

**WILLIAM & MARY BOARD OF VISITORS
APRIL 22-24, 2026 MEETING MINUTES**

The William & Mary Board of Visitors (“the Board”) met from Wednesday, April 22, 2026, through Friday, April 24, 2026, in Williamsburg, Virginia, in Blow Memorial Hall, 262 Richmond Road.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026

At 5:15 pm, members of the Board met in Blow Hall 302 for the Public Hearing on Tuition. Rector Charles Poston began the meeting with brief remarks and a welcome. EVP/COO Mike Todd delivered a presentation on tuition pricing strategy, 2026-28 undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees recommendations and the FY 27 operating budget. Members of the community then offered public comments on the proposed increase in tuition and mandatory fees. Rector Poston adjourned the Public Hearing at 6:15 p.m.

Board members present for Wednesday’s Public Hearing: Charles Poston, Rector; Ardine Williams, Vice Rector; Kendrick Ashton, Jr., Secretary; Stephen Huebner; AnnaMaria DeSalva; Courtney Malveaux; John Brownlee; Rob Estes, Jr.; Jennifer Tepper Mackesy; Jill Holtzman Vogel; Hillary Waldron; C. Michael Petters, John P. Rathbone

That evening at 6:30 p.m., the Board gathered for dinner at Swem Library in the Special Collections room. 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; Hillary Waldron; C. Michael Petters, John P. Rathbone

Absent: W. Taylor Franklin, Melissa Ballenger, Thomas K. Norment, Jr.

Other attendees: Katherine Rowe; Peggy Agouris; Michael Todd; Dane Pascoe.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026

At 6:15 p.m., the Board attended an arts exhibition and reception at the Muscarelle Museum of Art on Jamestown Road. The event featured a curated exhibition of women’s abstract expressionist works. Guests enjoyed a global culinary showcase provided by Aramark, which highlighted diverse flavors from various nations and cultures.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026

Full Board Meeting

I. Call to Order

Rector Charles Poston called the meeting to order at 10:30 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

Board Members Remote: Jill Holtzman Vogel

Board Members Absent: W. Taylor Franklin, Melissa Ballenger

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

II. Introductory Remarks

Rector Poston noted that this is the final scheduled Board meeting of the academic year and his last meeting as Rector. He acknowledged the significant work that has gone into preparing the budget and tuition and fees materials for the Board's consideration and thanked each of the Committee chairs for the quality of their leadership throughout the year. Reflecting on William & Mary's governance, Rector Poston observed that the Board is known across Virginia's higher education landscape for being both productive and harmonious, a reputation earned through collegial discussion, cooperation, and a shared focus on the best interests of the university and its students. He credited the strength of the Board's work to the partnership with President Rowe and her leadership team. He thanked the faculty, staff, and students who make the university what it is, and expressed gratitude for the privilege of serving as Rector over the past four years. Rector Poston called on President Rowe for remarks.

President Rowe thanked the Board for conversations focused on prioritizing affordability while sustaining the university's mission. She expressed appreciation for the Committee on Financial Affairs' consideration of the recommended 2.9 percent increase in undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees and noted that William & Mary continues to set tuition in two-year increments to ensure predictability for students and families.

She highlighted several recent recognitions and achievements: Forbes' designation of William & Mary as a "New Ivy" for the second consecutive year; the university's recognition as a Gold-Level Military Friendly School, with the Mason School of Business named the top graduate school in the 2026-2027 Military Friendly Schools survey; and the SACSCOC site-visit team's intent to recommend to the SACSCOC Board of Trustees that the university is in compliance with all accreditation standards. She credited Associate Provost Matt Smith for leading the 18-month reaccreditation effort.

President Rowe celebrated several student and athletic achievements, including the Women's Swim team's CAA championship, Coach Kellogg's recognition as CAA Swimming Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year, the Ethics Club's national championship in the Ethics Bowl, and W&M Racing's victory in the fully autonomous division of the American Society of Naval Engineers' competition.

