

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MARCH 5, 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  
Mr. Kyza A. Callwood, BOE  
Mrs. Nisha Clavier, Alumni Trustee (10:00am)  
Mr. John P. De Jongh  
Dr. Lois Hassell-Habtes  
Mrs. Erica Johnson Creamer  
Mr. Reginald Vigilant  
Rev. Dr. Wesley S. Williams, Jr. (10:25am)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Mrs. Racquel Berry- Benjamin, DOE  
Dr. Glenn Metts, Faculty Trustee  
Dr. John A. Quelch

**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**

The presence of a quorum having been determined, Chairman Henry C. Smock called the Regular Session of the meeting to order at 9:05am. The Chair welcomed new Trustee to the Board, John P. De Jomgh.

**Approval of Minutes October 23, 2021 Meeting**

A motion was made by Trustee Callwood which was seconded by Vice Chair Roebuck to approve the regular session minutes of October 23, 2021, November 22, and December 9. The vote on motion was unanimous. The minutes were approved.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Submitted by Gail T. Steele  
Approved by Board of Trustees: June 2022

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.

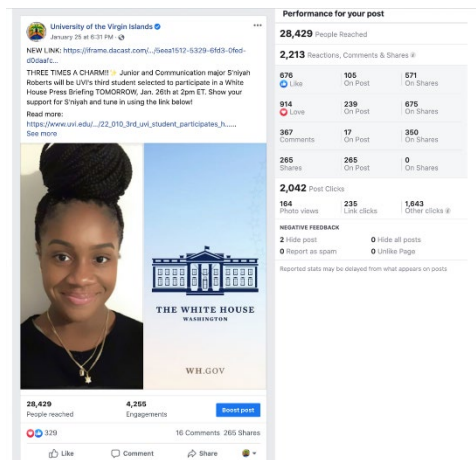
This framework has been adopted to ensure that all Components and Departments across the University are focused on areas that the University has determined are critical to our future success. I continue to be extremely impressed with the productivity and commitment of our University's students, faculty,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

## **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Wyndham Destinations, the world's largest timeshare company with one of its properties located in St. Thomas, awarded two \$10,000 Scholarships to **D'nique Potter** and **Rae'sheeda White**, first-year students enrolled in the Hospitality and Tourism Management Program at UVI. The award is to be retained by the University and applied against any future tuition payments the two students are required to make.
- Miss UVI, **Jackeima Flemming**, was crowned Miss National Black College Alumni (NBCA) Hall of Fame 2021-2022 on Saturday, November 13, 2021, in Atlanta, GA. Ms. Flemming competed among 19 other contestants from other Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and is the third UVI queen to bring the coveted crown and title home. In vying for the NBCA Hall of Fame title, Ms. Flemming was judged in the following segments: personal interview; oratory, poise, and projection, which included the evening gown segment; talent and question and answer. To first qualify to participate in the Miss NBCA Hall of Fame Competition, Ms. Flemming captured the 2021-2022 crown as Miss University of the Virgin Islands after competing against three other contestants. Ms. Flemming was supported in Atlanta by eight UVI students, Student Affairs staff, and UVI alumni.
- UVI Communication students won nine awards in the 71st annual Southern Regional Press Institute journalism competition hosted by Savannah State University on February 25, 2022. Their entries were judged against news stories from programs such as Augusta State (Bell Ringer), Savannah State (Tiger's Roar), Bethune Cookman (BUC Voice), North Carolina Central (Campus Echo), and Georgia Highlands (Six Mile Post).
  - The awards were: Best Features Photography (First Place); Best News Package (Second Place); Best Mini Documentary (Second Place); Best Podcast or Internet-Streamed Show (First Place); Best Editorial/Opinion (Third Place); Best Features Story (Third Place); Best News Story (Second Place); Best Radio Drama (Third Place); and Best Radio Drama (Second Place).
- **Kasem Thompson** and **Angelique Lettsome** were crowned Homecoming King and Queen 2021-2022 at a gala event held in the UVI Sports and Fitness Center on November 7, 2021. The event was part of the 1st HBCU Basketball Classic.
- **George Francis** (Senior, Communication major) participated in the journalist competition sponsored by Black News Channel GO HBCU Journalism Project. The most recent submission was a newspaper

article which summarized “Virtual Media Day,” a panel presentation that featured George’s questions: *Is there a future for Black journalism in America and what influence do Black journalists have upon the changing media landscape?* The premier competition was designed for students to engage in networking opportunities with an on-air talent and will receive a paid internship in Summer 2022.

