



**Virginia LGBTQ+ Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes**

**Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023**

**Time: 12:00pm**

**Location: Longwood University Upchurch University Center, Farmville, VA**

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**Board Members Present:**

- Joanna Keller (Chair)
- Demas Boudreaux (Vice-Chair)
- Preston Main (Secretary)
- Collin Hite
- Clarke Cooper
- Kerry Flynn

**Board Members Absent:**

- Phil Kazmierczak
- Thomas Turner
- Jason Geske
- Jonathan Dromgole
- Kevin Han
- Dr. Monica Motley
- Neil Butler

**Board Members Virtual:**

- Michael Berlucchi
- Jeffrey Hoeflich-Nickels
- Tuan Ho
- Derrick Pitts
- Teri Crawford Brown

**No Quorum: 6 out of 17 board members present.**

**Non-Members in Attendance:**

- Youngkin Administration:
  - Emma Jensen – Director, Board Administration
- Office of the Attorney General: (Virtual)
  - Josh Law – Senior Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General



- Public:
  - No members of the public present

**I. Call to Order at 12:22 pm**

**II. Board Business:**

**A. Approval of Previous Minutes**

Unable to approve as no quorum present.

**B. Presentation: Wellness Resources and Mental Health Workforce Pilot**

Dr. Maureen Walls-McKay, Associate Vice President for Health & Well Being  
Cameron Patterson, Vice President for Student Affairs, Longwood University  
Larissa Smith, Provost, and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Larissa Smith welcomed the board and provided some background history of Longwood University. Third oldest institution of higher education only behind William and Mary and University of Virginia. First state teachers' college for white women. 1959-1964 county closed schools in opposition of forced segregation. History forms the school's mission statement. Curriculum prepares students to be engaged citizens as well as professionals. Longwood offers a minor in women's gender and sexuality studies. Brock Experience Program is a new program consisting of domestic travel courses allowing students to explore an unresolved civic issue across the United States such as Yellowstone, Chesapeake Bay, and San Francisco.

Cameron Patterson spoke to the board about student affairs at Longwood University. Just finished his tenure with the African American Advisory Board so he appreciates the hard work of the board. Student affairs oversees a large part of student life including supporting their health and wellbeing. Strives to be a campus community to be active and well, also to be themselves. Help students create a sense of wellbeing. Strive to ensure students are able to be themselves on campus. Many of the offerings by the University are shared with Hampden-Sydney College in an effort to help stay connected.

Dr. Maureen Walls-McKay spoke about the various offerings of Student Affairs. Campus Rec recently reviewed policy for fitness center to be more inclusive in language in policy and within the building. University Health offers affirming care operating under the theme of self being. All students are heard and matter. Dr Walls-McKay reviewed student demographic statistics including those of the LGBTQ+ community. University is working with the Commonwealth on a mental health workforce pilot program. The university offers more than just one-on-one counseling, in the form of group programs. The school also offers a crisis wellbeing support line for all students. Using a grant program to reach out to and assist marginalized students.



### **C. Chair Update and Annual Report Presentation Debrief**

Met with the governor and administration yesterday to go over the annual report. Chairwoman thanked the board members for putting the report together and keeping it precise and informational. Clarke asked if anything was notable from the meeting. Demas said the meeting was very successful and positive. Trans-Student educational policy was the only point where there were some disagreements, however, the Governor found middle ground with the board. Demas would like the board to find more common ground with the Governor and his agenda while also representing our community. Governor Youngkin asked questions throughout and made several notes during the meeting. Discussed Governor's mental health three year program. Collin asked why the rest of the board was not made aware of the meeting. Emma advised the Governor requested to only meet with the Board's Chair and Vice-Chair for annual report reviews. Chairwoman Keller requested Emma make the annual report available on the board website, in addition to other improvements. Demas reminded board members to prioritize their attendance at the meetings so work can continue. Our board was one of two with their reports turned in on time. No meeting in December. Demas requested future forecasts of quorum when sending out meeting agenda and reminders. Chairwoman will work with Emma on getting notification and quorum numbers out more in advance of meetings. Collin recommended making the November meetings to virtual, so the elections are more likely to happen.

### **D. VA LGBTQ+ Advisory Board 2024 Brainstorm**

- **Identify policy priorities**

Demas advised the board is working more cohesively together and would like to come up with some priorities we can work with the Governor on as a board. Clarke reminded the board we can have topics riding on legislation. Tuan asked if the board was limited to communication with the Governor only through the board. The Board can write a letter at any point to the Governor, following proper established chain of command. Chairwoman reminded the board we report to the Governor and should not be speaking to legislatures as a board. Demas advised he can research upcoming legislative items and bring them to the January meeting. Demas asked if the board wanted someone from Equality Virginia come to the next board meeting and report on upcoming legislative topics. Collin advised Equality Virginia has a legislative tracker on their website. Clarke recommended the board look at other states, with similar governor mindsets, such as Governor Herbert, and what they have done to benefit our community and use those in our reports and informational letters. One key factor is LGBTQ+ youth homelessness. Tuan will look at finding a speaker on one of the four issues listed below.

Issues important to the Board:

- LGBTQ+ youth homelessness
- Trans healthcare access
- Identification issues in schools



- Safety best practices
- **Choose meeting dates and locations**

Discussion held among members about attendance and what constituted attendance.

  - **January:**
    - **January 17**
    - **Virtual**
    - **Board Election**
    - **Issues Agreed on**
  - **March:**
    - **March 20**
    - **Richmond location (Markel)**
    - **Issue Development**
  - **May:**
    - **May 15**
    - **Staunton or Southwest Virginia location**
    - **Committee Drafts Due**
  - **July:**
    - **July 17**
    - **Northern Virginia location**
    - **Final Report Review by the Board**
  - **September:**
    - **September 18**
    - **Norfolk location (Possible Chrysler Museum)**
    - **Final Report**
  - **November**
    - **November 13**
    - **Virtual**
    - **Board Elections**
- **Consider special events**

Chairwoman would like us to take part in more public events next year. Chairwoman Keller will obtain a 6-foot banner for the board. The board should look at the Virginia Pride Guide for upcoming events to attend and decide at a later meeting which events board members will attend.

Known events to look at for next year:

- RVA Pride Event: September
- Hampton Roads Pride: June 21-23, main event on June 22
- Staunton: October



**E. Prepare for Officer Elections**

No quorum present to hold elections. Elections will be attempted again during the January Virtual Meeting.

**III. Public Comment**

No public comment

**IV. Adjournment (3:07 pm)**