

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
JUNE 18, 2022**

**UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
BY ZOOM  
9:00A.M.**

**MINUTES  
Regular Session**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Attorney Henry C. Smock, Chair  
Ms. Oran C. Roebuck, Vice Chair  
Dr. David Hall, President and Secretary  
Mrs. Racquel Berry- Benjamin, DOE  
Dr. Kyza A. Callwood, BOE  
Mrs. Nisha Clavier, Alumni Trustee (10:00am)  
Mrs. Erica Johnson Creamer  
Mr. John P. De Jongh  
Dr. Lois Hassell-Habtes  
Dr. John A. Quelch  
Mr. Reginald Vigilant

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Dr. Glenn Metts, Faculty Trustee

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Dr. Camille McKayle, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Mr. Mitchell Neaves, VP Institutional Advancement  
Ms. Sharleen Harris, VP  
Ms. Earlyn Casimir for VP Administration and Finance & CFO  
Attorney Marie ThomasGriffith, UVI Legal Counsel

**CALL TO ORDER**

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE.....Erica Johnson Creamer**

**Election of Officers**

The Governance Committee conducted its annual meeting for nominations as outlined in the Nomination Process adopted by the Board of Trustees. Nominations were received for the  
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positions of Chair and Vice-Chair. A slate of candidates was obtained and approved as required by the process. This slate was presented to the Board of Trustees for their deliberation and action. A motion was made by Trustee Callwood which was seconded by Quelch to approve the slate of Henry Smock for Chair and Oran Roebuck for Vice Chair of the Board. The vote on the motion was unanimous. The slate was approved. Both Chairman Smock and Vice Chair Roebuck thanked the members for vote of confidence.

### **Approval of Minutes March 5, 2022 Meeting**

A motion was made by Trustee Callwood which was seconded by Vice Chair Roebuck to approve the regular session minutes of March 5, 2022. The vote on motion was unanimous. The minutes were approved.

### **Approval of Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Trustee Callwood which was seconded by Vice Chair Roebuck to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The vote on the motion was unanimous. The consent agenda was approved.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The President's Report for this reporting period is organized into two sections. Part I provides highlights of new and ongoing presidential initiatives and institutional accomplishments since the last report. Part II highlights major accomplishments within the framework of *Greatness Through Innovation*, the University's current strategic plan.

This framework has been adopted to ensure that all Components and Departments across the University are focused on areas that the University has determined are critical to our future success. I continue to be extremely impressed with the productivity and commitment of our University's students, faculty, staff and administrators.

### **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Three UVI student entrepreneurs were awarded \$48,000 at the annual 13D Entrepreneurship Business Launch Competition held virtually on May 6, providing them with valuable start-up funds to pursue their business ventures. **Christopher McDonald** earned \$24,000 for his Mappl! Geographic Information System (GIS) business start-up, and an additional \$24,000 was awarded to **Mitchell Turnbull** and his teammate **Walter Morris** for their Cash N'Crypto ATM business idea. The 13D Competition is designed to eliminate the obstacle of financing for UVI student entrepreneurs who have great ideas for potentially profitable businesses but no access to start-up capital.

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- **Tamia Grant**, junior, was crowned the 42nd Miss UVI at the Miss UVI Ambassadorial Presentation and Coronation, which was held on Saturday, April 23, 2022, on St. Croix. Grant, who competed against three other contestants, is a Chemistry and Physics major with a double minor in Computational Science and Mathematics. She is pursuing her studies at the Orville E. Kean Campus on St. Thomas. She is a member of a program that collaborates with Engineers for Tomorrow Outreach, which works towards developing a STEM program that allows students to participate in projects with engineers. Her professional aspirations include becoming a chemical engineer with a focus in pharmaceuticals and exploring entrepreneurial opportunities.
- The 3rd Annual Student Leadership and Engagement Awards Ceremony was held on April 25, 2022. President David Hall delivered congratulatory remarks recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of students who exemplify core pillars of collaboration, service, inclusion, creativity, and excellence in their leadership and engagement within UVI and the wider community. Awards and recognition were given in the following categories:
  - Outstanding Organization Award: **UVI Association of Black Journalists**
  - Outstanding Commuter Engagement Award: **Angelisa Freeman**
  - Buccaneer Spirit Award: **Marcus Curran**
  - Outstanding Advisor Award: **Dr. Sharon Honore, UVI Association of Black Journalists**

