



# VCU

## Board of Visitors

**VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF VISITORS  
INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, September 12, 2024**

**1:00 p.m.<sup>1</sup>**

**301 W Main Street  
James Branch Cabell Library  
901 Park Avenue – Room 303  
Richmond, VA**

### MINUTES

**DRAFT**

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Rev. Tyrone Nelson, *Chair*  
Dr. Clifton Peay, *Vice Chair*  
Mr. Anthony Bedell  
Mr. P2 Sandhu  
Mr. C.J. Sailor  
Hon. Todd P. Haymore, *Rector*

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ms. Rooz Dadabhoy  
Mr. Ed McCoy

#### **OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Hon. Todd P. Haymore, *Rector*  
Dr. Dale Jones  
Mr. Randolph Reynolds, Jr.

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

President Michael Rao  
Mr. Edward McLaughlin, *Vice President and Director of Athletics*  
Ms. Chelsea Gray, *Executive Director for Board and Executive Operations*  
Ms. Stephanie Hamlett, *University Counsel*

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<sup>1</sup> The start time for the Board of Visitors meeting is approximate only. The meeting may begin either before or after the listed approximate start time as Board members are ready to proceed.

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Mr. David Litton, *Interim Executive Director for Audit and Compliance Services*  
Presidential Cabinet of VCU  
VCU students, faculty and staff  
Members of the Media

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Rev. Tyrone Nelson, Chair of the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

Rev. Nelson mentioned the May 9, 2024 committee minutes were posted online and in BoardEffect. On a motion duly made and seconded the minutes presented were approved unanimously. The meeting minutes are posted at <https://bov.vcu.edu/meetings/minutes/>.

### **VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS REPORT**

Mr. Ed McLaughlin, Vice President and Director of Athletics presented to the committee. Mr. McLaughlin began by providing an overview of continued academic success. He reported that for 19 consecutive semesters the average GPA was at or above 3.0. The average Spring 2024 GPA was 3.414, and in the Fall 2023 semester, the second-highest GPA ever was reported, which was 3.44.

He continued by highlighting student athletes' competitive successes, which included winning 4 spring championships, 5 including women's indoor track during the winter. He noted that since COVID, VCU Athletics has boasted 8 All-Americans, 15 conference championships, 3 baseball student-athletes taken in the draft, and two former student athletes, who made their major league debuts over the summer.

Next, he discussed the importance of increasing athletic development noting that twelve years ago, VCU Athletics was very dependent on donor-based seating. That model was impacted significantly by COVID. Now, the department has shifted towards more philanthropic efforts rather than transactional development; telling the stories of the university's student athletes and pursuing bigger philanthropic opportunities. VCU Athletics has added staff to increase efforts in this area. Mr. McLaughlin noted the importance of partnering with Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Jay Davenport to put together a good strategic path for the department to grow annual fund and athletic capital gifts.

Mr. McLaughlin then discussed the future of VCU Athletics. He explained that the House vs. NCAA settlement is still ongoing, and then provided an overview of name, image and likeness (NIL) and its implications on VCU's athletic programs. He noted that a \$2.9B settlement that was offered by the NCAA to settle the class-action lawsuit was denied. Mr. McLaughlin stated that VCU Athletics supports NIL and wants student athletes to make money, but also wants to provide guardrails so student athletes are not adversely impacted when they enter the transfer portal. He emphasized that VCU needs to make sure that it is doing the same NIL-things that other schools are doing, noting that there are other lawsuits that are impacting all of this.

Next, Mr. McLaughlin highlighted some of the challenges that athletics programs are facing, including the House settlement, which takes into account three important factors - revenue-sharing, roster limits (caps) and post-graduate medical care and degree completion. There is still a lot more to figure out, but it should be known that the business model of the NCAA from 4 years ago is gone. Lastly, Mr. McLaughlin emphasized the importance of raising more money and generating more money to fund revenue-sharing.

A copy of Mr. McLaughlin's presentation is attached and made a part hereof.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Rev. Nelson moved that the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Commonwealth University convene a closed session under Section 2.2-3711(A) (3) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act for the discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, specifically related to real property to be used in for Intercollegiate Athletics. The motion was seconded and was approved unanimously.

**RECONVENED SESSION**

Following the closed session, the public was invited to return to the meeting. Rev. Nelson called the meeting to order. After motion duly made and seconded the motion was unanimously approved.

**Resolution of Certification**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Commonwealth University certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened were heard, discussed or considered by the Committee.

<b><u>Vote</u></b>	<b><u>Ayes</u></b>	<b><u>Nays</u></b>
Rev. Tyrone Nelson, <i>Chair</i>	X	
Dr. Clifton Peay, <i>Vice Chair</i>	X	
Mr. Anthony Bedell	X	
Mr. C.J. Sailor	X	
Mr. P2 Sandhu	X	
Mr. Todd Haymore, <i>Rector</i>	X	

All members present responding affirmatively, the resolution of certification was adopted.

