

THE BOARD OF VISITORS



HISTORY OF THE BOARD



- ∞ The Board of Visitors has been the governing body of the University of Virginia since the University's creation.
- ∞ Jefferson believed that a university should be run by a governing board and faculty rather than by a president; there was no president at UVA until 1904
- ∞ Jefferson served as the Board's first Rector and Secretary to the Board

WHAT IS THE BOARD OF VISITORS?

- ∞ The Board of Visitors is **the governing body of the University of Virginia**
- ∞ The Board of Visitors acts as the University's corporate board
- ∞ The Board of Visitors is **responsible for developing general policy and for long-term planning for the University**

COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS

∞ The Board of Visitors is composed of:

- ❑ **Seventeen voting members**, each appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia
- ❑ **One non-voting student advisory representative**, appointed by the Board of Visitors
- ❑ **One non-voting faculty advisory representative**, appointed by the Board of Visitors

∞ Terms of Office:

- ❑ Each of the **seventeen voting members** serve for a **four-year term**, with the possibility of one reappointment (8 year limit)
- ❑ The **non-voting student member and non-voting faculty member** are each appointed to serve a **one year term**

COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS (cont.)

∞ Composition of the Board:

- ❑ At least **twelve of the seventeen voting members** of the Board of Visitors must be **from the Commonwealth of Virginia**
- ❑ At least **twelve members of the Board** must be **alumni or alumnae of the University**
- ❑ **One member of the Board must be a physician with administrative and clinical experience in an academic medical center**, ensuring that there is always a member with the necessary knowledge to guide the University's Medical Center
- ❑ By statute, state employees may not serve on the Board of Visitors while they are employed by the state

LEADERSHIP OF THE BOARD: THE RECTOR AND VICE RECTOR

❧ Leadership of the Board:

- ❑ **The Rector and Vice Rector are the chair and vice-chair of the Board**
- ❑ Upon the founding of the University, Thomas Jefferson served as the first Rector from 1819-1826. President James Madison succeeded Thomas Jefferson and served as the second Rector.
- ❑ The Rector speaks on behalf of the Board of Visitors
- ❑ The Rector serves as the presiding officer at all of its meetings; in the Rector's absence, the Vice Rector presides

LEADERSHIP OF THE BOARD: THE RECTOR AND VICE RECTOR (cont.)

✧ Terms and Election:

- ❑ The Rector and Vice Rector each serve two year terms
- ❑ Every two years, the Board of Visitors elects the Vice Rector from among its members
- ❑ Upon conclusion of the Rector's term of office, the Vice Rector succeeds the Rector to serve a two year term

THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF VISITORS

- ❧ The Secretary is the liaison between the Board of Visitors and the President. The Secretary also serves on the President's Staff.
- ❑ Jefferson served as the Secretary to the Board of Visitors during the formation of the University. He stepped down in 1825 when the first class of students entered UVA.
- ❑ The Secretary attends all meetings of the Board of Visitors and its committees, recording the minutes of all proceedings.
- ❑ The Secretary prepares meeting minutes for the permanent records of the Board of Visitors and the University.

THE BOARD COMMITTEES

❧ **The Executive Committee**

- ❑ Consists of the Rector, Vice Rector, and five visitors to be elected by the Board.

❧ **Standing Committees:**

- ❑ Academic and Student Life
- ❑ Advancement
- ❑ Audit, Compliance, and Risk
- ❑ Buildings and Grounds
- ❑ Finance
- ❑ Medical Center Operating Board (MCOB)
- ❑ The University of Virginia's College at Wise

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS

- ⌘ There are three categories of meetings of the Board:
 - The Annual Meeting—must be in Charlottesville
 - Regular Meetings
 - Special Meetings
- ⌘ The Rector or any three Visitors may call a Special meeting
- ⌘ Normal Schedule: 4 meetings a year plus a retreat