- **Jane’e Joseph** (panelist, Criminal Justice major), **Eddie Gordon** (panelist), and **Kimarie Engerman** (moderator) participated in the Gun Violence Awareness Campaign and Zoom Roundtable II sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated on November 2, 2021.
- **S’niyah Roberts**, Junior and Communication major at UVI has become the third student for this academic school year to be selected to participate in the historic White House Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Journalism Press Briefings. The events are part of a White House initiative to strategically position young black journalists and media enthusiasts in unique professional settings where they can engage with key political figures. The format is modeled after official press briefings held daily for the White House press corps.



- During the Fall 2021 semester, UVI student representatives including senior, communication major, **George Francis**, and **Nadege Barber**, a junior, communication minor, participated in the first two White House HBCU Press Briefings hosted by Karine Jean-Pierre, Deputy Principal Press Secretary and Representative Cedric Richmond, Senior Advisor to the President and Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement.
- The Installation Ceremony of the Student Government Association on the Orville E. Kean Campus occurred on January 30, 2022. The executive leadership body includes:
  - **Jackeima Flemming**, President
  - **Brandon Chambers**, Vice President
  - **Nalani Figueroa**, Treasurer
  - **Tamia Grant**, Secretary
  - **Marcus Curran**
  - **Maura Richardson**
  - **Ishara Jendayi**

## STUDENT CONFERENCES AND OTHER PRESENTATIONS

Submitted by Gail T. Steele

Approved by Board of Trustees: June 2022

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

- **Adeline Shelby**. (November 2021). Assessing potential effects of water quality in St. Thomas USVI on onshore and offshore coral susceptibility to SCTLD. Advisor: *Dr. Tyler Smith*. Master of Marine and Environmental Science (MMES) Proposal Presentations, University of the Virgin Islands.
- **Alex Rivera & Madelin Yousef** (2021). Featured Poets. Sigma Tau Delta. Virtual Meetings, September and October 2021.
- **Alexanne Carr & Aletha Baumann**. (November 2021). Are mood and resilience associated with older adults' subjective memory? *Caribbean Regional Conference on Psychology*. November 15-21, 2021. St. Croix, VI.
- **Alexandra Cormack**. (November 2021). Title TBD. Advisor: *Dr. Robin Smith*. Master of Marine and Environmental Science (MMES) Proposal Presentations, University of the Virgin Islands.
- **Amanda Badai**. (November 2021). Determining the optimal ratio and frequency of Amoxicillin Trihydrate and The CoreRx/Ocean Alchemists Base 2B to treat lesions caused by Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease. Advisor: *Dr. Marilyn Brandt*. MMES Proposal Presentations, University of the Virgin Islands.
- **Arianna Athanase**, Sherree Clark-Metcalf, Nick Bednar, Abby Walker, Kathryn Campbell-Kibler, "Cross-dialect Accommodation: Effects on DRESS vowels of Engaged vs. Disengaged Interviewer." Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS). November 10. Poster Presentation. **Award Winner**.
- **Azriel Williams & Aletha Baumann**. (November 2021). Older adults' racial discrimination, subjective social status and semantic fluency. *Caribbean Regional Conference on Psychology*. November 15-21, 2021. St. Croix, VI.
- **Brittney Anderson**, Janae Bruce, and Alvin Holder "In Vitro Study of Cobalt and Copper Complexes with Thiosemicarbazone Ligand used to Treat Triple-Negative Breast Cancer." Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS). November 10, 2021. Poster Presentation.
- **Davis Strobel**. (November 2021). Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease Within USVI Coral Populations. Advisor: *Dr. Marilyn Brandt*. Master of Marine and Environmental Science (MMES) Proposal Presentations, University of the Virgin Islands.
- **Ellaina Wyllis**, Dhana Friedrich, and Angela DePace. "Transcriptional regulation by SP1 and c-myc effector domains". Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS). November 10, 2021. Poster Presentation.
- **Erin Hollander** (November 2021). The effect of algae on a common Caribbean coral disease: a review. Advisor: *Dr. Tyler Smith*. Master of Marine and Environmental Science (MMES) Proposal Presentations, University of the Virgin Islands.
- **Esonica Charles, Akilah Hodge** and *Bernard Castillo II*. "Got Lead? An Assessment of Lead, Concentration in Cistern Water on St. Croix, USVI." Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS). November 10, 2021. Poster Presentation. **Award Winner**.

