

**UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF VISITORS**

**Meeting of the Academic and  
Student Life Committee**

**December 7, 2023**

## ACADEMIC AND STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 7, 2023

3:45 – 5:00 p.m.

Board Room, The Rotunda

### Committee Members:

Elizabeth M. Cranwell, Chair  
Carlos M. Brown, Vice Chair  
The Honorable Paul C. Harris  
Stephen P. Long, M.D.  
The Honorable L.F. Payne

Amanda L. Pillion  
Rachel W. Sheridan  
Robert D. Hardie, Ex-officio  
Patricia A. Jennings, Faculty Representative  
Lillian A. Rojas, Student Representative

### AGENDA

	<u>PAGE</u>
<b>I. COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REMARKS</b> (Ms. Cranwell)	1
<b>II. ACTION ITEMS</b> (Mr. Baucom)	
A. Nina and Ken Botsford Bicentennial Professorship in Neurodegenerative Diseases	2
B. Arts & Sciences Research Professorship in Democracy and Equity	4
C. Renaming the Distinguished Professorship in Emergency Medicine the Robert E. O'Connor Distinguished Professorship in Emergency Medicine	6
<b>III. EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST'S REMARKS</b> (Mr. Baucom)	8
<b>IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS</b>	
A. The 2030 Plan: The Path to Research Preeminence (Mr. Baucom to introduce Mr. Kevin Pelphrey, Ms. Micah Mazurek, Ms. Bethany Teachman, and Ms. Nancy Deutsch)	9
B. The Changing Landscape of College Athletics (Mr. Baucom to introduce Ms. Carla Williams; Ms. Williams to report)	11
<b>V. CLOSED SESSION</b> (to take place in separate session)	
• Faculty Personnel Actions	

**UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF VISITORS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

**BOARD MEETING:** December 7, 2023

**COMMITTEE:** Academic and Student Life

**AGENDA ITEM:** I. Committee Chair's Remarks

**ACTION REQUIRED:** None

**BACKGROUND:** The Chair will provide an overview of the agenda.

**UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF VISITORS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

**BOARD MEETING:** December 7, 2023

**COMMITTEE:** Academic and Student Life

**AGENDA ITEM:** II.A. Nina and Ken Botsford Bicentennial Professorship in Neurodegenerative Diseases

**BACKGROUND:** Ken Botsford (Col '75, Med '79) is a member of the Health System Board and vice chair for health for the Honor the Future campaign, serving on the University's Campaign Executive Committee. In addition to his relationship with UVA Health, Dr. Botsford is also a trustee emeritus of the College Foundation, an emeritus board member of the Arts & Sciences Benefactor Society and has served five times as a reunion volunteer.

A trained infectious disease specialist, Dr. Botsford is founder and chief medical advisor for naviHealth, a post-acute care management firm. Prior to naviHealth, he was chief medical officer for HealthSpring of Alabama, Mississippi, and Northern Florida; founder and member of the board for MedManagement; and a physician with Southview Medical Group. Nina Botsford, a graduate of Chatham Hall and Wheaton College, is an active community volunteer and serves on several boards, including the Endowment Board for Alzheimer's of Central Alabama.

Based on their family interest in neurodegenerative diseases, specifically Alzheimer's, the Botsfords made two generous gifts to UVA Health: the Nina and Ken Botsford Bicentennial Professorship in Neurodegenerative Diseases, and, through their estate, the Nina and Ken Botsford Research Fund in Neurodegenerative Diseases. The Botsfords hope these gifts will help further discoveries in Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative diseases, which could lead to future treatments and cures. They also hope their gifts will inspire others to contribute to UVA research in this field.

The Botsfords have three children: Virginia "Din" Blankenship (Arch '07), Bruce (Col '10), and Charlotte.

**DISCUSSION:** The income of the Nina and Ken Botsford Bicentennial Professorship in Neurodegenerative Diseases, strengthened through matching funds provided by the University's Bicentennial Professorship Fund, will be used to support a faculty member in the field of neurodegenerative diseases. This professorship will allow the dean of the School of Medicine to attract and retain the most innovative and distinguished physician scientists studying and treating Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and related diseases, and its holder will be a tenured or tenure-track faculty member.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Approval by the Academic and Student Life Committee and by the Board of Visitors

**NINA AND KEN BOTSFORD BICENTENNIAL PROFESSORSHIP IN NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASES**

WHEREAS, a longtime volunteer and donor to the University, Ken (Col '75, Med '79) Botsford is a member of the Health System Board and vice chair for health for the Honor the Future campaign, serving on the University's Campaign Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, based on their family interest in neurodegenerative diseases, specifically Alzheimer's, Dr. Botsford and his wife Nina made two generous gifts to UVA Health to fund the Nina and Ken Botsford Bicentennial Professorship in Neurodegenerative Diseases, and, through their estate, the Nina and Ken Botsford Research Fund in Neurodegenerative Diseases; and

