



COLLEGE GOVERNING BOARD ACCOUNTABILITY ASSESSMENTS:

Virginia



Final Report • July 2022



**Partners for
College Affordability**
AND PUBLIC TRUST



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In summer 2022, Partners for College Affordability and Public Trust (Partners) conducted the College Governing Board Accountability Assessments, evaluating the governing boards of Virginia's public institutions of higher education. The project's objective is to provide insight into the policies and practices of these governing boards to assess the degree to which their members are transparent, accessible, and receptive to students and the public. This report is a follow-up to a previous iteration of this report that was released in January 2021 to evaluate any changes that may have been made to board practices and policies.

The College Governing Board Accountability Assessments were conducted through observation and review of publicly available information related to board policies and practices, including historic meeting records, board bylaws and policies, board notices, and communications channels. An assessment rubric was used to score each governing board in three areas: board transparency, member accessibility, and board receptiveness. Each institution was provided a preliminary assessment report and given an opportunity to provide feedback or clarifications before the final report was issued. Following this period, scores for several institutions were adjusted because of their clarifications or changes made to their practices.

The total scores received by each institution in 2022 assessments range from 63.0 to 92.6 percent with an average total score of 75.8 percent, a notable – 5.8 percent – improvement over the average score in the previous assessments. In 2020, the total scores for each institution ranged from 54.2 to 88.9 percent with an average total score of 70.0 percent.

The highest scoring institution was Virginia Commonwealth University (92.6 percent), followed closely by the University of Mary Washington (88.9 percent), the University of Virginia (83.3 percent) and George Mason University (81.5 percent). The lowest scoring institutions were Old Dominion University (66.7 percent), Radford University (66.7 percent), and Virginia State University (63.0 percent).

Performance was strongest in Board Transparency with an average score of 95.6 percent and eleven institutions receiving perfect scores. This shows an improvement over the 2020 assessments, where the average score was 88 percent. Performance in the Board Receptiveness category also improved by 6.5 percent over the previous assessments, from 66.1 to 72.6 percent. Member Accessibility remained the lowest scoring of the three categories, with an average score of 59.3 percent – only a 3 percent increase from the previous average of 56.3 percent. The greatest overall improvements were seen in the scores of three institutions, with each receiving a score 18.5 percent higher score than their previous one – Longwood University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Virginia Military Institute. James Madison University and Virginia Tech also saw significant improvement – 14.8 percent – over their previous score.

Three institutions received a score notably lower than their previous score: George Mason University (7.5 percent lower), Old Dominion University (15.3 percent lower), and Radford University (7.3 percent lower). The discontinuation of practices adopted during the pandemic appears to correlate with these drops in performance. Since returning to in-person meetings, Old Dominion University and Radford University stopped providing the public with an option to observe board meetings remotely (off-campus). After previously holding public comment in the presence of the full board during a regularly scheduled meeting, George Mason University and Old Dominion University now hold public comment during non-regularly scheduled board meetings in the absence of a quorum of the full board.

To provide for greater transparency and accountability in the board governance of Virginia's public colleges and universities, Partners recommends the adoption of the following policies and practices:

- 1. Provide options to observe all board meetings remotely (off-campus) and post the recordings for public record**
- 2. List public contact information for each board member, including email addresses**
- 3. Accept verbal public comment on all board agenda items and topics during all meetings of the full board and committees**
- 4. Accept written public comment on all board agenda items and topics on a rolling basis**
- 5. Promote opportunities for public comment through a variety of communication channels, including the institution's primary social media platforms with the widest audience**

Institutional Report Card

INSTITUTION	TOTAL		BOARD TRANSPARENCY		MEMBER ACCESSIBILITY		BOARD RECEPTIVENESS	
Christopher Newport University	70%	C-	100%	A	44%	F	67%	D
College of William & Mary	78%	C+	100%	A	44%	F	89%	B
George Mason University	82%	B-	100%	A	67%	D	78%	C
James Madison University	70%	C-	89%	B	67%	D	56%	F
Longwood University	74%	C	78%	C	56%	F	89%	B
Norfolk State University	74%	C	78%	C	56%	F	89%	B
Old Dominion University	67%	D	100%	A	44%	F	56%	F
Radford University	67%	D	100%	A	33%	F	67%	D
University of Mary Washington	89%	B+	100%	A	78%	C	89%	B
University of Virginia	83%	B	94%	A	89%	B	67%	D
Virginia Commonwealth University	93%	A-	100%	A	78%	C	100%	A
Virginia Community College System	78%	C+	100%	A	78%	C	56%	F
Virginia Military Institute	78%	C+	100%	A	56%	F	78%	C
Virginia State University	63%	D	100%	A	44%	F	44%	F
Virginia Tech	74%	C	100%	A	56%	F	67%	D
Average	76%	C	96%	A	59%	F	73%	C