Recognition of Unsung Heroes: **Jovanny Pemberton, Michelle Thomas, Ne'Kye George, Shomauri Gumbs**

- Student Employee of the Year: **George Francis**
- Outstanding Resident Assistant: **Michelle Thomas**
- Diversity Engagement Award: **Nadege Barber**
- Social Responsibility Award: **Carlos Eton**
- Distinguished Service Award: **ASB-Paws for a Cause**
- Outstanding Student Leader Award: **Jackeima Flemming**

In commemoration of the UVI's 60th Anniversary this year, individuals who have made significant contributions to UVI-Student Affairs over the years were recognized. Several awards were given in honor of past employees, some of whom were awarded posthumously.

Recognition was given to:

- Dr. Doris Battiste +, former Dean of Student Affairs and Coordinator of Peer Health Programs
  - Ms. Ura Jones, former Director of Counseling and NSE Coordinator
  - Ms. Junie Violenes +, former Director of Student Activities and SGA Advisor
  - Dr. Ronald Harrigan, former Vice President for Student Life and Development
  - Mr. Leon Lafond, former Student Activities Supervisor
- + = *deceased*
- Eighteen (18) students from the Orville E. Kean Campus participated in the 6th Annual Alternative Spring Break (ASB) program. The UVI ASB program is a week-long theme-based immersive program that incorporates experiential learning, community engagement, personal, professional, and leadership development and reflection. Recognizing the challenges associated with COVID19, this year, the Office of Student Affairs, based on students' interests, offered two unique and distinct programs aimed at fostering holistic health and wellness that fit right into the overarching theme to serve, learn, and grow. "Paws for a Cause" was a choice for some, while others spent their week "Finding Faith."
  - Students in Paws for a Cause collaborated with the Humane Society of St. Thomas and became pet foster parents for one week. As pet foster parents, students spent time bonding with their chosen pet, taking them on walks, feeding, bathing them, cleaning their cages, and advocating for the dogs and cats needing a permanent home. This project won the Distinguished Service Award at the Student Engagement Awards Ceremony 2022.
  - Members of Finding Faith explored what it means to believe in God while learning and educating themselves on the Christian faith. Throughout the week, members discussed several topics that currently affect young people or college students. Topics were related to alcohol, sex, drugs, dating, music, marriage, and family. As they discussed these topics, they then used the bible as the source/answer to their lingering questions or concerns related to the topic at hand.
  - **Brittney Anderson** was awarded a prestigious, competitive Goldwater Scholarship, one of only 417 students in the US. She is a junior biology major on the Orville E. Kean Campus.
  - **Ellaina Wyllis** was awarded a prestigious, competitive Goldwater Scholarship, one of only 417 students in the US. She is a junior biology major on the Orville E. Kean Campus.

