



Board of Visitors

Statement on Governance

The Virginia Commonwealth University Board of Visitors (“the Board”) is composed of 16 voting members appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly. Each member serves a term of four years. In addition, each year the Board selects two students (one undergraduate and one graduate student), a faculty member, and a staff member to serve as non-voting advisory representatives on the Board of Visitors.

As public trustees the Board has the responsibility and authority, subject to constitutional and statutory limitations, for the continuing operation, development of evolving policies, and financial oversight of Virginia Commonwealth University (“the University”). The Board appoints a President to serve as Chief Executive Officer of the University.

The Board and the University are at all times subject to the control and legislative enactments of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Board in executing their duties has adopted the Virginia Commonwealth University Board of Visitors Bylaws to provide for the orderly, consistent, and efficient conduct of its business as the governing body of Virginia Commonwealth University. A copy of the Bylaws can be found at <https://bov.vcu.edu/bylaws/>

In carrying out its responsibilities, the following expectations are attendant to service on the Virginia Commonwealth University Board of Visitors:

- Board members have a fiduciary responsibility to the University and are expected to act in the best overall interest of the University and the Commonwealth;
- Board members are expected to become familiar with key aspects of the University including, but not limited to, its mission, governance, financing, strategic plans and performance measures;
- Board members are expected to devote the necessary time, attention and preparation to Board activities to function effectively and to enable the Board as a whole to function effectively, including new Board of Visitor orientation, committee meetings, board retreats and public meetings;
- Board members are expected to understand the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and act accordingly;
- Board members are expected to defer to the Rector of the Board for public comment on matters before the Board, or to make clear that any opinions expressed are expressed as an individual rather than on behalf of the Board as a whole;
- Board members are also expected to comply with Federal, State and local laws and comply with all regulations and policies applicable to Board of Visitors of public colleges and universities in the Commonwealth of Virginia;
- Board members are expected to maintain a tradition of exemplifying the highest standards of ethical behavior, and to comply with the Board of Visitors’ Ethical Leadership policy.