- **Joy Grant & Elizabeth Jaeger.** (November 2021). *Natural Disasters and the Transition to College in the Virgin Islands* [Conference Presentation]. 5th Caribbean Regional Conference on Psychology, St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands.
- **Kayla Halliday** (November 2021). The effect of Caribbean fiddler crab burrowing on the growth and restoration potential of black and white mangroves. Advisor: **Dr. Kristin Wilson Grimes.** MMES Proposal Presentations, University of the Virgin Islands.
- **Laura Palomino,** (November 2021). Creating a sustainable mangrove restoration program using citizen science: A review. Advisor: **Dr. Kristin Wilson Grimes.** Master of Marine and Environmental Science (MMES) Proposal Presentations, University of the Virgin Islands.
- **Laura Plotkin.** (November 2021). Mangrove Blue Carbon. Advisor: **Dr. Kristin Wilson Grimes.** MMES Proposal Presentations, University of the Virgin Islands.
- **Lila Uzzell.** (November 2021). Restoration Potential for a Coral-Mangrove Community in Hurricane Hole, St. John, USVI: A review. Advisor: **Dr. Kristin Wilson Grimes.** MMES Proposal Presentations, University of the Virgin Islands.
- **Madelin Yousef,** (October 2021) Feminine Incineration. UVI ENG Area Pop-up Event. Virtual Event.
- **Makayda Gustave** and Omar Christian. “*The Role of Ancestry-Driven Genetics in Disease Outcomes.*” Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS). November 10. Poster Presentation.
- **Naomi Douglas** and George Mias. “Gene Expression Reanalysis in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE).” Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS). November 10, 2021. Poster Presentation.
- **Sierrah Mueller.** (November 2021). Life history and habitat analysis of juvenile redbellied parrotfish and Caribbean hogfish: A review. Advisor: **Dr. Rick Nemeth.** Master of Marine and Environmental Science (MMES) Proposal Presentations, University of the Virgin Islands.
- **Shamoy Bideau.** (November 2021). Different genotypes of *Montastraea cavernosa* and their susceptibility to Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD). Advisor: **Dr. Marilyn Brandt.** Master of Marine and Environmental Science (MMES) Proposal Presentations, University of the Virgin Islands.
- **Race Stryker.** (November 2021). Title TBD. Advisor: David Hensely/**Dr. Paul Jobsis.** Master of Marine and Environmental Science (MMES) Proposal Presentations, University of the Virgin Islands.
- **Rebecca Gibbel.** (November 2021). The Roles of Symbiodiniaceae and Viruses in Coral Health and Disease. Advisor: **Dr. Marilyn Brandt.** Master of Marine and Environmental Science (MMES) Proposal Presentations, University of the Virgin Islands.
- **Taylor Brunson.** (November 2021). Identifying space use and foraging patterns of juvenile green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in Brewers Bay, St. Thomas using a fine scale positioning acoustic array. Advisor: **Dr. Paul Jobsis.** Master of Marine and Environmental Science (MMES) Proposal

Presentations, University of the Virgin Islands.

- **Taylor Hobbs.** (November 201). Title TBD. Advisor: MMES Proposal Presentations, University of the Virgin Islands.
- **Teh'ron Rabsatt** and *Marc Boumedine.* "K-Mean Algorithm Usage for Audio Signal Feature Detection." Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS). November 10, 2021. Poster Presentation.
- **Zachary Gregory** (November 2021). Title TBD. Advisor: *Dr. Tyler Smith.* Master of Marine and Environmental Science (MMES) Proposal Presentations, University of the Virgin Islands.

## DOCTORAL AND THESIS DEFENSES

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

- **James Michael Kowal** (December 2021) successfully defended his dissertation "*Creative leadership in congress evaluated through career and technical education policymaking: a grounded theory.*"

## MASTER'S THESIS DEFENSES

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

- **Bradley Arrington.** (November 2021). Multi-species interactive effect of macroalgae and sponges on coral larval settlement. (Unpublished master's thesis). University of the Virgin Islands.
- **Claudia Carrion Banuchi.** (October 2021). Ciguatera toxicity patterns in red hind, *Epinephelus guttatus*, on coral reefs of St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands. (Unpublished master's thesis). University of the Virgin Islands.
- **Madyson Miller.** (November 2021). Intraspecific Variation in Palatability of the Invasive Seagrass *Halophila stipulacea*. (Unpublished master's thesis). University of the Virgin Islands.
- **Kelsey Vaughn.** (November 2021). Assessment of the ability of the invasive species *Halophila stipulacea* to store sediment carbon in nearshore habitats of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. (Unpublished master's thesis). University of the Virgin Islands.