WHEREAS, the Botsfords hope these gifts will help further discoveries in Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative diseases, which could lead to future treatments and cures. They also hope their gifts will inspire others to contribute to UVA research in this field; and

WHEREAS, the income of the Nina and Ken Botsford Bicentennial Professorship in Neurodegenerative Diseases, strengthened through matching funds provided by the University's Bicentennial Professorship Fund, will be used to support a faculty member in the field of neurodegenerative diseases. This professorship will allow the dean of the School of Medicine to attract and retain the most innovative and distinguished physician scientists studying and treating Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and related diseases, and its holder will be a tenured or tenure-track faculty member;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors establishes the Nina and Ken Botsford Bicentennial Professorship in Neurodegenerative Diseases in the School of Medicine; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Board of Visitors thanks Nina and Ken Botsford for their generous contributions to the University and the School of Medicine.

**UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF VISITORS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

**BOARD MEETING:** December 7, 2023

**COMMITTEE:** Academic and Student Life

**AGENDA ITEM:** II.B. Arts & Sciences Research Professorship in Democracy and Equity

**BACKGROUND:** Lisa A. Smith took a B.A. in Economics from the College of Arts & Sciences in 1985. She was a University guide and worked on the Corks and Curls yearbook. In her fourth year, Ms. Smith was honored to be named editor of Corks and Curls and to live on the Lawn.

Ms. Smith spent her early career at Goldman Sachs and McKinsey and Company, but found her calling working for the Robin Hood Foundation in New York City. Robin Hood was founded by UVA alumnus Paul Tudor Jones to combat poverty in New York City by adapting business and investing practices to investing money and expertise in some of New York's most effective poverty-fighting organizations. Ms. Smith started Robin Hood's Management Assistance effort to provide consulting services to Robin Hood grantees and then became the Deputy Director. Ms. Smith retired after 20 years at Robin Hood to spend more time with her children, which also gave her more time to devote to volunteer efforts with the University. Ms. Smith has interviewed Jefferson Scholars candidates for more than 30 years and has been a member of the College Foundation Board for close to a decade. She chaired the College Foundation Board from 2020 to 2022.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Smith was inspired by the democracy and equity work at the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences and the University, and chose to take advantage of the University's Research Professorship in Democracy and Equity Matching Fund to fund a research professorship in the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences in democracy and equity.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Approval by the Academic and Student Life Committee and by the Board of Visitors

**ARTS & SCIENCES RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP IN DEMOCRACY AND EQUITY**

WHEREAS, Lisa A. Smith took a B.A. in Economics from the College of Arts & Sciences in 1985 and went on to work for the Robin Hood Foundation, which works with other organizations to combat poverty in New York City, eventually becoming Deputy Director; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Smith has served in important volunteer roles for University-associated organizations including interviewing Jefferson Scholars candidates and as a member and chair of the College Foundation Board; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Smith was inspired to fund a research professorship by the work in democracy and equity at the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences and the University. The research professorship will receive matching funds from the University's Research Professorship in Democracy and Equity Matching Fund;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors establishes the Arts & Sciences Research Professorship in Democracy and Equity in the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Board of Visitors thanks Lisa A. Smith for her generous contributions to the University and the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences.

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**BOARD MEETING:** December 7, 2023

**COMMITTEE:** Academic and Student Life

**AGENDA ITEM:** II.C. Renaming the Distinguished Professorship in Emergency Medicine the Robert E. O'Connor Distinguished Professorship in Emergency Medicine

**BACKGROUND:** The Distinguished Professorship in Emergency Medicine was established at the December 2016 Board of Visitors meeting to promote the academic advancement of the Department of Emergency Medicine to retain and recruit the most qualified emergency medicine physicians as professors in the Department of Emergency Medicine. The funds were raised from the department's reserves. This permanent endowment provides long-term, consistent support for academic, research and clinical advancement within the department.

Dr. Robert E. (Bob) O'Connor recently retired as chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine, after 16 successful years as chair of the department. Now that Dr. O'Connor is no longer chair of the department, the Department of Emergency Medicine would like to change the name of this professorship to honor Dr. O'Connor. The naming of this professorship for Dr. O'Connor will bring added prestige to this permanent endowment and assist with the recruitment process.

