

WILLIAM & MARY

BOARD OF VISITORS
DRAFT MINUTES
FEBRUARY 5 – 7, 2025
WILLIAM & MARY AND RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE

The William & Mary Board of Visitors (“the Board”) met Wednesday, February 5, through Friday, February 7, 2025.

On Wednesday, February 5, the Subcommittee on Compensation met from 11:00 am – 1:15 p.m. in room 302 of Blow Memorial Hall, followed by a meeting of the Executive Committee from 1:15 – 2:30 p.m. The Committee on Academic Affairs met from 2:45 – 4:00 p.m. in the Grimsley Board Room of Blow Memorial Hall. The Committee on Financial Affairs met from 2:45 p.m. to 4:00 PM, followed by a meeting of the Committee on Audit, Risk and Compliance from 4:15 – 5:30 p.m. in room 302 of Blow Memorial Hall.

Later that evening, the Board gathered for dinner in the Kelley Boardroom at the Alumni House. The gathering was purely social, and no business was conducted.

PRESENT FOR WEDNESDAY’S DINNER:

Hon. Charles E. Poston, Rector
Ms. Barbara L. Johnson, Vice Rector
Ms. Ardine Williams, Secretary
Mr. Kendrick F. Ashton, Jr.
Mr. John L. Brownlee
Ms. AnnaMaria DeSalva
Mr. Robey W. Estes, Jr.

Mr. Stephen J. Huebner
Ms. Jennifer Tepper Mackesy
Mr. Courtney M. Malveaux
Hon. Thomas K. Norment, Jr.
Mr. C. Michael Petters
Ms. Laura Keehner Rigas
Mr. J.E. Lincoln Saunders

ABSENT FROM WEDNESDAY’S DINNER:

Mr. W. Taylor Franklin
Mr. John P. Rathbone

Hon. Jill Holtzman Vogel

OTHERS PRESENT FOR WEDNESDAY’S DINNER:

Dr. Katherine A. Rowe, President
Dr. Peggy Agouris, Provost

Mr. Bruce Jacobson, First Gentleman
Dr. Anthony Stefanidis, Professor of Computer Science

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

On Thursday, February 6, the Richard Bland College (RBC) Committee met from 9:00 – 10:45 a.m. in the Grimsley Board Room of Blow Memorial Hall.

At 10:45 a.m. Mr. Charles E. Poston, Rector, convened the full Board to conduct business solely related to that of RBC.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT FOR THURSDAY’S FULL BOARD:

Hon. Charles E. Poston, Rector
Ms. Barbara L. Johnson, Vice Rector

Ms. Ardine Williams, Secretary
Mr. Kendrick F. Ashton, Jr.

Mr. John L. Brownlee
Ms. AnnaMaria DeSalva
Mr. Robey W. Estes, Jr.
Mr. W. Taylor Franklin
Mr. Stephen J. Huebner
Ms. Jennifer Tepper Mackesy
Mr. Courtney M. Malveaux

Hon. Thomas K. Norment, Jr.
Mr. C. Michael Petters
Mr. John P. Rathbone
Ms. Laura Keehner Rigas
Mr. J.E. Lincoln Saunders
Hon. Jill Holtzman Vogel
Ms. Terra Sloane, Student Representative

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT FOR THURSDAY’S FULL BOARD:

Dr. K. Scott Swan, Faculty Representative

Ms. Candice Vinson, Staff Liaison

OTHERS PRESENT FOR THURSDAY’S FULL BOARD:

Dr. Debbie L. Sydow, President of RBC
Mr. Kent B. Erdahl, W&M Director of Internal Audit
Dr. Daniel Franke, RBC Faculty Representative to the Board of Visitors
Ms. Carrie S. Nee, W&M University Counsel
Mr. Sergio Perez, RBC Student Representative to the Board of Visitors
Mr. Gerrit Smith, Executive Assistant to the President of RBC
Mr. Michael J. Fox, Clerk to the Board of Visitors
Dr. Taylor Brings, Chief of Staff for Business Affairs
RBC Administrators
RBC Faculty and Students

Mr. Poston gave brief opening remarks and then recognized Dr. Debbie L. Sydow, President of RBC to give remarks. President Sydow provided a summary from the committee meeting, which included overview of revenue and expense activities in preparation for the April meeting and a conversation related to AI and student success. Mr. John P. Rathbone, Chair of the **Richard Bland College Committee** moved the adoption of **Resolution 1**, Approval of Honorary Degree for Belle S. Wheelan. Resolution 1 was approved unanimously by voice vote.