- **Deanna Hunt**, a junior Computer Science Major and Peer Instructor / Service Learning Coordinator for Science 100 was one of four student panelists at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Virtual Seminar on Tuesday, April 19, 2022. The seminar showcased "examples of diverse student learning experiences that leverage lived experiences, and how we can design authentic experiences for undergraduates to prepare problem solvers, leaders, and innovators to tackle the multi-faceted problems facing our world."
- **Jordina Pierre**, a Mathematics and Physics double major, has decided to accept an offer to join MIT's Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) program starting in Fall 2022. She was also invited to join their SoE Mentorship Program.
- **LeAnn Horsford**, a biology major who graduated with a BS in Biology this past May was accepted into St. Georges University School of Medicine in Grenada and will be attending in Fall 2022.
- **Nicholas Durgadeen** has been offered and accepted a position as a Coral Restoration Specialist with **Dr. Marilyn Brandt** following May graduation. Nicholas was supported by the NSF-funded SEAS Islands Alliance for four summers, and he has interned in the **Grimes** Lab this year.
- **Shamir Smith** was nominated for Student Employee of the Year due to his exemplary work as a SCI 100 Peer Instructor for seven semesters. Dr. Michelle Guannel submitted his nomination.
- **Allana Jackson** researched parasite levels in St Croix White Hair Sheep and Dorper crosses in the Animal Science program.
- **Lamani Santiago**, a UVI Junior, was awarded a certificate - Appreciation of Student Excellence - from Career Services for Student Involvement. April 2022.
- **Race Stryker** conducted research as part of VI-EPSCoR in the AES Agronomy program.
- **Yasmin Laurencin** conducted research on air-layering Bayleaf (*Pimenta racemosa*) trees in the AES Biotechnology & Agroforestry program.
- **Jenna Cheramie** received an honorable mention for the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program in April 2022.

- **Allison Holevoet** served as a Coastal and Estuarine Research fellow and American Geophysical Union fellow in the Voices for Science cohort as part of the Communications Media Track for the 2022-2023 year. She will attend a training at the beginning of April, participate in monthly science-communication opportunities with AGU staff, conduct outreach here, and attend the AGU Fall meeting.
- **Lila Uzzell** was accepted into the Friends of the VI National Park Board as the first Young Professionals Board Member. Lila was also accepted to Bridge to Ph.D. program and will be working under Dr. Hong on Plant Molecular Genetics.
- In January, **Kayla Budd** was hired as a Coral Disease Treatment Specialist at the University of the Virgin Islands. She is also a Coral Disease Treatment Support Diver with SeaVentures and a Coral Disease Strike Team Diver with Caribbean Oceanic Restoration & Education (CORE) Foundation.
- **Naomi Scott** was nominated by **Dr. Michele L. Guannel** for Student Employee of the Year due to her outstanding work as an MMES TA teaching SCI 100 labs from Fall 2020-Spring 2022.
- **Sophia Costa** received the International Coral Reef Symposium student travel grant. She was the only student from the USVI to earn the award and one of 18 international students. Sophie was also accepted to Florida International University to become a Ph.D. candidate and received the Presidential Fellowship.
- Two students participated in the Danish Student Exchange program for Spring 2022. **Nadege Barber** attended Aalborg University and **Makayda Foy Gustave** participated at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark.
- Three students from Norwich University, home of the Reserve Officer Training Corps- ROTC- for all branches, will be attending UVI in the Fall semester. UVI has been partnering with Norwich University since 2019. While on the exchange, students from Norwich may attend classes without the military code of Norwich itself, so no uniforms, no PT, no ROTC classes.
- Eleven of the 14 students accepted participated in the National Student Exchange (NSE) program on the Albert A. Sheen (AAS) Campus and represented schools in Wisconsin, Idaho, New Hampshire, and Hawaii. There are three students from the AAS campus participating in the NSE program. Two are at Bowie State University in Maryland, and one is at Florida A & M University.

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From the Orville E. Kean (OEK) campus, five students were placed at the 2022 NSE Conference for the upcoming academic year:

- Lia Hodge- Florida International University, all year, Home Pay
- Dai'sha Webster- Alabama State University, Fall 2022, Home Pay
- Kaniel Richardson- University of Alaska-Fairbanks- Fall 2022, Home Pay
- Brandon Jackson- Virginia State University- all year, Home Pay
- Julia Lantz- University of Alaska Southeast- Juneau, all year, Host Pay

Forty-seven students have been accepted to attend UVI – Orville E. Kean Campus in the 2022-23 Academic Year. Thirteen students will be on Host Pay (Plan A) paying UVI tuition, room, and meals, and thirty-four students will be paying room and meals on Home Pay (Plan B).

