

2021

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The Executive Committee of the Board of Visitors of Old Dominion University met at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, October 25, 2021, in the Board Room of the Kate and John R. Broderick Dining Commons on the Norfolk campus. Present from the Committee were:

R. Bruce Bradley, Rector
Yvonne T. Allmond
Robert S. Corn
Unwana B. Dabney
Jerri F. Dickeski

Absent from the Committee: Larry R. Hill
Toykea S. Jones

Also in attendance from the Board: Carlton F. Bennett (via Zoom)
Peter G. Decker, III
Jay Harris (via Zoom)
Kay A. Kemper (via Zoom)
Ross Mugler
Murry Pitts (via Zoom)
Maurice Slaughter (via Zoom)
Lisa B. Smith
Armistead B. Williams

Also present were:

Brian O. Hemphill, President
Austin Agho
Alonzo Brandon
Morris Foster
Todd Johnson
Donna Meeks

Tom Odom
September Sanderlin
Ashley Schumaker
Wood Selig (via Zoom)
Don Stansberry
Allen Wilson

10

The Rector called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.2, the following Board members participated in the meeting via Zoom:

- Carlton Bennett, from his office in Virginia Beach; unable to attend in person due to a work conflict

Trustees of the Old Dominion Athletic Foundation and select donors were invited to participate via Zoom and to comment following the presentation.

Travel comparisons for the Sun Belt Conference with the addition of ODU, JMU, Marshall and USM and a potential new Conference USA with the addition of Liberty were shared. Media exposure comparisons were also shared, noting that the Sun Belt's partnership with ESPN extends through 2030-31. Dr. Selig highlighted the Sun Belt's football, basketball and baseball programs.

The budgets of the Sun Belt Conference members with the four new teams ranks Old Dominion University second highest next to James Madison University. The budget includes a Conference USA exit fee of \$4M, the Sun Belt's annual distribution of \$1.1M, the annual conference fee, and the travel savings generated by regional east and west divisions. President Hemphill noted that the Sun Belt has agreed to waive the entry fee for the new members.

The Sun Belt conference leadership has over 50 years of combined league experience under the leadership of Commissioner Keith Gill. It's offices are located in the Superdome in New Orleans. Competition could begin in the fall of 2023 or possibly the fall of 2022.

In response to a question from Mr. Mugler, it was noted that student fees would not increase as a result of the move to Conference USA.

Board members and guests expressed their support of the move to the Sun Belt Conference. Ms. Dickeski moved that the Board of Visitors approves the move to the Sun Belt Conference. The motion was seconded by Ms. Allmond and approved by roll-call vote