

**BOARD OF VISITORS COMMITTEE CHAIRS MEETING MINUTES**

June 3, 2025

The Committee Chairs of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University met in open session on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 7:15 a.m. in the Old Guard Room at the Inn at Virginia Tech, 901 Prices Fork Rd., Blacksburg, Virginia 24061.

**Committee Chair Members Present****Absent**

Ed Baine (Rector)  
 Dave Calhoun (Vice Rector)  
 Sandy Davis  
 Nancy Dye  
 Anna James  
 Letitia Long

Also present at the meeting were President Timothy Sands, Kim O'Rourke (Secretary to the Board), Simon Allen, Cyril Clarke, Rachel Gabriele, Sharon Kurek, Nancy Meacham, Amy Sebring, and Dwyn Taylor.

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Rector Baine convened the meeting of committee chairs and explained that the purpose was to select information session agenda items for the August 2025 board meeting. Constituent reports are included in every information session.

First, the committee considered topics for the August retreat and reviewed the list of preliminary items proposed by the retreat planning committee (which includes board members Johnson and McCarthy):

- Strategic discussion of the university's growth/becoming a flagship university for students in the commonwealth
- Future of athletics
- Global Distinction – metrics, what is required?
- Real Estate strategy – Ms. Sebring noted that the university will not yet be prepared to discuss at the August retreat
- DEI update – The committee noted that since the board has already addressed this several times, it would be better as a regular board topic when needed than as a retreat topic.

The committee embraced the topic of what would be required to create a flagship university: growth infrastructure, resources and needs, risks. Some specific topics: in-state/out-of-state trends, graduation statistics by category and degree, admissions process (utilization of wait list, calendar, are we getting the top students in the state)

Another topic is the impact of federal headwinds in the broader context of Global Distinction—strategy to take advantage of the opportunities presented by chaos.

It was proposed that the board consider three scenarios, possibly as a table-top exercise: If the Administration does X, what happens over what time frame? What would the wind down look like? What are the core functions that we need to prioritize and how to preserve? Consider the impacts on people/FTE.

The committee chairs selected the following topics for the board's August 2025 information session:

- Obtaining input from the board pertaining to the metrics they wish to see captured in the next cycle of the university's strategic plan – in preparation for the annual strategic plan discussion in November.
- Growth trajectory in terms of undergraduate enrollment. There was a suggestion that it may be more relevant to plan for differentiated growth, rather than planning for overall growth. (This may be incorporated into the retreat.)
- Athletics – some of this discussion may need to occur in closed session.

The committee chairs discussed the following potential committee topics for the August meeting:

- IT security – probably CAR
- On-campus housing plan – B&G
- Enrollment, in-state/out-of-state mix, etc. – FRM, ARSA? (could be folded into retreat)
- How are we going to handle graduate education – ARSA (This is a subject of the provost's retreat in August.) (could be folded into board's retreat)

For future meetings, the following recommendations were made:

- November 2025 - Data on what is attracting students to VT as part of the annual enrollment management update - ARSA.
- Athletics – deeper dive into risks – possibly CAR Committee or tabletop exercise in the spring including two BOV members.

Measures are being implemented to organize the large quantity of board materials to make it more manageable for board members to prepare for board meetings.

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Note: Prior to each meeting, an Innovation Campus update report will be placed on the portal and in-depth presentations will be provided to the board twice a year: Faculty, research, and programs in June; and students, curriculum, and services in November.

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The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 a.m.

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Edward H. Baine, Rector

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Kim O'Rourke, Secretary