## **DOCTORAL AND THESIS DEFENSES**

*(Students' names are bolded. Alumni names are bolded, italicized. Faculty names are italicized.)*

- **Rev. Deborah Finley Jackson:** *Interpreting Slave Narratives: Evidence Of Creative Thinking And Behavior In The Antebellum South.* January 7, 2022
- **Dianna Osborne** - *A Historical Examination Of Former Public-School Elementary Principals' Perceptions Of Literacy Instructional Leadership* - April 21, 2022
- **Kyza A. Callwood** - *Positive Youth Development In A Community Setting: A Study Of One Youth Program In The United States Virgin Islands* – April 28, 2022
- **Kenisha Heather Thompson.** *Giving Poverty A Voice: An Explanatory Case Study Of The Community Action Poverty Simulation* - May 5, 2022
- **Leslyn Tonge.** *Enhancing Creativity And Creative Problem-Solving Through Education Abroad Programming* – May 6, 2022

## **SIGNIFICANT INSTITUTIONAL EVENTS**

- UVI CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
- THE BLUE HORIZON CONCERT – HONORS LIFE & LEGACY OF DR. ADDIE OTTLEY

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- SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE, DR. ROBERT FRANKLIN JR., INSPIRATIONAL SABBATICAL VISIT
- GRAND OPENING OF NEW DANCE STUDIO ON ST. CROIX CAMPUS
- LAUNCH OF INCLUSIVE CHILDCARE LABORATORY AND
- DIAGNOSTIC CENTER ON ST. CROIX CAMPUS
- BUILDING SIGN UNVEILING UVI 13D RESEARCH & STRATEGY INNOVATION CENTER
- PUBLIC UNVEILING OF V.I. AGRICULTURAL PLAN
- UVI TRIUMPHANTLY RETURNS TO IN-PERSON COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES
- 48<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS
- INAUGURAL UVI EMPLOYEE WELLNESS DAYS
- AGRIFEST 2022 MAKES IMPACTFUL RETURN

## **PRESIDENTS APPRECIATION AWARD**

For this reporting period, the President's Appreciation Award is presented to the Commencement Committees, especially the diligent leadership team of Gail Steele, Nereida Washington, and Una Dyer, for overseeing the first in-person Commencement Ceremonies on the University's campuses since 2019 and one of the most complex due to the COVID-19 protocols. The Committees committed to providing a safe and responsible Commencement experience for our faculty, staff, students, and their guests. To ensure the health and safety of the UVI Community as well as guests invited to Commencement and Commencement-related events, the Committees implemented various protocols in consultation with local health officials and the UVI Administration to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and to ensure that the ceremonies were meaningful and inclusive. The Commencement Committees thoughtfully executed the successful in-person ceremonies, together with the implementation of the various protocols including verification of proof of vaccination and testing requirements. The ceremonies were well-received by students and the attending and viewing public.

### St. Croix Commencement Committee:

- Anyha Lord-Jerris
- Caira Isaac
- Cleveland Tonge
- Francisca Barry
- Jana Austrie
- Judy James
- Monifa Potter
- Nereida Washington (Co-Chair)
- Paul Flemming (Co-Chair)
- Shanta Roberts
- Sophia Johnson
- Tamika Thomas-Williams

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- Una Dyer

St. Thomas Commencement Committee:

- Adina Browne (Student Representative)
- Astrid Carmona-Tuitt
- Charles Martin, Sr.
- Cheryl Mingo
- Dahlia Stridiron-Felix
- Denise Humphrey
- Diana Claxton
- Donna Andrews
- Gail Steele (Chair)
- Henville Pole
- Ira Mactavious
- Jerel Drew
- Lois Rivera
- Mervin Taylor
- Monifa Potter
- Tamika Thomas-Williams
- Theodore Glasford
- Una Dyer
- Wilmund Wattley

This period's President's Appreciation Award is also presented to Sharlene Harris, Vice President for Institutional Assessment and Information Services, and V. Veda Richards, Associate Director for Human Resources and Organizational Development/Director of Employee Benefits & Immigration Services, for their visionary work and creativity in leading the planning and implementation of the University's Employee Wellness Day initiative. The Wellness Days were a much-needed reprise for employees that helped to improve the morale and collaborative engagement among those who took part. Participants also voiced their desire for the continuation of the initiative, and a plan is being developed to institutionalize the Employee Wellness Days. The outstanding leadership of Vice President Harris and Associate Director Richards was critical in ensuring that health and wellness remain a priority for our employees.

