

**WILLIAM & MARY BOARD OF VISITORS  
FEBRUARY 4–6, 2026 MEETING MINUTES**

The William & Mary Board of Visitors (“the Board”) met from Wednesday, February 4, 2026, through Friday, February 6, 2026, in Williamsburg, Virginia, in Blow Memorial Hall, 262 Richmond Road.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026**

That evening, the Board gathered for dinner at The Entrepreneurship Hub. The gathering was purely social, and no business was discussed or conducted.

**Board members present for Wednesday’s dinner:** Charles Poston, Rector; Ardine Williams, Vice Rector; Kendrick Ashton, Jr., Secretary; Stephen Huebner; Laura Keehner Rigas; AnnaMaria DeSalva; Courtney Malveaux; John Brownlee; Rob Estes, Jr.; Jennifer Tepper Mackesy; Jill Holtzman Vogel; Melissa Ballenger; Hillary Waldron; C. Michael Petters, Thomas K. Norment, Jr.

**Absent:** W. Taylor Franklin

**Other attendees:** Katherine Rowe, Peggy Agouris, Tony Stefanidis, Michael Todd, Nicole Todd, Carlane Pittman-Hampton.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026**

The Board had lunch in the Grimsley Boardroom before traveling to Miller Hall for a Joint Boards Meeting from 2:30–5:20 p.m. in Brinkley Commons, followed by a cocktail reception from 5:20–6:00 p.m. in the First Floor Graduate Lounge.

The Joint Boards Meeting convened at 2:30 p.m. in Brinkley Commons at Miller Hall with members of the Board of Visitors, the William & Mary Alumni Association Board, and the William & Mary Foundation Board. Rector Poston provided introductory remarks.

**Others present for the full Board meeting:** Katherine Rowe, President; Peggy Agouris, Provost; Mike Todd, EVP for Finance and Administration; Carrie Nee, University Counsel; Members of the President’s Cabinet and other guests.

The session included presentations on Vision 2026 milestones, alumni survey results, strategic planning, the university's brand hub, and enrollment strategy.

The Rector called on Board Secretary Kendrick Ashton to read the Closed Session motion:

*I move that the Board of Visitors convene in closed session pursuant to:*

- **Va. Code §2.2-3711.A.9** for discussion of fundraising activities to be performed by the institution

Mr. Huebner seconded the motion. A roll call vote of the Board was conducted by Mr. Michael J. Fox, Clerk to the Board, and the motion was approved [15–0]. Mr. Petters was absent from the

meeting. Members of the public were excused, and the Board went into closed session at 3:20 p.m. The Board returned to open session at 3:29 p.m.

Mr. Ashton moved that members of the Board confirm 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, and only matters identified in the motion to have a closed session were discussed.

Mr. Huebner seconded the motion, and it was approved by a roll call vote of 15-0 conducted by the Clerk. The Joint Boards meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

At 6:15 p.m., members attended a Presidential Conversation: Lessons in Leadership in the Glenn Close Theater at Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall. The conversation featured Chancellor Robert M. Gates, William & Mary President Emeritus W. Taylor Reveley III, and Longwood University President W. Taylor Reveley IV, moderated by William & Mary President Katherine A. Rowe.

Following the program, members of the Board and guests gathered for a Joint Boards Reception at the Muscarelle Museum Atrium from 7:15–8:30 p.m.

## **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2026**

### **Full Board Meeting**

*Grimsley Boardroom, Blow Memorial Hall*

#### **I. Call to Order**

Rector Charles Poston called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. and welcomed those present.

**Board members present:** Charles Poston, Ardine Williams, Kendrick Ashton, Jr., Laura Keehner Rigas, Stephen Huebner, C. Michael Petters, AnnaMaria DeSalva, John Brownlee, Thomas Norment, Jr., Hillary Waldron, Rob Estes, W. Taylor Franklin, Jennifer Tepper Mackesy, Courtney Malveaux, Jill Holtzman Vogel, Melissa Ballenger.

