

WILLIAM & MARY

BOARD OF VISITORS
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
DRAFT MINUTES
FEBRUARY 7, 2024
GRIMSLEY BOARD ROOM - BLOW MEMORIAL HALL

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Barbara L. Johnson, Chair
Mr. Kendrick F. Ashton, Jr.
Mr. S. Douglas Bunch

Mr. Courtney M. Malveaux
Dr. David S. Armstrong, Faculty Representative
Ms. Gwen Galleher, Student Representative

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

AnnaMaria DeSalva, Vice Chair

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. John E. Littel
Hon. Thomas K. Norment, Jr.

Hon. Charles E. Poston, Rector
Ms. Sydney E. Thayer, Student Representative

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Peggy Agouris, Provost
Dr. D. Derek Aday, VIMS Dean and Director
Dr. Robert C. Knoepfel, Dean of the School of Education
Ms. Kathleen Powell, Chief Career Officer and Associate Vice President for Advancement
Dr. Suzanne Raitt, Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences
Dr. Matthew J. Smith, Assistant Provost for Institutional Accreditation & Effectiveness
Mr. A. Benjamin Spencer, Dean of the Law School
Dr. David A. Yalof, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Ms. Sarah Melchior, Associate University Counsel
Ms. Jessica Walton, Deputy Secretary to the Board of Visitors
Members of the President's Cabinet
W&M Staff and Faculty

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Ms. Barbara L. Johnson, Chair, called the Committee on Academic Affairs to order at 3:48 p.m. She welcomed those present and provided an overview of the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Recognizing that a quorum was present, Ms. Johnson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2023, meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Kendrick F. Ashton, Jr. and seconded by Mr. Courtney M. Malveaux and approved by voice vote.

PROVOST'S REPORT

Dr. Peggy Agouris, Provost, provided an update on the establishment of the New School and search for the inaugural dean. She said that W&M's proposal for the New School has been submitted to SCHEV as a draft for comment and the final submission is scheduled for March of this year, and the search for an inaugural dean of the New School has begun. The Provost noted that Russell Reynolds consulting firm is leading the search and Dean and Director of VIMS, Derek Aday, chairs the internal search committee. She said the goal is to have the new dean in place by summer.

Provost Agouris noted that approximately 45-50 faculty members are directly engaged in work on the Key Performance Indicators (KPI's), and several working groups have been formed. Lastly, she said that the Faculty Productivity Phase Two report will be presented in April and will incorporate data on scholarship and research activities.

FACULTY HANDBOOK REVISION PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Adam M. Gershowitz, James D. & Pamela J. Penny Research Professor and Hugh & Nolie Haynes Professor of Law, provided an update on the Faculty Handbook Revision Project. Mr. Gershowitz, who serves as the chair of an ad hoc committee to revise the faculty handbook, reported that in December 2023 and January 2024, the committee sent out surveys, interviewed groups of faculty and met with core constituencies around campus. He said that with information gathered from these efforts, coupled with input from President Rowe and the Board, a scope of work was established which spans approximately 40 topics. Mr. Gershowitz said that President Rowe has approved the scope of work and as work progresses, the committee will involve the Faculty Assembly and the Personnel Policy Committee as well as invite comments.

FACULTY LIAISON REPORT

Dr. David Armstrong, Faculty Representative to the Board of Visitors, reported the faculty are highly engaged in the handbook revision process, KPIs and faculty productivity study, and the New School implementation committee. Dr. Armstrong shared the news that William & Mary is on track to be classified as an R1 institution in 2025 by Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. He said this elevation will inform the quality of faculty hired and will strengthen the attraction of high caliber students going forward. Dr. Armstrong said the New School will help William & Mary maintain an R1 status because the fields housed in the New School typically produce high numbers of PhDs and attract high dollar funding. A discussion ensued regarding the average number of PhDs bestowed annually. Mr. John E. Littel asked the Provost to provide a one-page report that would include the number of PhDs bestowed in the last 5-10 years, along with the fields and a summary of trends.

MATTHEW J. SMITH: SACSCOC update

Dr. Matthew J. Smith, Assistant Provost for Institutional Accreditation & Effectiveness, gave a comprehensive overview of the accreditation process which happens every 10 years through William & Mary's accrediting body, The Southern Association of Colleges, and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). He noted that during the process, compliance must be demonstrated with 72 individual principles that span multiple areas across the entire university, and William & Mary's accreditation will be reaffirmed in December 2026 by the board of trustees of SACSCOC. Dr. Smith highlighted the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) topic selection as a significant component of the process and said the selected QEP topic must be an initiative that focuses on improving student outcomes or student success. He said the initiative(s) will align with Vision 2026 and the SACSCOC QEP rubric will be announced this spring.

Dr. Smith highlighted specific actions/areas that are associated with the Board for reaffirmation and said he plans to provide regular updates to the Board throughout the process. Discussion ensued regarding the QEP.

ACTION MATERIALS

Ms. Johnson brought forth and requested a motion on the following resolutions:

- **Resolution 1:** Fill Vacancy in Instructional Faculty

- **Resolution 2:** Award of Academic Tenure
- **Resolution 3:** Faculty Promotions
- **Resolution 4:** Designated Professorships

Mr. Ashton made a motion to approve **Resolutions 1-4** as a block. The motion was seconded by Mr. Malveaux and approved by voice vote.

Ms. Johnson brought forth **Resolution 5**, Closure of the Master of Arts in Physics Degree Program and requested a motion. The motion was made by Mr. Ashton, seconded by Mr. S. Douglas Bunch and approved by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ms. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 4:24 p.m.