## SIGNIFICANT INSTITUTIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- INAUGURAL UVI HBCU BASKETBALL CLASSIC AND HOMECOMING
- UVI HOSTS AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN
- U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS AGRICULTURAL PLAN DEVELOPED
- TO ENHANCE AGRICULTURE PRODUCTIVITY
- RESTORATION OF 8% SALARY REDUCTION FOR UVI EMPLOYEES
- EMPLOYEE SALARY RAISE POOL IMPLEMENTED
- SUCCESSFUL PASSAGE AND ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION TO CORRECT OPERATING BUDGET
- NAMING AMENDMENT EXEMPTION PASSES INITIAL HURDLE

- PRESIDENT HALL DELIVERS KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE ANNUAL MEETING
- UVI TO HOST ONLY PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER AT AN HBCU
- COMPELLING AND STRATEGIC SUPER BOWL COMMERCIALS
- UVI CELL & UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO AWARDED 5-YEAR GRANT TO LAUNCH U.S. CARIBBEAN REGIONAL EDA UNIVERSITY CENTERS
- UVI STUDENTS SHINE AT SPECIAL PRESS BOX EVENT WITH GOVERNOR AND LT. GOVERNOR
- UVI TO CELEBRATE IT'S 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

## **PRESIDENT'S APPRECIATION AWARD**

During this critical period, the Accounting and Payroll Offices assumed responsibility for managing and implementing critical financial and payroll priorities. These activities were above and beyond the normal requirements of the Offices. These special Presidential initiatives included:

- Distributing funds to students under the Five Pillar Student Financial Support program. This program provided students with technology awards, the forgiveness of past due debt obligations, financial credits to students who paid on time, "compelling circumstances" grants and free housing for all residential students. Their efforts permitted students to receive millions of dollars in debt relief and financial support, and the entire financial aspect for the program was developed and implemented by the Accounting Office.
- Distributing the 8% Restoration Act Funds to all existing and former employees who qualified. In order to ensure that this occurred prior to Christmas, staff members from Accounting and Payroll worked during their holiday break.
- Distributing the 4% raise pool and retroactive pay to all employees.

These major projects would not have occurred without the support from Human Resources, the President's Office and other areas in the Administration and Finance component, yet we recognize the leadership, dedication and sacrifice of the Accounting and Payroll Offices under the strong leadership of Ms. Stacey Chados, Interim Controller. I am deeply appreciative of their efforts and sacrifices, and I am proud to present them with the Presidential Appreciation Award for this term.

## **Chairman's Comments**

## **Board Committee Items**

### **Foundation for the University of the Virgin Islands – FUVI Board Member Nomination**

The FUVI Board voted to recommend the nomination of **Dr. George Rosenberg** to serve as a member of the FUVI Board at its meeting held on Wednesday February 16, 2022. His name is being

Submitted by Gail T. Steele

Approved by Board of Trustees: June 2022

submitted for review and approval by the UVI Board of Trustees. His CV was provided. A motion was made by Vice Chair Roebuck which was seconded by Trustee De Jongh to approve Dr. George Rosenberg to serve on the FUVI Board of Directors. The vote on the motion was unanimously approved.

## **ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE..... Dr. JOHN A. QUELCH**

### **Executive MBA Tuition Rate Increase**

Dr. Kendra Harris, Dean of the School of Business, presented a proposal recommending an increase in the tuition and fees for the Executive MBA program. After some discussion, the committee voted unanimously to accept the recommendation to increase the tuition and fees for the Executive MBA program. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for review and action at the March 5th, 2022 meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Callwood which was seconded by Vice Chair Roebuck to approve the Executive MBA rate increase. The vote on the motion was unanimously approved.

### **Associate of Applied Science in Agricultural Business**

Dr. Usman Adamu, Dean of the School of Agriculture, presented a proposal for the Association of Applied Science in Agricultural Business degree program as approved by the faculty.

The program is designed to provide courses in the agricultural business industry. The program integrates business disciplines and other cultural business, economics, quantitative methods, and agricultural sciences. Students enrolled in the program will be prepared for careers in farm management, sales and marketing, international trade, agricultural processing, public relations, finance, and appraisal. A total of 65 to 66 credit hours are required to complete the degree program, including general education courses. 28 credit hours in required horticultural courses, and 9 to 11 credit hours of elective horticultural classes.