There being no further business, Mr. Poston recessed the meeting of the full Board at 10:53 a.m.

Following the full Board meeting, the Committee on the Student Experience met from 11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the Grimsley Board Room. Boxed lunches were provided to members of the Board, followed by a break in the schedule. Board members reconvened for a Joint Meeting of the W&M Foundation Board of Trustees, Board of Visitors, Alumni Association Board, and Annual Giving Board. The Joint Boards met 3:00 – 5:30 p.m. in the Chesapeake Ballrooms of the Sadler Center.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT FRIDAY FOR THE FULL BOARD MEETING:

Hon. Charles E. Poston, Rector
Ms. Barbara L. Johnson, Vice Rector
Ms. Ardine Williams, Secretary
Mr. Kendrick F. Ashton, Jr.
Mr. John L. Brownlee
Ms. AnnaMaria DeSalva
Mr. Robey W. Estes, Jr.
Mr. W. Taylor Franklin
Mr. Stephen J. Huebner
Ms. Jennifer Tepper Mackesy

Mr. Courtney M. Malveaux
Hon. Thomas K. Norment, Jr.
Mr. C. Michael Petters
Mr. John P. Rathbone
Ms. Laura Keehner Rigas
Mr. J.E. Lincoln Saunders
Hon. Jill Holtzman Vogel
Ms. Terra Sloane, Student Representative
Dr. K. Scott Swan, Faculty Representative

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT FOR THE FULL BOARD MEETING:

Ms. Candice Vinson, Staff Liaison

OTHERS PRESENT FOR THURSDAY’S JOINT BOARD MEETING:

Dr. Katherine A. Rowe, President

Dr. Peggy Agouris, Provost

Ms. Carrie S. Nee, William & Mary Counsel

Dr. Matthew T. Lambert, Vice President for University Advancement

Ms. Heather E. Golden, Chief Marketing Officer

Dr. Virginia M. Ambler, Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Doug Schmidt, Dean of the School for Computing, Data Science, and Physics

Ms. Janet Atwater, Chair of the W&M Foundation Board of Trustees

Ms. Tina Kenny, President of the W&M Alumni Association Board of Directors

Mr. Bill M. Richardson, Chair of the W&M Annual Giving Board of Directors

Mr. Michael J. Fox, Clerk to the Board of Visitors

Dr. Taylor V. Brings, Chief of Staff for Business Affairs

Members of the President’s Cabinet

Members of the Foundation Board of Trustees

Members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors

Members of the Annual Giving Board of Directors

Chairs and Presidents of Campus Leadership Foundations and Boards

W&M Faculty, Staff and Students

Mr. Poston presided over the joint meeting and called it to order at 3:04 p.m. . He acknowledged the presence of university leaders, including Janet Atwater, Tina Kenney, Bill Richardson, and leaders from various William & Mary boards and foundations. Mr. Poston thanked all board members for their commitment to advancing William & Mary’s mission and called on President Rowe for opening remarks.

President Rowe expressed her appreciation for the energy and dedication of those in the room, emphasizing the importance of long-term strategic thinking as William & Mary looks ahead to the next two decades. She recognized Todd Stottlemeyer for his leadership as Rector and his contributions to initiatives such as the W&M Promise and *For the Bold* campaign and announced he would receive an honorary degree during the Charter Day ceremony. Board members joined in a standing ovation to honor his service.

Senior Vice President Matthew Lambert provided an update on institutional priorities, highlighting opportunities for alignment across development boards. He shared key moments from the year, including multiple historic gifts, the opening of the renovated and expanded Muscarelle Museum, and the progress of athletics facilities. Dr. Lambert underscored three overarching goals guiding William & Mary’s efforts: radical connection, operational excellence, and inspiring investment. He pointed to initiatives such as the Batten School dinner during homecoming, Gates Hall, and the Bray School project as examples of these goals in action.

