduler/Financial Services Specialist

Mr. Christopher M. Gregory, Information Technology Specialist, OIT

Ms. Phillita Peebles, Compliance and Audit Administrative Assistant

Ms. Inda Walker, Clerk to the University President/Board Liaison

Observers

Ms. Melanie A. Winns, NSU Southern California Alum President

**2. President’s Update/Presentation..... Dr. Adams-Gaston**

Dr. Adams-Gaston welcomed everyone to the December meeting and thanked the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Adams-Gaston went on to say that this is Commencement weekend, which is the highlight of the Higher Education Opportunity, so she encourages the faculty, staff, and students to come out and support the graduates. This Fall 2022 graduates total approximately 399, which is a big number for December graduation. Congratulations to all of the graduates.

Dr. Adams-Gaston thanked the Board of Visitors and recognized them for their hard work, noting that they do not get paid for the work that they do here at NSU. She also thanked

her Executive Team, the faculty, and staff, and also Dr. de Laforcade for his ongoing work with the faculty.

**Faculty Achievements**

- Norfolk State University recently received a NSU UVA \$5 million grant to fight sea level rise. Drs. Ashley Haynes, Sharon Austin, and Renny Fernandez partnered with the University of Virginia.
- Dr. Hongzhi Guo, Assistant Professor of Engineering, is among the National Science Foundation's (NSF) 2022 Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) awardees, which is funded for \$499,337 over five years.
- Norfolk State University Professors Drs. Claude Turner, Patricia Mead, and Carlene Turner have successfully secured a \$1.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation.
- NSU received a sub-award from EVMS in the amount of \$351,787 spanning across two years to help address substance abuse issues among women who are pregnant and/or parenting.

**Student Achievements:**

- Anthony Mendez represented the Spartans this summer during the inaugural NBA HBCU Fellowship, which is a 10-week paid internship program across the Association's 30 teams.
- The Spartans won their third straight title and 15th overall MEAC Tournament.
- Students from the College of Science, Engineering, and Technology from the Center for Material Research group under Dr. Noginov have presented their research at several conferences -- CLEO Conference, in San JOSE, CA, and 2022 MRS Spring Meeting and Exhibit, in Honolulu, Hawaii.
- Ph.D. Student Samuel Danquah, successfully published his research entitled "Effects of Calcination Temperature on the Electrochemical Performance of LFMO Cathode for All-Solid-State Energy Storage."
- Emmanuel Perez '21 received \$50,000 for his company at the Mighty Dream Forum hosted by Pharrell Williams. Mr. Perez will also receive a 3-month mentorship.
- McKinley Lowery, recent NSU graduate and former HBCU White House HBCU Fellow, was selected in the current cohort for the prestigious Columbia HBCU Fellow program.

- Jaylin Drewry, former NSU SGA President and Student Representative to the Board of Visitors, a senior at Norfolk State University, has been appointed to the SCHEV Student Advisory Committee as Co-Chair.

### **University Highlights**

- Pharrell Williams hosted the Mighty Dream Forum.
- On Nov. 3 in the atrium of the L. Douglas Wilder Center at Norfolk State University, Governor Glenn Youngkin announced an initiative to address catastrophic learning loss through a tutoring partnership between the Urban Leagues of Hampton Roads and Greater Richmond and four Historically Black Colleges and Universities: Norfolk State University, Hampton University, Virginia State University, and Virginia Union University.
- Bishop Kim W. Brown and The Mount Church hosted “HBCU Sunday,” where Truist Bank donated a half a million dollars in scholarship funding and promised to hire young graduates from historically Black colleges and universities. Truist donated \$250,000 to Norfolk State University and \$250,000 to Virginia State University. Also, under the leadership of Bishop Kim W. Brown and Elder Valerie K. Brown, donations totaling over \$40,000 were made to Norfolk State University, Virginia State University, Virginia Union University, and Elizabeth City State University from the congregation and K.W. Brown Ministries. Norfolk State University received a donation of more than \$10,000.
- Norfolk State will be featured in a new holiday movie! A NSU Sweatshirt was used in a Lifetime Christmas Movie, Kirk Franklin's “The Night Before Christmas.”
- For the third year in a row, Norfolk State University has been ranked by U.S. News and World Report as one of the Top 20 HBCUs in the nation.
- Norfolk State University will work with IBM to establish a Cybersecurity Leadership Center.

### **Alum Highlights**

- NSU Alum Principal Deputy Managing Director Doline Pryer Hatchett received the 2022 Presidential Distinguished Rank Award (PRA), the nation’s highest civil service award on Tuesday, November 15, 2022.
- NSU Alum Booker T. Mattison, Assistant Professor in the Department of Entertainment and Media Studies at Grady College, was tapped to write and direct “The Sound of Christmas,” a holiday film debuting on the streaming service BET on Thanksgiving Day.

### **Administration Highlights**

- Under the leadership of Dr. Justin Moses and in conjunction with various administrative and academic units across the institution, Enrollment Management was able to enroll nearly 5800 for the Fall 2022 semester – a 6% increase from the previous year with a 1st time freshman count of 1300.
- In August 2022, Dr. DoVeanna Fulton presented her paper, “Neo-Pentecostalism: Black Ambivalence and Social Change” at the Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies at Oxford University in Oxford, England.
- Under the leadership of Dr. Gerald Hunter, the University was invited to join VASCUP – State Purchasing Consortium.
- Dr. Leonard Brown Jr. has been appointed for a two-year term as the Chair of the James E. Scott Academy for the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA).
- Saranette Williams, Director of Career Services, was appointed as the Co-Chair of the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) 2022-23 Honors and Awards Committee.
- Under the leadership of Athletic Director Melody Webb, Women Basketball broke into the top 25 mid major poll, first time in school history. Men Basketball also went top 25 as well this year.