INSTITUTION	CHANGE		2022 TOTAL SCORE		2021 TOTAL SCORE	
Christopher Newport University	8%	↑	70%	C-	63%	D-
College of William & Mary	4%	↑	78%	C+	74%	C
George Mason University	-7%	↓	82%	B-	89%	B+
James Madison University	15%	↑	70%	C	56%	F
Longwood University	19%	↑	74%	C	55%	F
Norfolk State University	0%	-	74%	C	74%	C
Old Dominion University	-15%	↓	67%	D	82%	B-
Radford University	-7%	↓	67%	D	74%	C
University of Mary Washington	7%	↑	89%	B+	82%	B-
University of Virginia	-2%	↓	83%	B	85%	B
Virginia Commonwealth University	19%	↑	93%	A-	74%	C
Virginia Community College System	7%	↑	78%	C	70%	C-
Virginia Military Institute	19%	↑	78%	C+	59%	F
Virginia State University	9%	↑	63%	D	54%	F
Virginia Tech	15%	↑	74%	C	59%	F
Average	6%	-	76%	C	70%	C-

METHODOLOGY

The 225 members of Virginia's college governing boards – the Boards of Visitors and the State Board for Community Colleges – make significant decisions that have lasting impact on Virginia and its students. While these individuals are appointed by the Governor of Virginia to govern some of the Commonwealth's largest enterprises, many students and members of the public know very little about these individuals and the important role these boards play in higher education and the overall economic health and welfare of the state.

According to Virginia law, public college governing board members have a public duty; as such, they should be transparent, accessible, and receptive to students, citizens, and other stakeholders. This project sets out to evaluate each governing board's public transparency and accountability practices by auditing institutional board websites, publicly available board information and meeting materials, board bylaws and policies, board notices and communications channels, and board practices. The assessment was conducted between 06/01/2022 and 06/15/2022 and its findings were made based on the performance descriptors detailed in the evaluation rubric.

The evaluation rubric is divided into three sections worth nine points each: Board Transparency, Member Accessibility, and Board Receptiveness. The Board Transparency section focuses on the publicly available information on individual board members, board records and materials, and public notice of upcoming board meetings. The Member Accessibility section focuses on how easy or difficult it is for members of the public to attend board meetings, communication with members of the public, and member engagement in hearing public testimony. The Board Receptiveness section focuses on public comment policies and practices, including how public comment opportunities are promoted, whether these policies and practices allow for maximum participation, and how often these opportunities are permitted. Since the 2021 assessments, the rubric was revised to better distinguish between the evolving practices of each governing board and provide greater clarity in the language.

Overall scoring is based on performance indicators on a 3-point rating scale for a possible 27 total points. Rubric scores were converted to a percentage grade by dividing the points earned by the total points possible (27) and rounded to the nearest tenth of a percentage point. Letter grades were then issued based on the following plus/minus grading scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Score
A	90-100%
B	80-89.9%
C	70-79.9%
D	60-69.9%
F	Below 60%




In addition to the overall score, scores were issued for each of the evaluation's three sections by converting points into a percentage grade and rounded to the nearest tenth of a percentage point. Letter grades were issued on the following A-F grading scale.

Letter Grade	Percentage Score	Letter Grade	Percentage Score	Letter Grade	Percentage Score	Letter Grade	Percentage Score	Letter Grade	Percentage Score
A+	97-100%	B+	87-89.9%	C+	77-79.9%	D+	67-69.9%	F	Below 60%
A	93-96.9%	B	83-86.9%	C	73-76.9%	D	63-66.9%		
A-	90-92.9%	B-	80-82.9%	C-	70-72.9%	D-	60-62.9%		




This preliminary report will have a limited release and circulation to allow for a 2-week period for institutions to provide clarifying information that might affect the assessments contained in the final report. The final assessment report will be published and conveyed to state policymakers.



BOARD TRANSPARENCY

 <p>BOARD MEMBERSHIP</p>	<p>The board website identifies board membership by including member names, term dates, appointing governors, headshots, occupational background, and detailed biographies, providing the public a clear understanding of who the board members are.</p>	<p>The board website identifies board membership by including member names, term dates, appointing governors, headshots, occupational background, and limited biographical information, providing the public an adequate understanding of who the board members are.</p>	<p>The board website identifies board membership by including member names, term dates, appointing governors, and limited background or biographical information, providing the public an unclear understanding of who the board members are.</p>	<p>The board website does not identify board membership.</p>
 <p>BOARD RECORDS & MATERIALS</p>	<p>Detailed board meeting records are posted routinely to the board website where they are visible and are easily accessed by the public and include the following: meeting schedules, pre-meeting materials, meeting minutes of the full board and board committees, and any board presentations.</p>	<p>Board meeting records are posted routinely to the board website where they are visible and are easily accessed by the public and include the following: meeting schedules, and meeting minutes of the full board and board committees.</p>	<p>Board meeting records are posted routinely to the board website where they are visible and are easily accessed by the public and include the following: meeting minutes of the full board.</p>	<p>Board meeting records are not posted routinely to the board website where they are visible and are easily accessed by the public.</p>
 <p>MEETING NOTICES</p>	<p>A schedule of board meeting dates is clearly and prominently posted on the board website. Meeting notices are posted or cross-posted directly to the board website, listing the dates, times, and locations of each meeting of the full board and any board committees. Meeting notices specify meeting facilities or buildings, meeting rooms, and other relevant information such as public comment policies, parking availability, security protocol, and room capacity.</p>	<p>A schedule of board meeting dates is clearly and prominently posted to the board website. Meeting notices are posted or cross-posted directly on the board website, listing the dates, times, and locations of each meeting of the full board.</p>	<p>A schedule of board meeting dates is posted on the board website. Meeting notices are not posted or cross-posted directly to the board website but are posted elsewhere on the institution's website.</p>	<p>A schedule of upcoming board meeting dates is not listed on the board's website. Meeting notices are not posted or cross-posted directly to the board website or posted elsewhere on the institution's website.</p>
<p>CRITERIA</p>	<p>Excellent (3)</p>	<p>Sufficient (2)</p>	<p>Needs Improvement (1)</p>	<p>Poor (0)</p>