Turning to student success, Dr. Lambert discussed the university's expanding career engagement platform, which includes One Network, a growing STEM career fair, and a career center recognized as one of the top five in the nation. He noted shifting trends in philanthropy, including generational differences in giving and an increased interest in direct-giving campaigns. Brian Whitson and Heather Golden shared insights from W&M's virtual engagement strategies, highlighting new approaches to donor outreach.

President Rowe led a discussion on rankings and reputation, reiterating that while rankings do not define the university's value, they remain a key consideration for prospective students and families. Chief of Staff Carlane Pittman-Hampton outlined a five-part strategy to strengthen W&M's national profile, including data analysis, marketing, and future planning. Board members engaged in a conversation on national preeminence, reflecting on a SWOT analysis. Strengths include a global academic rigor reputation and a strong alumni network. They also discussed opportunities, including national visibility and messaging clarity.

Following a short break, Provost Peggy Agouris and Dean of the School of Computing, Data Science, and Physics. Dean Schmidt had an informal conversation focused on the intersection of liberal arts and technology and Dean Schmidt's leadership of the new school. Dean Schmidt spoke about William & Mary's legacy of STEM excellence and the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration. He highlighted efforts to attract prospective students through digital outreach and discussed emerging AI and public health opportunities. He noted the importance of ensuring adequate staffing and streamlining pathways for double majors and interdisciplinary study.

The meeting concluded with a significant announcement. President Rowe introduced the **R. Todd Stravitz Scholars Program**. This transformative initiative will provide free tuition in perpetuity for students studying marine science, making William & Mary one of only four institutions nationwide with such a program. Dean Derek Aday offered remarks on the significance of this gift, emphasizing its impact on students' access to high-touch research and internship experiences. Janet Atwater read a resolution in support of the gift, and board members stood in recognition of Dr. Stravitz's generosity. Dr. Stravitz reflected on his time as a student, sharing his desire to remove financial barriers for future generations and support the next wave of leaders tackling global challenges.

Mr. Poston thanked all participants for their engagement, and the meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

At 6:00 p.m. members of the Board attended the dedication of the Martha Wren Briggs Center for the Visual Arts in the Glenn Close Theatre of Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall. Following the dedication, a reception was held at the Muscarelle Museum of Art. The dedication and reception were purely social and no business was conducted.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

On Friday, February 7 at 9:31 a.m., Mr. Poston reconvened the full Board in the Grimsley Board Room of Blow Memorial Hall.

Hon. Charles E. Poston, Rector
Ms. Barbara L. Johnson, Vice Rector
Ms. Ardine Williams, Secretary
Mr. Kendrick F. Ashton, Jr.
Mr. John L. Brownlee
Ms. AnnaMaria DeSalva
Mr. W. Taylor Franklin
Mr. Stephen J. Huebner
Ms. Jennifer Tepper Mackesy

Mr. Courtney M. Malveaux
Hon. Thomas K. Norment, Jr.
Mr. C. Michael Petters
Mr. John P. Rathbone
Ms. Laura Keehner Rigas
Mr. J.E. Lincoln Saunders
Ms. Terra Sloane, Student Representative
Dr. K. Scott Swan, Faculty Representative
Ms. Candice Vinson, Staff Liaison

Mr. Robey W. Estes, Jr.

