

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OCTOBER 18, 2025**

**UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
ORVILLE E. KEAN CAMPUS**

**ACC FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
9:00 A.M.**

**REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. Xuri Maurice Allen  
Trinity Austrie  
Dr. Kyza A. Callwood (via TEAMS)  
Dr. Donna Christensen  
Jose Raul Carrillo  
Erica Johnson Creamer (via TEAMS)  
Dr. Safiya George, Secretary and President  
Dr. Dionne Wells Hedrington (via TEAMS)  
Carolyn Hermon-Percell  
Dr. Bert M. Petersen, Jr., Vice Chairman  
Oran C. Roebuck (via TEAMS)  
Henry C. Smock, Chairman  
Mitchell Turnbull  
Reginald Vigilant (via TEAMS)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

John P. DeJongh, Jr. (excused)

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Dr. Lora Bailey, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Dr. Una C. Dyer, Vice President for Strategic Affairs and Executive Director of FUVI  
Sharlene Harris, Vice President Information Services & Institutional Assessment  
Dr. Pamela Moolenaar Wirsy, Vice President of Student Success and Innovation  
Michael Morsberber, VP Institutional Advancement  
Dr. Rick Nader, Vice President for Research and Economic Development  
Guadalupe Valencia, Interim Vice President for Administration & Finance/Chief Financial Officer  
Attorney Marie Thomas Griffith, UVI Legal Counsel

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Meeting was called to order at 9:08 am by the Chairman of the Board. Chairman Smock opened the meeting with a warm welcome to trustees, guests, and newly appointed members Dr. Xuri Maurice Allen, Ms. Trinity Austrie, Ms. Carolyn Hermon-Percell and Mr. Mitchell Turnbull.

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Trustee Carrillo which was seconded by Vice-Chair Dr. Petersen to approve the minutes of June 21, 2025 meetings. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **Approval of Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Trustee Creamer which was seconded by Trustee Carrillo to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **President's Report**

President George reported steady institutional progress, highlighting a 4% increase in fall 2025 enrollment, preparations for the March 2026 accreditation review, and major grant successes including a \$7 million NSF award for the Virgin Islands Center for Autonomous Research and renewal of the NASA Space Grant. She emphasized ongoing digital transformation, cybersecurity, and HR modernization, along with new academic programs in speech pathology and nursing education. The report also celebrated student achievements such as participation in Amazon's Machine Learning University and the Thurgood Marshall Leadership Institute, and recognized Mr. Van Beverholt for his 65-acre land donation to the University. She also reported faculty publications and presentations nearly doubled over the past year, with peer-reviewed articles increasing by almost 100% from 2024 to 2025. During the June–September 2025 reporting period, UVI faculty produced at least nine peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters and delivered more than a dozen scholarly presentations at national and international conferences, including publications in *Royal Society Open Science*, *Journal of Hydrology: Regional Studies*, *East African Journal of Information Technology*, and *Marine Biology*.

## **Presidential Initiatives and Accomplishments**

### **President's Excellence Award**

President George presented the Presidential Excellence Award in recognition of their outstanding dedication, leadership, and exceptional service to the University. She commended each recipient for their professionalism, long hours, and unwavering commitment to advancing UVI's mission and strategic initiatives, particularly in areas of institutional effectiveness, student success, and operational excellence. The honorees were acknowledged for their direct support of the Office of the President and their significant contributions to UVI's progress and organizational efficiency, earning enthusiastic applause and appreciation from the trustees and attendees.

*Honorees included:*

*Una Dyer, Vice President for Strategic Affairs and Executive Director of FUVI*

*Jeannine Francis Brown, Program Manager for Presidential Communications & Special Projects*

*Jessica LaPlace, Executive Assistant*

*Louise Fontaine, Budget and Financial Analyst*

*Kierra Enrique, Psychology Major (Presidential Scholar)*

*R'Daejah Milligan, Business Management Major (Presidential Scholar)*

*Trevincia Browne, Senior Accounting Major (Presidential Scholar)*

*Darin Connor, Psychology Major (Presidential Scholar)*

### **Chairman's Comments**

Chairman Henry Smock commended the University's leadership and Board members for their continued dedication and progress under the G.R.A.N.D. Momentum Strategic Plan. He expressed appreciation for President George's efforts in advancing academic excellence, institutional transformation, and fiscal stability. Chairman Smock emphasized the importance of trustees engaging

more closely with the University’s operations and announced plans for campus tours prior to the March 2026 meeting, specifically highlighting visits to the Senepol Cattle Operation on St. Croix, the Etelman Observatory on St. Thomas, and the Van Beverholt property. He noted that such firsthand experiences would strengthen trustees’ understanding of UVI’s impact and future goals.