She reported that the university is launching its next strategic planning process as Vision 2026 concludes, with campus fora already underway and student demand and outstanding talent next week. She noted the upcoming One Tribe One Day campaign and Commencement, at which Dr. Francis Fukuyama and Mr. Frank Shatz will be honored.

In closing, President Rowe recognized Professor Scott Swan and Mr. Adam White as they conclude their terms, thanked Student Assembly leaders Zoe Wang, Matt Swenson, and Esma Akram for their advocacy, and recognized Rector Poston for his four years of steady leadership on behalf of the university.

III. Approval of Minutes

The Rector asked for any corrections or changes to the minutes of the February 6, 2026, Board meeting. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as presented.

IV. Reports of Standing Committees

a. Committee on Administration, Buildings, and Grounds – Ms. Ardine Williams

The Committee received an update on the university's capital outlay prioritization list, part of the six-year plan submission to the Commonwealth and noted that a portion of the Phase II housing plan has been shifted to the long-range forecast.

She noted that Mr. Sean Hughes updated the Committee on remediation efforts at the 1732 President's House and said additional testing will be conducted to establish a more accurate cost estimate ahead of a further update in the fall. The Committee reviewed and approved Resolution 1-R (with the only change related to geothermal work priority), and withdrew Resolution 2 based on counsel's advice that it was not necessary.

- Resolution 1-R – FY27 W&M Capital Plan Updates

Adopted unanimously by voice vote conducted by the Rector.

b. 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. Ms. Rigas presented the following resolutions for consideration:

- Resolution 4, Conferral of Emeriti Status; Resolution 6, Rename MS Computational Operations Research; Resolution 7, Close Peninsula Center; Resolution 8, New Business Certificates; Resolution 9, Modify A&S Bylaws; Resolution 10, Modify CDSP Bylaws

Adopted unanimously by voice vote conducted by the Rector.

- Resolution 5, Retirement of Dennis Manos, was read aloud by Ms. Rigas

Adopted unanimously by voice vote conducted by the Rector.

Ms. Rigas asked that Resolution 3 be held for consideration later in the meeting.

c. Committee on Athletics – Ms. Jill Holtzman Vogel

Ms. Vogel provided an update on student-athlete success, highlighting the university's navigation of the evolving NCAA and NIL landscape. Dr. Pulley, Interim GM, discussed expanding analytics tools into the academic realm. The Committee had a closed session to further explore technological advances regarding analytics and students.

d. Committee on Audit, Risk, and Compliance – Mr. Stephen Huebner

Mr. Huebner presented the report for the Committee on Audit, Risk and Compliance, beginning with a formal recognition of the Committee members for their diligent work over the past year. He offered specific words of gratitude to the administrative team for their essential contributions to the Committee's oversight functions. His report concluded with a summary of the university's recently finalized audits. Mr. Huebner highlighted the results of these reviews, confirming that the institution continues to monitor and address key areas of operational risk and regulatory compliance.

e. Committee on Financial Affairs – Mr. C. Michael Petters

Mr. Petters presented the report for the Committee on Financial Affairs, beginning with a review of financial updates provided by the CFO and EVP/COO. He said that the detailed briefing on tuition pricing strategy was instrumental in preparing the Committee and the Board for its deliberations. The Committee engaged in a thorough review of the proposed undergraduate tuition and fee structures

alongside the primary operating budgets for both the university and the Batten School/VIMS. Mr. Petters noted a technical revision to Resolution 11 (now 11-R) included a Reves Center fee that had been left out of the introduced resolution. He then presented three resolutions for the Board's consideration: Resolution 11-R (2026-28 Undergraduate Tuition and Fees), Resolution 12 (W&M FY 27 Operating Budget), and Resolution 13 (Batten School/VIMS Operating Budget).

The Rector called for a vote on Resolution 11-R, which was approved unanimously by voice vote, with Ms. Rigas voting present.