Hon. Jill Holtzman Vogel

Dr. Katherine A. Rowe, President
Dr. Peggy Agouris, Provost
Ms. Carrie Nee, University Counsel
Dr. Virginia M. Ambler, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. W. Fanchon Glover, Chief Diversity Officer
Ms. Tawanda Johnson, Chief Human Resources Officer
Dr. Robert C. Knoeppel, Dean of the School of Education
Dr. Matthew T. Lambert, Senior Vice President for University Advancement
Mr. Brian D. Mann, Director of Athletics
Dr. Carlane Pittman-Hampton, Chief of Staff
Dr. Suzanne Raitt, Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences
Dr. Doug Schmidt, Dean of the School for Computing, Data Sciences & Physics
Mr. Michael J. Todd, Executive Vice President for Finance & Administration
Mr. Michael J. Fox, Clerk to the Board of Visitors
Dr. Taylor Brings, Chief of Staff for Business Affairs
Members of the President's Cabinet
W&M Faculty, Students and Staff

Mr. Poston gave opening remarks where he noted the Board convened the day before to discuss business associated with Richard Bland College. Mr. Poston wished everyone a happy Charter Day and encouraged Board members to attend events throughout the weekend. He celebrated the major milestones of the creation of a new scholarship fund for the Batten School, the dedication of the Martha Wren Briggs Center for the Visual Arts and reopening of the Muscarelle Museum, and the topping out ceremony for the Mackesy Sports Performance Center. He also thanked Steve Tewksbury and Taylor Brings for their support of the weekend logistics. Mr. Poston called on President Rowe to make opening remarks.

President Rowe began her remarks by remarking on the momentum William & Mary has for 332 years of innovation. She announced the end of the Year of the Arts and the formal launch of the Year of the Environment at Charter Day. President Rowe thanked Dr. Todd Stravitz and the Brunckhorst Foundation's for their historic gift that will support students in the Batten School. President Rowe shared that this is the first of many recognitions that William & Mary will be a destination for preparing citizens for the 21st century.

President Rowe also recognized Dean Doug Schmidt, the inaugural Dean of the School for Computing, Data Science, & Physics. She also highlighted three new bachelor's degrees approved by SCHEV in high-demand fields: Human health & physiology, public health, and coastal & marine science. President Rowe shared that work on the Wren Building begins after Charter Day and will be finished by 2026. The building remains open during construction and will continue to be used for special events.

President Rowe celebrated the university's strong momentum in athletics. Women's Basketball opened conference play with a five-game winning streak, while Men's Basketball secured significant home victories under new head coach Brian Earl. She noted the electric atmosphere at Kaplan Arena, where a packed student section has made it the place to be on game day.

She continued by highlighting a recent accolade for the Bray School Lab, which received the Table Builder Award for Outstanding Education Organization from Coming to the Table, a national organization dedicated to fostering a more truthful account of American history. President Rowe commended the strength of William & Mary's town-gown partnerships.

Acknowledging the dedication of the university's faculty, staff, and students, President Rowe expressed appreciation for the assembly leadership and staff who ensure the campus runs smoothly. She recognized the Facilities Management team for their tireless work during two January snowstorms and an Arctic blast, working long hours to maintain campus safety and accessibility. She recognized Zach Thompson and Marc Kelly, associate directors of Facilities Management, and Sean Hughes, Chief Business Officer.

President Rowe concluded with gratitude for the entire William & Mary community, emphasizing that the university's excellence is fueled by the energy and support of its alumni, faculty, staff, and students. She shared her excitement for the opportunity to honor former Board member and Rector Todd Stottlemeyer during the Charter Day ceremony. President Rowe thanked all those who contribute to sustaining and strengthening the university.

Mr. Poston asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 20-22, 2024, meetings as written. Ms. Williams made the motion, which Mr. Huebner seconded. Mr. Poston called for the reports of the standing committees.

Ms. Johnson reported for the **Committee on Academic Affairs** and briefly reviewed the agenda. The committee shared updates from their strategy mapping conversation and how it relates to conversations on national preeminence. There were no action items. On behalf of the Committee, Ms. Johnson moved the adoption of **Resolution 2**, Award of Academic Tenure; **Resolution 3**, Faculty Promotions; and **Resolution 4**, Rename the Department of Kinesiology. The resolutions were moved as a block and adopted through unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Stephen J. Huebner reported for the **Committee on Audit, Risk and Compliance** and briefly reviewed the agenda. The committee reviewed the 2024 and 2025 audit plans. There were no action items.

Mr. C. Michael Petters reported for the **Committee on Financial Affairs** and briefly reviewed the agenda. The committee shared updates from their strategy mapping conversation and how it relates to conversations on national preeminence. The committee will continue these discussions in April. There were no action items. Mr. Petters also shared an update from the **Subcommittee on Compensation** for which there was no action.