Dr. Adams-Gaston congratulated everyone for their great achievements, hard work, and collective efforts, stating that because of this collective body, NSU is positioned to become the premier HBCU in the Nation!

**3. BOV/NSUF Liaison Committee .....Dr. Harold Watkins, Jr.**

- The audits for the Foundation are current and everything looks good.
- In July, there was a summit held for all the foundations to attend and encourage collaboration, and to align the other foundations with some of the workings of the NSU Foundation.
- Next spring, all of the foundations will be invited to the Board Meeting to present and share with the Board the work that they are doing.
- Dr. Watkins gave compliments to Dr. Adams-Gaston and her team, Dr. Porter and Mr. Hunter, for their teamwork and collaboration.

**4. Student Representative to the Board..... Indya Richards**

- The League of Legacies Administration of the Student Government Association has been working hard to continue in the steps of pride, excellence and honoring the student body by ensuring the students a voice, advocacy, and an abundance of resources.
- The SGA has worked to minimize discrepancies on campus, such as car larcenies and disrespectful officers or staff.
- In preparation is a “presidential roundtable“ to consider the campus organizations and what they can do for the students.
- Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Townsend-Porter are working on how to expand the opportunities for internships.
- SGA and other student leaders have partnered with Housing and Residential Life and Student Activities to ensure that residents are able to thrive academically and function socially.
- Ms. Richards is a part of the HBCU Presidents Consortium, which is a conglomerate of all the SGA Presidents around the world. She serves as the Region U Public Relations Officer.

**5. Approval of Annual Executive Summary of Board’s Activity and Work**

Motioned by Mr. Hall and seconded by Mr. Fulton, the Board unanimously approved with a 12-0 Roll Call Vote.

**6. Approval of BOV Policy#07 Risk Assessment**

Motioned by Mr. Fulton and seconded by Mr. Parks, the Board unanimously approved with a 12-0 Roll Call Vote.

**7. Approval of BOV Policy#09 Incident Response Policy**

Motioned by Mr. Fulton and seconded by Mr. Blake, the Board unanimously approved with a 12-0 Roll Call Vote.

**8 MOTION – CLOSED MEETING – Pursuant to §2.2-3711A. 1, 3, 4, 7, and 8, Code of VA**

**Closed Session:**

Vice Rector Mrs. Blunt read the following motion, seconded by Mr. Blake, and with a 12-0 Roll Call Vote the Board unanimously approved.

Section 2.2-3711(A) 1, 3, 4, 7, and 8 of the Code of Virginia, for the following purposes, pursuant to the noted subsections:

(1) and (4): To discuss personnel matters, including more specifically, discussion on compensation for evaluation of performance of a high-level University employee and to discuss the appointment, promotion, performance, salaries of certain university employees. And further, to discuss the evaluation of performance of the specific university departments or schools where such evaluation will necessarily involve discussion of the performance of specific individuals and certain university employees; and

(3) discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for public service or the disposition of public real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy from the public body.

(7) and (8) consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members pertaining to specific matters, requiring the provision of legal advice by such pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or mitigating posture of the university, including more specifically, that legal counsel to give a status update on pending and potential litigation of which the Board should be made aware; along with any necessary consultation with legal counsel regarding matters noted in this motion; and further that the following remain for or attend, when called, the Closed Meeting: President, Eric Claville, Executive Advisor to the President, Governmental Relations, University Counsel, VP for Finance, and VP for Operations, Provost and VP for Advancement.

### **Reconvene in Open Meeting**

Rector Henry read: Having reconvened in Open Meeting, we will now take a roll call vote on certification that (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting by the Board. Any member of the Board who believes that there was a departure from the requirements as stated above, shall so state prior to the vote, indicating the substance of the departure that in his, or her judgment, has taken place. The motion was unanimously approved with a 12-0 roll call vote.

Mary Blunt motioned to confer an honorary doctorate degree as discussed in the Closed Session. Seconded by Conrad Hall and with a 12-0 Roll Call Vote the Board unanimously approved.

Mr. Blake motioned that the Board approve the report from the Governance Committee, which includes discussion of the subject matter of job performance, consistent with the discussion in Closed Session. Mr. Blake seconded and with a 12-0 Roll Call Vote the Board unanimously agreed.

**9. New Business – Emails for Board Members**

- University Counsel Pam Boston stated that Dr. Adams-Gaston has made arrangements for all of the board members to have their own email addresses.
- Ms. Boston passed out information based on FOIA (Virginia Freedom of Information Act), giving tips on using email when conducting public business. She encouraged the Board Members to be careful with deleting emails because they are public documents. She stated that when you have three (3) or more Board Members conversing in one location, it is considered to be a meeting, therefore, if you receive an email and you hit reply all, you have sent it to all of the Board members, and this is considered a meeting.

**10. Public Comment**

Melanie Winns, from Southern California attended the meeting and gave NSU high accolades. She hosted the NSU basketball team when they came to California. She complimented NSU for the great work that is being done.

**11. Old Business** – there was none.

**12.** The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Inda Walker, Board Liaison

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Bishop Kim Brown, Secretary  
Board of Visitors