While various individuals and areas contributed to the successful execution of the Wellness Days, the following individuals are also recognized for their instrumental support in the planning and implementing of the Wellness Days and associated activities.

St. Thomas

- Allison Callwood
- Astrid Carmona-Tuitt
- Donna Andrews
- Jerel Drew

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- Jessica LaPlace
- Marilyn Henderson
- Mindy Solivan
- Shauna Matthew  
St. Croix
- Shelly Anslyn-Jones
- Trudi Golphin

### **Chairman's Comments**

Chairman Smock thank the members of the Board for their participation in meetings during this time. He stated that he looks forward to the members gathering in person soon. He informed that Board that Trustee Wes Williams Has resigned from the Board of Trustees.

He has served on the Board since **2006 - for 16 years-** He also served as Chair of the Development Committee for all of those 16 years. He also served on the Governance Committee as well as the Executive Committee. We thank him for his service, guidance and generous giving of Gifts to the University.

### **Academic, Research, and Student Affairs.....Dr. John A. Quelch**

#### **Bachelor of Science in Horticulture**

Dr. Camille McKayle, Provost, and Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented the proposal for the Bachelor of Science degree program in Horticulture as approved by the faculty.

The program is designed to provide students interested in horticulture with the requisite knowledge to support their interests and career goals. The students would be required to complete 120 credit hours plus 2 credits of Physical Education, including general education coursework, 55 credit hours in required horticulture courses, including plant pathology, general horticulture, and tropical horticulture, and eight credits in elective horticulture courses, including tropical agroecology, forest and nursery management and special topics in agriculture research, and entomology.

The ARSA Committee voted unanimously to accept the proposal to approve the Bachelor of Science degree program in Horticulture. The committee's recommendation is forwarded to the full Board for review and action at its meeting on June 18, 2022.

A motion was made by Trustee Callwood which was seconded by Vice Chair Roebuck to approve the Bachelor of Science degree program in Horticulture. The vote on the motion was unanimous. The motion was approved.

#### **Bachelor of Science in Aquaponics**

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Dr. Us Dr. Camille McKayle, Provost, and Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented the proposal for the Bachelor of Science degree program in Horticulture as approved by the faculty.

The program is designed to provide students with in-depth knowledge and understanding across different disciplines to support their interests and career goals. The students would be required to complete 120 credit hours plus 2 credits of Physical Education, including general education coursework, 50 credit hours in required aquaponics courses, including aquaculture production, aquaculture techniques, and hydroponics and aquaponics, and nine credits in elective aquaponics courses, including introduction to biotechnology, agricultural regulations, and principles of agricultural business.

The ARSA Committee voted unanimously to accept the proposal to approve the Bachelor of Science degree program in Aquaponics. The committee's recommendation is forwarded to the full Board for review and action at its meeting on June 18, 2022.

A motion was made by Trustee Callwood which was seconded by Vice Chair Roebuck to approve the Bachelor of Science degree program in Aquaponics. The vote on the motion was unanimous. The motion was approved.

### **Proposal for the academic major in Dance, Music Performance, and Theatre**

Dr. Camille McKayle, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented the proposal for the new academic major in Dance, Music Performance, and Theatre.

The new academic major is a performance-based degree aimed at creating skilled performers and technicians that will be critical to the overall success of artistic endeavors in the territory and beyond. Students will complete 48 hours of general education coursework to allow for more performance-based courses within the majors.