Ms. Laura Keehner Rigas reported for the **Committee on the Student Experience** and briefly reviewed the agenda. The committee shared updates from their strategy mapping conversation and how it relates to conversations on national preeminence. The committee will continue these discussions in April. There were no action items.

Mr. Poston called on Ms. Terra M. Sloane, Student Representative to the Board and President of the Student Assembly, for her report. Ms. Sloane summarized her written report and thanked the board for their engagement in the strategic planning process.

Mr. Poston called on Dr. K. Scott Swan, Faculty Representative to the Board, for his report. Dr. Swan added verbal comments to his written report. He reflected on William & Mary's transformative and evolving nature and thanked the administration for engaging with faculty, staff, and students. Mr. Poston shared that Dr. Swan will be returning as the BOV Faculty Representative for the upcoming year.

Mr. Poston called on Ms. Candice Vinson, the Staff Liaison to the Board, for her report. Ms. Vinson summarized her written report and expressed thanks to the Board for supporting the Development Support Fund.

Mr. Poston said there was no old business. Mr. Poston raised two items of new business. First, Mr. Poston moved to award an honorary degree of Public Service to Todd Stottlemeyer at Charter Day. Mr. Ashton made the motion with a second from Ms. Johnson. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote. Mr. Poston appointed a nominating committee for the April meeting as Ms. Johnson cannot be reappointed, which will create a vacancy for Vice Rector. Mr. Rathbone will chair the committee which will include Mr. Saunders, Mr. Huebner, and Ms. Johnson.

CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Williams moved the Board of Visitors convene into closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Sections: §2.2-3711.A.1 for consideration of the terms of appointment and the performance of the Presidents of William & Mary and Richard Bland College and certain administrative officers; §2.2-3711.A.1 to evaluate the performance of the following Departments or Offices at William & Mary: Athletics, Advancement, IT, Facilities, Finance & Administration, Compliance & Equity, Admissions, Campus Security, Residence Life, Facilities Management, Dean of Students, Arts & Sciences, Auxiliary

Services and Internal Audit where such discussion will necessary involve discussion of the performance of specific individuals; §2.2-3711.A.7 for consultation with legal counsel and briefing by staff members regarding probable litigation; and §2.2-3711.A.8 for consultation with legal counsel regarding litigation risks and regulatory compliance. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ashton and approved by roll call vote – 15-0 – conducted by Mr. Fox.

At that time members of the Board, President, Provost, University Counsel, Executive Vice President for Finance & Administration, Director of Athletics, and Mr. Richard Whitmore, Deputy Athletics Director entered the closed session meeting at 10:03 a.m.

RECONVENED OPEN SESSION

Following the closed session, the Board returned to the open session at 10:33 a.m. Ms. Williams moved that the Board certify by roll call vote that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements under the Freedom of Information Act were discussed. Only matters identified in the motion to have the closed session were discussed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Huebner and approved by roll call vote – 15-0 – conducted by Mr. Fox.

Mr. Poston welcomed former board member Judge John Charles Thomas to the meeting. Judge Thomas then recited a poem for the Board of Visitors, which was met with a standing ovation. Mr. Poston then asked Mr. Fox to review the logistics for the Charter Day ceremony. Mr. Poston announced that following the meeting, members of the Board would have lunch with members of the Cypher Society in room 302 and reminded Board members that the Charter Day Ceremony begins at 4:00 p.m. and members should arrive in the robing room by 3:30 p.m. He hoped members would attend the topping-off ceremony for the Mackesy Sports Performance Center at 2:00 PM in Kaplan Arena.

There being no further business, Mr. Poston adjourned the meeting at 10:39 a.m.

Following the conclusion of the Board meeting, members of the Board of Visitors had lunch with members of the Cypher Society from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in room 302 of Blow Hall. Lunch included a brief overview of recent Board activities by Mr. Poston. Mr. Sean Hughes, Chief Business Officer, provided an overview of campus construction, renovation, and planning efforts.