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS

- ❧ Some examples of the powers and duties of the Board of Visitors include:
 - ❑ Long-term planning
 - ❑ Preserving University's ideals and traditions
 - ❑ Establishing general education policy
 - ❑ Electing the University President, salaried members of the faculty, and Senior University Administrators
 - ❑ Approving promotions of faculty members
 - ❑ Approving general policy governing student scholarships and loans
 - ❑ Approving the annual budget for all divisions: Academic, College at Wise, and Medical Center

HOW STAFF SALARIES ARE SET

- ❧ **Classified Staff:** the General Assembly and the Governor determine salary increases for all State Classified employees
- ❧ **University Staff:** the General Assembly and the Governor determine the **average** salary increase for non-Classified state employees. Open question every year whether BoV may supplement state increase for University Staff (and faculty)
- ❧ **Faculty:** Same as University staff with regard to state increases; in past, BoV has supplemented to meet market demands.

COMPARING UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

The Board of Visitors


- **Governing Body of the University**, including the Medical Center and the College at Wise
- Responsible for the preservation of the University's ideals and traditions
- Approves the annual budget
- Responsible for the formulation and periodic revision of the University's long-term plans

The University President

- **Chief Executive Officer of the Academic Division**
- **Also has responsibility for the Medical Center and the College at Wise**
- Serves as President of the Faculty Senate
- Responsible for the discipline of students
- Recommends educational programs to the Board
- **Responsible for the day-to-day operations of the University in conformity with the purposes and policies determined by the Board**

BOARD OF VISITORS WEBSITE

 www.virginia.edu/bov



The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu and main content area. The navigation menu on the left includes: CALENDAR, UPCOMING BOARD MEETING, UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS, PAST MEETINGS, PUBLIC MINUTES, COMMITTEES, COMMITTEE MINUTES, and BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF. The main content area features a paragraph about the Board's composition, a photograph of a window, contact information for Susan G. Harris, and a link to the 2004 Board of Visitors Manual. Orange callout boxes with arrows point to specific elements: 'Calendar of Board Meetings through 2019' points to the CALENDAR link; 'Tenure List Click 'Board Members/Staff' Scroll to bottom of page Click 'Visitors Tenure List' located between Current Member Contacts and Staff Directory' points to the BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF link; 'Dates of Next Board Meeting' points to the 'Next Meeting:' section, which lists a B&G Committee Meeting on April 26, 2016, and a Committee on The University of Virginia's College of Arts and Sciences Meeting on May 19, 2016; 'Committee Information and Members in each Committee' points to the COMMITTEES link; 'Board Office Mailing Address' points to the contact information for Susan G. Harris; and 'Board of Visitors Manual' points to the link for the 2004 manual.

CALENDAR

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

PAST MEETINGS

PUBLIC MINUTES

COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF

Next Meeting:

B&G Committee Meeting -
April 26, 2016
Charlottesville, VA

Committee on The University of Virginia's College of Arts and Sciences Meeting -
May 19, 2016
Wise, VA

Reg...OV Meeting -

The Board of Visitors is composed of seventeen voting members appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly, for terms of four years. In addition, the Board includes one non-voting member, the Governor, at the Governor's discretion.

The Board approves the policies and budget for the University, and is entrusted with the preservation of the University's many traditions, including the Honor System. The Board maintains offices in the Northwest Wing of the Rotunda and meets four times per year. The meetings are open to the public, but there will be no opportunity for public comment.

[View or download the 2004 Board of Visitors Manual](#)
[Revised to reflect changes through February 19, 2016]
(PDF, 683KB)

For additional information, please contact:

Susan G. Harris, Secretary to the Board
Board of Visitors Office
Pavilion II - First Floor, PO Box 400222
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22904-4222

Telephone: 804.924.7081
Email: bov@virginia.edu

Calendar of Board Meetings through 2019

Tenure List
Click 'Board Members/Staff'
Scroll to bottom of page
Click 'Visitors Tenure List'
located between Current Member Contacts and Staff Directory

Dates of Next Board Meeting

Committee Information and Members in each Committee



Board Office Mailing Address

Board of Visitors Manual