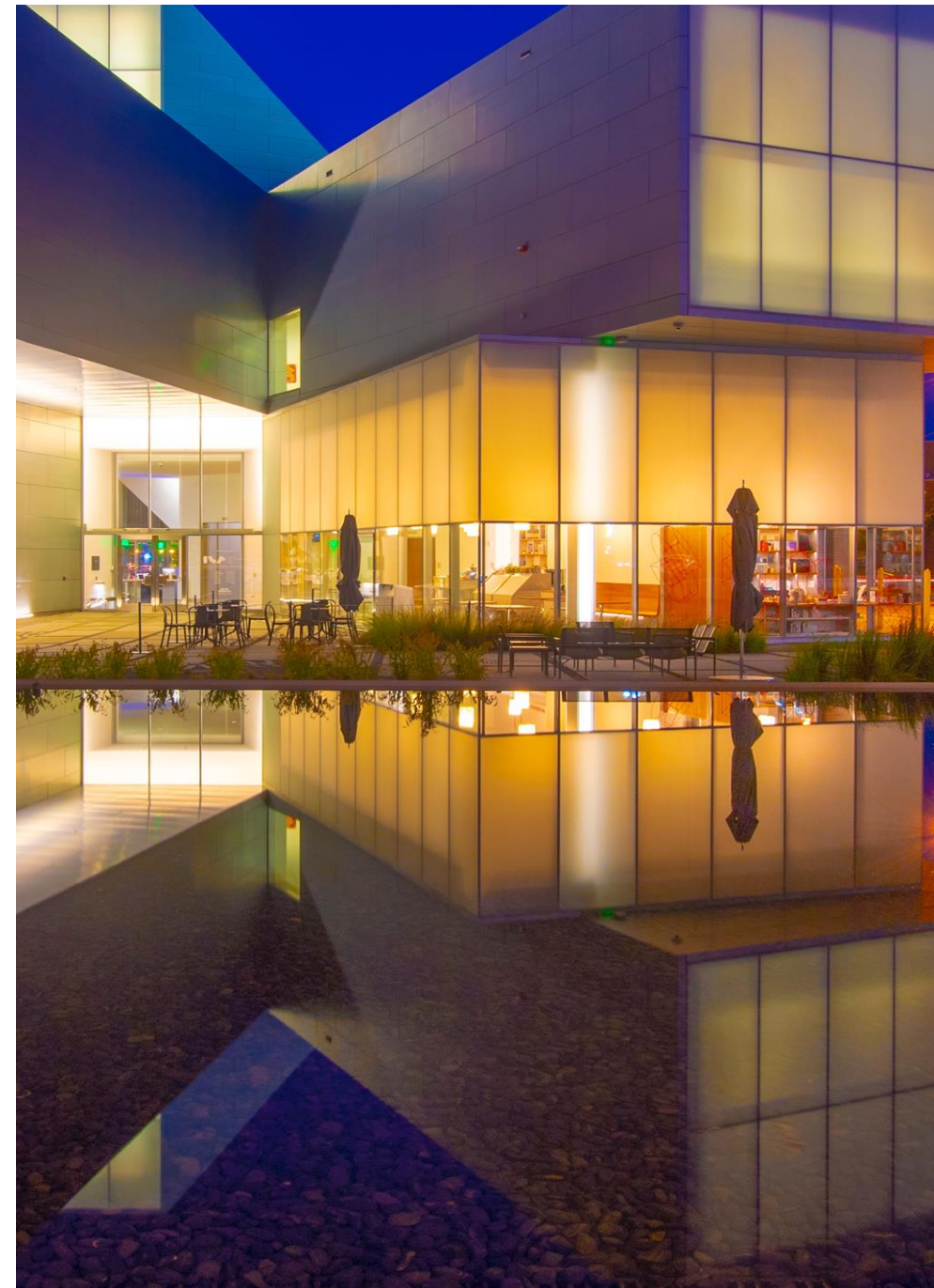
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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Rev. Nelson adjourned the meeting at 1:51 p.m.

# Intercollegiate Athletics Committee

September 12, 2024



# Intercollegiate Athletics Committee Open Session

Presented by Ed McLaughlin

September 12, 2024

# Agenda

- Academic Success
- Competitive Success
- Athletic Development
- Future of VCU Athletics
- Challenges

# Academic Success

- Spring 2024 grades
  - Semester GPA: 3.414
  - Student-athletes at 3.5 or greater: 47% (149)
  - Student-athletes at 4.0: 26% (83)
  - Nineteen consecutive semesters of 3.0 or greater collectively
  - Second-highest semester GPA ever (fall, 2023)
  - Before fall of 2012, never achieved a department GPA of 3.0



# Competitive Success

- Four spring Atlantic 10 Champions (men's tennis, men's golf and women's track and field and baseball)
- Domination of Atlantic 10 Conference post-COVID
  - All-American Accolades: 8
  - Atlantic 10 Championships: 15
  - A-10 Players of the Year: 21
  - A-10 Rookies of the Year: 6
  - A-10 Coaches of the Year: 10
- Five total Atlantic 10 championships in academic year
  - Next closest school won two championships
- Baseball: Three student-athletes taken in the 2024 MLB Entry Draft (Brandon Eike, Christian Gordon and Brian Curley)

# Athletic Development

- Performance the past four years
  - FY 24: \$2.9m
  - FY 23: \$2.9m
  - FY 22: \$3.4m
  - FY 21: \$3.9m
- Plan to continue transition from transactional to philanthropic giving
- New staff
- Needs
  - Grow cash: FY 25 goal of \$3.5m
  - Athletic Village: FY 25 goal of \$15m
  - Grow donors: FY 25 goal of 870 total donors

# Future of VCU Athletics

- House v. NCAA
  - \$2.9B settlement of class action suit
  - Future NIL revenue sharing
  - Other pending lawsuits
  - Congressional involvement
- NIL
- Transfer Portal
- Post-House future for VCU Athletics

# Challenges

- Athletic Development
- NCAA issues