Resolution 12 was then taken up and approved unanimously by voice vote.

Resolution 13 was likewise approved unanimously by voice vote.

f. Subcommittee on Compensation – Mr. Petters

Mr. Petters reported the Committee spent its time in closed session discussing compensation benchmarking.

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

Mr. Norment recognized Dr. Virginia Ambler for her leadership and reflected on the university's historical growth in supporting the student experience. Dr. Renjilian discussed the strategic integration of wellness into student affairs, followed by a student panel that shared personal testimonials on how this holistic approach has enhanced their education and well-being.

Rector Poston thanked the Committee Chairs for their reports and noted the detailed work that takes place during Committee meetings. He pointed to the ongoing communication and leadership provided by Committee chairs between Board meetings as vital to the Board's success.

V. General Reports

The Rector then 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

Zoe Wang presented her final Student Assembly report, highlighting initiatives in campus accessibility, sustainability—including new water bottle filling stations—and community events like "Take Back the Night." She noted recent student focus on privacy and surveillance issues. She reported that April referenda resulted in strong student support for canceling university contracts with Flock and ZeroEyes, and for a "Firewall for Freedom" to protect student free speech. She noted that the Student Assembly is facilitating ongoing dialogue between student advocates and university administration to address these surveillance concerns. Wang concluded by thanking the Board and introducing the incoming Student Assembly leadership, including incoming President Nico Giro-Martin.

b. Faculty – Dr. K. Scott Swan

Dr. Swan reported on the high level of faculty engagement in the university's strategic planning process, commending the President and Provost for their commitment to genuine dialogue. He described the strategic plan as an "elegant" framework centered on "evergreen" themes that leverage William & Mary's historical strengths in cultivating timeless, ethical skills. Dr. Swan noted that by prioritizing insightful questioning over premature conclusions, the plan creates a space for innovation and trusts the campus community to develop collaborative solutions to complex challenges. He concluded by stating that this inclusive approach has energized the faculty and built confidence in the university's future.

c. Staff – Mr. Adam White

Mr. White highlighted the operational strain caused by shifting business systems, federal regulatory changes, and lagging compensation. He noted the challenges of integrating AI while addressing its ethical implications. Despite these pressures, White emphasized the staff's continued dedication to institutional goals, citing ongoing assembly elections and community service initiatives as evidence of their resilience.

VI. Old Business

No old business was brought forward.

VII. New Business

The Rector called on Mr. Petters, chair of the Nominating Committee, to review the process for the nomination of Board officers for 2026-28. Mr. Petters then presented the slate recommended by the Nominating Committee:

2026-28 Board Officers

Ardine Williams – Rector

Kendrick Ashton – Vice Rector

John Brownlee - Secretary

The Rector asked if there were any officer nominations from the floor. Hearing none, he called for a vote on the slate presented by the Nominating Committee and asked all in favor to stand. The slate was approved unanimously.

The slate was approved by unanimous vote.

Closed Session

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

Mr. Ashton moved that the Board of Visitors convene in closed session pursuant to:

- Va. Code §2.2-3711.A.1 for consideration of the terms of appointment and the performance of the President, the Internal Auditor and the promotion of certain faculty;
- Va. Code §2.2-3711.A.7 for consultation with legal counsel regarding probable litigation;
- Va. Code §2.2-3711.A.8 for consultation with legal counsel regarding legal and compliance risks and federal regulatory compliance

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 [13-0]. Everyone other than voting members of the Board, the President, the Provost, and University Counsel were excused, and the Board went into closed session at 11:53 a.m.

Open Session

The Board returned to open session at 12:36 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 9-0 conducted by the Clerk.

The Rector asked for approval of Resolution 3, Faculty Promotions.

It was approved by voice vote, with Ms. Rigas and Mr. Brownlee voting no.

Announcements

The Rector reminded members of the weekend activities, Commencement events and the Board Summer Retreat.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m.