

## BOARD OF VISITORS ALL-VIRTUAL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

September 30, 2025

The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors held an all-virtual special meeting on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. for the purpose of discussing a resolution regarding athletics funding. The meeting was livestreamed for the public. There was no public comment period. A quorum was present on the videoconference.

### **Present**

Rosa Atkins  
Edward Baine  
Sandy Davis (Vice Rector)  
Nancy Dye  
Ted Hanson  
William Holtzman  
Starlette Johnson  
Ryan D. McCarthy  
Jim Miller  
Robert Moser  
J. Pearson  
John Rocovich (Rector)  
Margaret Ann Smith  
Jeanne Stosser

### **Absent**

### **Constituent Representatives Present:**

Thomas Feely, Undergraduate Student Representative  
Katie Drinkwater Gregg, Graduate/Professional Student Representative  
Amber Hagan, Staff Representative  
Justin Lemkul, Faculty Representative  
Marlena Lester, Administrative and Professional Faculty Representative

Also present at the meeting were President Timothy Sands, Kim O'Rourke (Secretary to the Board), Simon Allen, Whit Babcock, Cyril Clarke, Al Cooper, Corey Earles, Brandon Hall, Kay Heidbreder, Tim Hodge, Lisa Royal, and Amy Sebring.

During the meeting, there were 643 concurrent viewers on YouTube and a total of 1228 views.

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The purpose of this meeting was to approve a resolution adopting a four-year athletics budget adjustment. Rector Rocovich welcomed everyone and then called on Amy Sebring, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, and Simon Allen, Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer, to provide a brief presentation explaining the details of the funding plan. (A copy of the presentation is attached and marked Attachment B.)

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Following the presentation, Rector Rocovich invited President Sands to offer comments. President Sands announced the creation of an Athletics Investment Oversight Committee to advise him and the Board of Visitors. (A copy of President Sands' complete remarks is attached and marked Attachment C.)

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### **Approval of a Resolution Regarding Athletics Funding**

Rector Rocovich then called for a motion to approve the proposed resolution regarding athletics funding. A motion was made by Mr. Pearson and seconded by Mr. McCarthy. Rector Rocovich opened the floor for discussion. Dr. Dye made brief comments emphasizing her abiding priority throughout her first term on the board (2010-14) and her current term to ensure that a Virginia Tech education is affordable for in-state students and that the Virginia Tech Advantage is funded. Although she appreciates all the benefits that athletics brings to the university and the region, she stated that she would not be able to vote in favor of the resolution because it includes an increase in mandatory student fees.

A motion to amend the original resolution was then made by Ms. Johnson. The motion to amend was seconded and approved unanimously. (A copy of the amendment is attached for reference purposes and marked Attachment D.)

The Rector then called for a vote on the resolution as amended. With 13 in favor and one opposing vote from Dr. Dye, the resolution as amended was passed. (A copy of the resolution that was approved as amended and accompanying funding plan are attached and marked Attachment A.)

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Rector Rocovich then invited any additional comments.

Dr. Lemkul expressed appreciation for the amendment and acknowledged the benefits of athletics. Noting the decisive action of the board to fund athletics, he reminded the board of the continuing need to increase the level of funding to make faculty salaries competitive.

Ms. Gregg explained that graduate and professional students receive little direct benefit from the mandatory athletic fees that they pay, and they have little time to attend athletic events. She appreciates the board's past efforts to shield graduate students from fee increases and requests that ways be sought to offset the proposed fee increases.

Mr. Feely noted that Virginia Tech having the lowest athletic fees in Virginia should be celebrated. He requested that athletic fees be frozen if a surplus results from the other funding efforts.

Dr. Lester supported all the comments that had been made and expressed her appreciation for the amendment that was made to the resolution.

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The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

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John G. Rocovich, Jr., Rector

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Kim O'Rourke, Secretary