The ARSA Committee voted unanimously to accept the proposal to approve the School of Graduate Education proposal. The committee's recommendation is forwarded to the full Board for review and action at its meeting on June 18, 2022.

### **Proposal: Modification of policy for admitting international students whose primary language is not English**

Dr. Camille McKayle, Provost, and Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented the proposal for modification of the policy for admitting international students whose primary language is not English

The proposal to adopt a mid-tier threshold for TOEFL scores for non-English speaking students admitted to UVI. Students should be enrolled in fundamental English skills courses while concurrently enrolled in existing courses for English as a Second Language (ESL) predicated on the students' TOEFL scores and placement scores and advising by the Center for Student Success. This proposed change will not affect local

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students or students attending UVI through partnerships with other Eastern Caribbean countries.

The ARSA Committee voted unanimously to accept the proposal to modify the policy for admitting international students whose primary language is not English. The committee's recommendation is forwarded to the full Board for review and action at its meeting on June 18, 2022.

A motion was made by Trustee Callwood which was seconded by Trustee Berry-Benjamin to accept the proposal to modify the policy for admitting international students whose primary language is not English. The vote on the motion was unanimous. The motion was approved.

### **Proposal for awarding posthumous degrees**

Dr. Camille McKayle, Provost, and Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented the proposal for awarding posthumous degrees

The policy for awarding posthumous degrees is designed to establish the minimum standard criteria and procedures under which posthumous and memoriam degrees may be recommended to the President and the UVI Board of Trustees for students enrolled at UVI. The policy establishes the minimum eligibility criteria and procedure to recognize either a student's academic achievements or connection to the University of the Virgin Islands who passed away before completing all the requirements for his/her degree.

The ARSA Committee voted unanimously to accept the proposal to approve the policy for awarding posthumous degrees. The committee's recommendation is forwarded to the full Board for review and action at its meeting on June 18, 2022.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Roebuck which was seconded by Trustee Creamer to accept the proposal to approve the policy for awarding posthumous degrees. The vote on the motion was unanimous. The motion was approved.

**Governance Committee.....Erica Johnson Creamer**

### **Report on Board Assessment**

The Chair of the Committee reported on the outcomes of the assessment survey that was completed by the members of the Board. The Chair also provided a summary of the results and provided a path to move forward.

**Planning Committee.....Dr. Lois Hassell-Habtes**

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## **Key Performance Indicators**

The Planning Committee received a report on the KPIs as linked to UVI's Strategic Plan. The report focused primarily on: Graduation Rate, Degrees Awarded, DFW Rates, Financial Aid, NSSE 2020 Inclusiveness & Engagement with Diversity, Enhancing the Student Experience, and Development Indicators.

## **Executive Session**

A motion was made by Trustee Creamer which was seconded by Trustee Quelch to move into Executive Session discuss the following matters which could be reasonably expected to result in the disclosure of information of personal nature wherein public disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, commercial information obtained where public disclosure may cause substantial injury to the competitive position of another to whom the information relates or premature disclosure that would seriously frustrate implementation of the proposed action(s), and for the Board to obtain legal advice on those matters:

1. Approve Executive Session Minutes
2. Receive a report from the President on the Vaccination Policy
3. Receive a report from the ARSA Committee
4. Receive an Update on Personnel Matters
5. Receive an Update on Legal Matters

**The Executive Session convened at 9:42am.**

## **Return to Regular Session**

Upon return to the Regular Session of the Meeting at 11:24am, the Chair reported the Board approved the following:

- Approved Executive Session Minutes of the March 5, 2022 Meeting
- Approved a modification to the vaccination policy
- Approved tenure and promotion for faculty members presented
- Approved UVI Next Recommendations presented
- Received an update from the President regarding personnel matters
- Received an update on legal matters from Legal Counsel

The Chairman thanked Board Members for their participation.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Submitted by Gail T. Steele

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There being no other business to be considered in the Regular Session, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m.