Dr. O'Connor earned his medical degree from the Medical College of Pennsylvania, which was later acquired by Drexel University, and completed residency training in emergency medicine at the Medical Center of Delaware. He obtained his master's in public health from the Medical College of Wisconsin. He is the past chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Virginia, Professor of Emergency Medicine, and Professor of Public Health Sciences.

He began his career at the University in 2007 as the chair of Emergency Medicine and has led the department to attain significant research and academic growth, enhancing the departmental contribution to the School of Medicine and the University. As the department chair, his responsibilities were over the full scope of emergency care and education, ranging from adult and pediatric emergency clinical care, pre-hospital medical direction, the Blue Ridge Poison Control Center, undergraduate medical student education, emergency medicine residency education, and fellowship training programs.

**DISCUSSION:** Through Dr. O'Connor's stewardship as department chair from 2007 to 2023, the academic, clinical, and research missions of the Department of Emergency Medicine have all advanced and added to the national and international stature of the University of Virginia while maintaining a strong and stable financial position with diversified revenue sources. For all of these reasons and in recognition of Dr. O'Connor's years of academic and



community service, the Department of Emergency Medicine would like to honor Dr. O'Connor by renaming the Distinguished Professorship in Emergency Medicine the Robert E. O'Connor Distinguished Professorship in Emergency Medicine in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Virginia School of Medicine.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Approval by the Academic and Student Life Committee and by the Board of Visitors

**RENAMING THE DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE THE ROBERT E. O'CONNOR DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE**

WHEREAS, through Dr. Robert E. O'Connor's stewardship, the academic, clinical and research missions of the Department of Emergency Medicine have all advanced and added to the national and international stature of the University of Virginia while maintaining a strong and stable financial position with diversified revenue sources;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors renames the Distinguished Professorship in Emergency Medicine the Robert E. O'Connor Distinguished Professorship in Emergency Medicine; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Board of Visitors congratulates Dr. O'Connor for this significant honor and thanks him for his service to the Department of Emergency Medicine, the School of Medicine, and the University.

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**AGENDA ITEM:** III. Executive Vice President and Provost's Remarks

**ACTION REQUIRED:** None

**BACKGROUND:** Provost Baucom will make remarks regarding recent noteworthy events and accomplishments.

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**AGENDA ITEM:** IV.A. The 2030 Plan: The Path to Research Preeminence

**ACTION REQUIRED:** None

**BACKGROUND:** In September 2023, Provost Baucom reported to the Board on progress to date of key initiatives that support two strategic goals of President Ryan’s 2030 Plan: strengthening UVA’s foundation and enabling discoveries that enrich and improve lives.

Central to these goals, the key initiative “The Path to Research Preeminence” is designed to move UVA from prominent to preeminent in research. Under this initiative, the University is planning strategic investments in research infrastructure, has substantially upgraded Alderman Library, launched the Karsh Institute of Democracy, announced plans for the Paul and Diane Manning Institute of Biotechnology, and provided seed funding for interdisciplinary research and initiatives, among other efforts.

The initiative’s Grand Challenge Research Investments are designed to strengthen and grow the University’s research portfolio by investing resources in the following areas: Democracy, Environmental Resilience and Sustainability, Precision Medicine/Health, the Brain and Neuroscience, and Digital Technology and Society. Presentations highlighting work in the latter two of these Grand Challenges will be the focus of this report.

The Brain and Neuroscience Grand Challenge includes a University commitment announced in June 2022 to invest more than \$50M in an interdisciplinary effort to pioneer life-changing advances in neuroscience, while simultaneously mapping the workings of the human brain. It seeks to help scientists better understand conditions such as Alzheimer’s disease and autism, as well as how the brain functions over a lifespan. Led by the UVA Brain Institute, it engages faculty, students, and staff from across Grounds.

The Digital Technology and Society Grand Challenge includes a University commitment announced in June 2023 of \$50M in investments in initiatives with initial work focusing on improving youth mental health and keeping artificial intelligence algorithms fair and democratic online. It includes two related initiatives: Digital Technology for Democracy and Digital Technology and Youth Development. The Digital Technology and Youth Development Initiative explores how digital technology can contribute to healthy development in young people, with a focus on addressing the youth mental health crisis.

Central contributors to the work of the Brian and Neuroscience Grand Challenge include Mr. Kevin Pelphrey and Ms. Micah Mazurek.

Mr. Pelphrey is Harrison-Wood Jefferson Scholars Foundation Professor of Neurology and principal investigator of the NIH Autism Center of Excellence – Neurogenetics of Autism Network, which includes support from a \$12M R01 grant to identify neurodevelopmental biomarkers of late diagnosis in female and gender diverse autism. He is a leader in groundbreaking research on autism, using brain science to develop biologically based tools for detecting and tailoring treatments for individuals on the autism spectrum. Mr. Pelphrey received his Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, followed by postdoctoral training in cognitive neuroscience at Duke University.