**Others present for the full Board meeting:** Katherine Rowe, President; Peggy Agouris, Provost; Mike Todd, EVP for Finance and Administration; Members of the President's Cabinet and other guests.

#### **II. Introductory Remarks**

Rector Poston expressed gratitude to those who prepared for the Board meeting and Charter Day celebrations, and reflected on the collegiality, mutual respect, and strong partnership with President Rowe and among Board members. He highlighted the launch of the Year of Civic Leadership and reminded members of the post-meeting Cypher Society luncheon.

Rector Poston called on President Rowe for remarks.

President Rowe noted that William & Mary is turning 333 years old on Charter Day, coinciding with the 250th anniversary of United States independence, and highlighted the day's milestones: the launch of the Year of Civic Leadership, the reinvestiture of Chancellor Gates, the conferral of

honors on Governor Spanberger and Ken Burns, and the opening of The Mack Sports Performance Center. She reported that SACSCOC will conduct its ten-year reaccreditation site visit in March 2026 and shared spring semester accomplishments, including Gold Rush weekend, basketball successes, the Law School’s national trial team championship, and the effective winter storm response.

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

The Rector asked for any corrections or changes to the minutes of the November 21, 2025, Board meeting. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as presented.

### **IV. Reports of Standing Committees**

#### **a. Committee on Academic Affairs — Ms. Laura Keehner Rigas**

The Committee received updates on admissions, the COLL curriculum, and the faculty post-tenure faculty development review, with final reports due specifically on the COLL curriculum and post-tenure faculty development from the Provost in April. Ms. Rigas presented four resolutions for consideration:

- **Resolution 1** — Award of Academic Tenure

Adopted unanimously by voice vote conducted by the Rector. Ms. Rigas voted present.

- Resolutions 2 through 4 — **Resolution 2**, Law School Certificates; **Resolution 3**, Business School Certificates; **Resolution 4**, PhD in Data Science

Adopted unanimously as a block by voice vote conducted by the Rector.

#### **b. Committee on Administration, Buildings, and Grounds — Ms. Ardine Williams**

The Committee reviewed capital projects and received updates from the EVP, CHRO, and CBO. The updates included an overview of how the capital project list is composed and managed, as well as a status report on projects currently underway. This discussion took place in advance of the capital review and approval request for the Annual Capital Plan expected in April. There were no action items.

#### **c. Committee on Athletics — Ms. Jill Holtzman Vogel**

During the Committee meeting, Mr. Brian Mann, Athletics Director, delivered a report covering The Mack, personnel updates, and the crossover season, and the Committee heard presentations from Interim General Manager Larry Pulley and Dr. Tony Stefanidis on data analytics in athletics. There were no action items.

#### **d. Committee on Audit, Risk, and Compliance — Mr. Stephen Huebner**

The Committee received a preliminary report from the Auditor of Public Accounts confirming an unmodified opinion on the university's 2025 audit. The Committee also received updates on internal audit activity, compliance trends, human resources risks, and Title IX compliance efforts. There were no action items.

**e. Committee on Financial Affairs — Mr. C. Michael Petters**

The Committee discussed transitioning KPIs to actionable “circuit breakers,” received a review of financial aid connecting enrollment and pricing strategy, and discussed reserve policies. There were no action items.

**f. Subcommittee on Compensation — Mr. Petters**

The Subcommittee has begun its succession planning conversation, with updates from Dr. Chon Glover and Chief Human Resources Officer Anne Roemer. CHRO Anne Roemer will provide further updates on succession planning in April. There were no action items.

**g. Committee on the Student Experience — Mr. Thomas K. Norment, Jr.**

The Committee focused on academic well-being, including a panel of six students who highlighted the university's free tutoring program sustained through philanthropic support. There were no action items.

**V. General Reports**

The Rector noted that the work of the Board is not confined to its meetings. He emphasized that committee chairs are frequently in communication between meetings and that much of the Board's important work takes place between meetings. He thanked Board members for their continued dedication.