**Board Committee Items**

**Audit Committee ..... John P. de Jongh, Jr.**  
FY2021 single audit was completed, while audits for FY2022 through FY2024 are still in progress and are expected to be finalized by summer 2026. The committee discussed the University’s continued efforts to strengthen internal controls and improve the timeliness of audit submissions. Updates were also provided on ongoing internal audit reviews, which focus on enhancing accountability, risk management, and financial transparency across the institution. Additionally, the committee reviewed the FY2026 Risk Assessment and Audit Plan, noting that it will be updated to align with international audit standards and institutional priorities. No board action was required on this item.

**Development Committee ..... Erica Johnson Creamer**  
Development Committee report highlighted that the UVI received \$4.8 million in donations and \$3.15 million in pledges for FY 2025, with approximately 67 percent directed to the Foundation for UVI (FUVI). Trustee Creamer commended the Institutional Advancement team for their success in expanding donor engagement, building new partnerships, and supporting initiatives in marine science and the blue economy. A motion to amend the resolution to include a 100% trustee giving goal was made by Trustee Roebuck and seconded by Trustee Carrillo. The amended resolution of setting the FY 2026 fundraising goal at \$5 million, an alumni giving rate of 6–8%, and a trustee giving rate of 100% was then moved by Trustee Creamer and seconded by Trustee Christensen and approved unanimously.

**Executive Committee ..... Henry C. Smock**  
Chairman Smock summarized the committee’s September 18, 2025, meeting, during which members reviewed and approved President George’s Self-Assessment for FY 2024–2025 and Presidential Goals for FY 2025–2026 with suggested revisions. The goals were described as ambitious, focusing on increasing enrollment by 7%, addressing deferred maintenance, establishing new academic partnerships, and advancing operational efficiency. Chairman Smock commended President George for her leadership and invited her to comment on the scope of the initiatives. She expressed confidence in her team’s ability to meet the outlined goals and reaffirmed her commitment to advancing student success and institutional growth. A motion to ratify the Executive Committee’s action approving the President’s Self-Assessment and Goals was made by Trustee Roebuck, seconded by Trustee Creamer, and approved unanimously.

**Planning Committee.....Jose Raul Carrillo**  
Trustee Carrillo presented updates on the University’s KPIs aligned with the G.R.A.N.D. Momentum Strategic Plan. Highlights included a 4% increase in fall 2025 enrollment, 70% retention rate, 82% student satisfaction, 11% alumni engagement, and \$4.8 million in FY2025 contributions. Dr. Lora Bailey reported that an interactive KPI dashboard, developed by Ms. Laurie Blake in the Office of Institutional Research, will support data-driven decision-making.

During discussion, Trustee Roebuck asked how the dashboard would improve enrollment, retention, and alumni engagement. Dr. Bailey explained that it would provide real-time data to enhance accountability and guide institutional planning. No action was required on this item.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Vice Chair Dr. Petersen which was seconded by Trustee Callwood to move into Executive Session to 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 ARSA Committee
3. Receive a report from the Finance and Budget Committee
4. Receive an Update on Personnel Matters
5. Receive an Update on Legal Matters

The vote on the motion was unanimous. The Executive Session convened at 11:37am

Upon return to the regular session of the meeting at 12:08 pm, the Chair reported the following:  
In the Executive session the Board took the following actions:

- Approved the minutes of June 21, 2025, Executive Session.
- Approved two resolutions from the Finance and Budget Committee.
- Received reports from the Academic, Research, and Student Affairs Committee.
- Discussed personnel and legal matters.

The Chair thanked the President, trustees, and staff for their continued dedication and collaboration in advancing the University's mission.

## **Adjournment**

Having no other business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting of the Board of Trustees at 12:12 pm.