After some discussion, the ARSA Committee voted unanimously to accept the proposal for the Associate of Applied Science in Agricultural Business degree program. The recommendations was forwarded to the full Board for review and action at the March 5th, 2022 meeting.

### **Associate of Applied Science in General Agriculture**

Dr. Usman Adamu, Dean of the School of Agriculture, presented a proposal for the Associate of Applied Science in General Agriculture degree program as approved by the faculty.

The program is designed to provide courses in a variety of agriculture-related positions. In addition, students will gain an understanding of key principles related to animal and plant science. A total of 63



to 64 credit hours are required to complete the degree program, including general education courses, 29 credit hours of required agroecology courses, and 6 credit hours of elective agroecology courses. After some discussion, the ARSA Committee voted unanimously to accept the proposal for the Associate of Applied Science in General Agriculture degree program. The recommendations will be forwarded to the full Board for review and action at the March 5th, 2022 meeting.

After both presentations, a motion was made by Trustee Callwood which was seconded by Trustee Vigilant to approve both the AAS in Agricultural Business and in AAS in General Agriculture.. The vote on the motion was unanimously approved.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.....Henry C. Smock**  
**Ratification of Action taken by the Executive Committee in Regular Session**

Article VI, Section 1 (a) of the Bylaws of the University of the Virgin Islands states in part, “The Executive Committee may act for the Board between Board meetings, in the event of emergencies requiring Board action.” That section of the Bylaws further states, “The Executive Committee shall report to the Board at its next meeting on all actions taken by it, and the Board shall ratify or revoke such actions. The Executive Committee approved the accept the Presidents Self-Assessment for FY2020-2021 and approved the presidential goals for 2021-22.

A resolution was presented to ratify the action of the Executive Committee regarding the matter.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Roebuck which was seconded by Trustee Habtes to approve President Hall’s Self -Assessment and the Presidential goals. The vote on the motion was in favor with one abstention by Trustee Callwood.

**FINANCE AND BUDET COMMITTEE.....ORAN C. ROEBUCK**

**FY2022 Operating Budget Revision Number One**

The Finance and Budget Committee voted to recommend to the Board of Trustees the approval of the FY2022 Operating Budget Revision Number One with total operating revenues of \$51,448,718 and total expenditures and transfers of \$51,448,718.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Roebuck which was seconded by Trustee Callwood to approve FY2022 Operating Budget Revision Number One. The vote on the motion was unanimously approved.

**Authorizing Submission of the FY2023 Appropriations Request from the Government of the Virgin Islands**

The University is authorized to request a FY2022-2023 appropriation of \$44,325,553 to cover salaries, benefits, equipment, supplies, and incidental expenses of the University for its operations and programs.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Roebuck which was seconded by Trustee De Jongh to authorize Submission of the FY2023 Appropriations Request from the GVI. The vote on the motion was unanimously approved.

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE.....Dr. Lois Hassell-Habtes**

### **Key Performance Indicators/Greatness Through Innovation**

The Planning Committee received a report on the KPIs as linked to UVI's Strategic Plan: Greatness Through Innovation. The report focused primarily on Campus Safety Indicators (Clery Report), Financial Indicators, External Grants and Other Awards, and Development Indicators.

*No action required.*

### **Executive Session**

A motion was made by Trustee Callwood which was seconded by Trustee Williams 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 Free Tuition Policy,
3. Receive an update on upcoming Commencement Ceremonies,
4. Receive an Update on Medical School Project
5. Receive an Update on Personnel Matters
6. Receive an Update on Legal Matters

**The Executive Session convened at 10:30am.**

### **Return to Regular Session**

Upon return to the Regular Session of the Meeting at 1:00pm, the Chair reported the Board approved the following:

- Approved Executive Session Minutes of the October 23, 2021, November . 2021, and December 9, 2021 Meetings
- Approved a modification to the free tuition policy
- Received an up on the Medical School
- Approved the creation of an Ad Hoc Medical School Committee
- Received an update on Commencement 2022
- Received an update from the President regarding personnel matters

Submitted by Gail T. Steele

Approved by Board of Trustees: June 2022

- Received an update on legal matters from Legal Counsel

The Chairman thanked Board Members for their participation.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to be considered in the Regular Session, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:02 p.m.