Ms. Mazurek is Novartis U.S. Foundation Professor of Education and a clinical psychologist in the School of Education and Human Development, with a courtesy appointment in the Department of Neurology. She also serves as director of UVA's Supporting Transformative Autism Research (STAR) and Blue Ridge Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities programs. Ms. Mazurek has broad clinical experience in psychological assessment and intervention, with specific expertise in assessment and treatment of autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders. She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Ms. Bethany Teachman and Ms. Nancy Deutsch serve as faculty leads for the Digital Technology and Youth Development Initiative:

Ms. Teachman is Professor of Psychology and director of clinical training in the Department of Psychology, where she directs the Program for Anxiety, Cognition, and Treatment (PACT) Lab. Her lab investigates biased thinking that contributes to the development and maintenance of psychopathology, especially anxiety disorders. She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Virginia, where she later performed her postdoctoral residency.

Ms. Deutsch is the Linda K. Bunker Professor of Education and director of Youth-Nex – The UVA Center to Promote Effective Youth Development at the School of Education and Human Development, where she is also associate dean for faculty affairs. Her research examines the socio-ecological contexts of adolescent development, with a focus on issues related to identity and the process of adolescent learning and development as it unfolds within local environments. She received her Ph.D. in Human Development and Social Policy from Northwestern University.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Baucom will introduce Mr. Kevin Pelphrey and Ms. Micah Mazurek. They will report on their work related to autism taking place as part of the Brain and Neuroscience Grand Challenge, as well as the role that the Grand Challenge and UVA Brain Institute play in moving their research forward.

Mr. Baucom will also introduce Ms. Bethany Teachman and Ms. Nancy Deutsch. They will report on current and future work related to the Digital Tech and Youth Development Initiative of the Digital Technology and Society Grand Challenge.

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**AGENDA ITEM:** IV.B. The Changing Landscape of College Athletics

**ACTION REQUIRED:** None

**BACKGROUND:** College athletics has experienced significant change during the early 2020s. In July 2021, the NCAA adopted a policy that permits a student-athlete to benefit from their name, image, and likeness (NIL), so long as the opportunity is not pay-for-play or an improper recruiting inducement. Since then, the NCAA and federal legislators have continued to consider new regulations governing NIL in college athletics. Along with changes to NIL regulations, conference expansion and realignment has significantly affected college athletics in recent years. In September 2023, the ACC Board of Directors, chaired by President Ryan, voted to formally admit the University of California, Berkeley; Southern Methodist University; and Stanford University to the Atlantic Coast Conference. SMU will join the ACC as a full member with full voting participation effective July 1, 2024; Stanford and Berkeley will do so on August 2, 2024.

Since her arrival at the University in 2017, Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics Ms. Carla Williams has fostered the wellbeing and success of UVA student-athletes, as well as the strength and growth of UVA’s athletics programs.

As Athletics Director, Ms. Williams supports over 750 UVA student-athletes in 27 varsity sports, developing programming to maximize their college experience, establishing a culture and support system for the sports programs to compete for championships, and helping student-athletes prepare for life, and careers, after athletics. Under her direction, the men’s basketball team won its first NCAA Championship in 2019, the men’s lacrosse team captured its eighth and ninth national titles, men’s tennis has won two consecutive national titles, and the women’s swimming and diving team has won three consecutive national championships. UVA student-athletes have set record numbers for placement on the ACC Honor Roll, achieved the highest GPA totals in program history, and been recognized by the NCAA for outstanding achievement on academic progress reports. 12 UVA student-athletes have been named ACC Scholar-Athlete of the Year in their respective sports since 2020.

In 2019, Ms. Williams was named Administrator of the Year for all NCAA Division I FBS athletics programs by Women Leaders in College Sports. She is the first woman to hold the position of Athletics Director at the University, and the first female African American athletics director at a Power Five conference institution.

Ms. Williams has been involved in several key initiatives that have helped to shape the future of ACC and NCAA athletics. She was selected to work on the NCAA's NIL Legislation Solutions Group to examine student-athlete name, image, and likeness rights and the NCAA Federal and State Legislation Working Group. In 2021, ACC commissioner Jim Phillips appointed Williams to the ACC Football Subcommittee.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Baucom will introduce Ms. Carla Williams. Ms. Williams will report on the landscape of college athletics, with a focus on student-athlete mental health and related staff, resources, and programming for student-athletes at the University. She will also discuss the role of NIL in modern college athletics and the recent ACC realignment.