The Rector invited Ms. Zoe Wang, President of the Student Assembly; Dr. K. Scott Swan, Faculty Assembly Representative; and Mr. Adam White, Staff Liaison to the Board, to provide comments highlighting their respective written reports.

**a. Students — Ms. Zoe Wang**

Ms. Wang reported on the upcoming undergraduate omnibus survey, the hopeful return of Busch Gardens Day, and a fifteen-university student body president advocacy network. She also highlighted initiatives, including wellness vending machines, Narcan funding, the Sankofa Gala, and the spring concert.

**b. Faculty — Dr. K. Scott Swan**

Dr. Swan highlighted faculty priorities, including student access and visa support in light of immigration issues, academic freedom, governance and process improvements, and the strategic implications of artificial intelligence for teaching, research, and the COLL curriculum.

### **c. Staff — Mr. Adam White**

Mr. White reported that the Development Support Fund received 53 applications this year and that all three assemblies are building an employee athletic booster organization, with a successful trial run at the January 24 Hofstra game. He also noted the upcoming Joint Assembly Food Drive and expressed gratitude to essential workers who maintain campus operations during adverse weather. Tuition

### **VI. Old Business**

No old business was brought forward.

### **VII. New Business**

Rector Poston asked if there were any items for new business.

- Mr. Ashton moved that the Board of Visitors of the College of William & Mary in Virginia award an Honorary Doctorate of Arts to Kenneth Lauren Burns. The motion was seconded by Ms. Williams and approved by voice vote.
- Ms. Williams moved that the Board of Visitors of the College of William & Mary in Virginia award an Honorary Doctorate of Public Service to Abigail Davis Spanberger. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ashton and approved by voice vote.

The Rector announced the members of the Nominating Committee for Board officers as required in the Board By-Laws, to be chaired by Mr. Petters, with Ms. Rigas, Mr. Malveaux, and Mr. Estes as members. Mr. Poston encouraged Board members interested in serving in Board leadership to share that interest with the committee.

The Rector called on Secretary Ashton to read the Closed Session motion:

*I move that the Board of Visitors convene in closed session pursuant to:*

- Va. Code §2.2-3711.A.8 for consultation with legal counsel regarding contractual matters, legal and compliance risks, and FOIA compliance;
- Va. Code §2.2-3711.A.11 for discussion of candidates for honorary degrees.

Mr. Huebner seconded the motion. A roll call vote of the Board was conducted by Mr. Michael J. Fox, Clerk to the Board, and the motion was approved [16–0]. Everyone other than voting members of the Board and the President were excused, and the Board went into closed session at 9:50 a.m.

The Board returned to open session at 9:59 a.m.

Mr. Ashton moved that members of the Board confirm 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, and only matters identified in the motion to have a closed session were discussed.

Mr. Huebner seconded the motion, and it was approved by a roll call vote of 16-0 conducted by the Clerk.

**Announcements:**

- Next Board meeting — April 22–24, 2026
- Cypher Society luncheon to follow the meeting; Vice President Ambler to present on student life and the Year of Civic Leadership
- Charter Day Ceremony — 3:30 p.m. at Kaplan Arena
- Mackesy “The Mack” Sports Performance Center Dedication — 5:30 p.m.

Rector Poston recognized the Clerk for his exceptional and often unseen contributions to the Board and to the university. He also recognized Dr. Dane Pascoe, Deputy Clerk, and Mr. Tom Chestnut, intern in the President’s Office, for their dedicated support of the Board’s work.

The Clerk provided logistics for the day and weekend.

**VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

**Charter Day Weekend Events**

On Friday afternoon, members attended the Charter Day Ceremony at Kaplan Arena at 3:30 p.m., followed by the dedication of the Mackesy “The Mack” Sports Performance Center at 5:30 p.m.

On Saturday, February 7, members attended the Alumni Medallion Ceremony in the Commonwealth Auditorium at the Sadler Center at 10:00 a.m. and the Gates Hall Topping Off Ceremony at 1:45 p.m. The Charter Day Reception and Dinner were held at the Williamsburg Lodge at 6:00 p.m.