MEMBER ACCESSIBILITY				
 <p>PUBLIC MEETINGS</p>	<p>Board meetings are conducive to public attendance with audience seating available. An option to observe both full board meetings and board committee meetings remotely (off-campus) is routinely provided to members of the public. Meeting recordings or transcripts of meetings held in-person or remotely are archived on the board's website for public record.</p>	<p>Board meetings are conducive to public attendance with audience seating available. An option to observe full board meetings remotely (off-campus) is routinely provided to members of the public. Meeting recordings or transcripts of meetings held remotely are archived on the board's website for public record.</p>	<p>Board meetings are conducive to public attendance with audience seating available for members of the public. An option to observe board meetings remotely (off-campus) is sometimes provided to members of the public. Meeting recordings or transcripts of meetings may be archived on the board's website for public record.</p>	<p>Board meetings are not conducive to public attendance with limited audience seating available for members of the public. An option to observe board meetings remotely (off-campus) is not provided to members of the public. Meeting recordings or transcripts are not archived on the board's website for public record.</p>
 <p>MEMBER COMMUNICATION</p>	<p>Each individual board member is directly accessible to the public through a form of direct communication, including a unique email address for each board member. All contact information is prominently listed on the board website.</p>	<p>Each individual board member is directly accessible to the public through a form of direct communication, not including a unique email address for each board member. All contact information is prominently listed on the board website.</p>	<p>Board members are indirectly accessible to members of the public through a general or designated point-of-contact listed prominently on the board website.</p>	<p>No contact information for the board is listed on the board website.</p>
 <p>MEMBER ENGAGEMENT</p>	<p>Public comment is regularly received in the presence of the quorum of the full board. Written comments are distributed timely to all board members and prior to the board's consideration of the subject(s) that the comments address.</p>	<p>Public comment is sometimes, but not always, received in the presence of a quorum of the full board. Written comments are distributed timely to all board members and prior to the board's consideration of the subject(s) that the comments address.</p>	<p>Public comment is received during special or non-regular meetings with only a limited number of board members present. Written comments are distributed timely to all board members and prior to the board's consideration of the subject(s) that the comments address.</p>	<p>Public comment is not taken prior to the board's consideration of tuition and fee rate proposals in the presence of a minimum of three board members, as required by Virginia law. Written comments are not distributed to all board members and prior to the board's consideration of the subject(s) that the comments address.</p>
CRITERIA	Excellent (3)	Sufficient (2)	Needs Improvement (1)	Poor (0)



BOARD RECEPTIVENESS (PUBLIC COMMENT)

 PUBLIC NOTICE	<p>Public notices of opportunities for public comment are issued timely and are clearly visible to the public. Opportunities for public comment are prominently posted to the board website, the news section of the institution's website, and promoted through social media platforms, with the process and any relevant policies clearly detailed.</p>	<p>Public notices of opportunities for public comment are clearly visible to the public. Opportunities for public comment are prominently posted to the board website, with the process and any relevant policies clearly detailed. Public comment opportunities are not promoted through social media platforms.</p>	<p>Public notices of opportunities for public comment are posted to the board website and/or news section or other section of the institution's website but are not clearly visible to the public. Public comment opportunities are not promoted through social media platforms.</p>	<p>Public notices of opportunities for public comment are not posted to the board website or the news section of the institution's website. It is unclear how opportunities for public comment are promoted to members of the public.</p>
 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	<p>The board's public comment procedures and policies allow for multiple opportunities or ways (verbal, written, electronic, etc.) for the public to give comment and do not impose stringent registration requirements for verbal public comment that may hinder participation. The board may give priority to registered participants on a first-come, first-serve basis, while opening up any remaining time to walk-in participants.</p>	<p>The board's public comment procedures and policies allow limited opportunities or ways (verbal, written, electronic, etc.) for the public to give comment, but do not impose stringent registration requirements for verbal public comment that may hinder participation.</p>	<p>The board's public comment procedures and policies allow limited opportunities for the public to give comment and imposes stringent registration requirements for verbal public comment that may hinder participation.</p>	<p>The board's public comment procedures and policies are unclear or inconsistent.</p>
 FREQUENCY	<p>The board routinely solicits public comment on all board items and topics during all regular meetings or on an ongoing basis.</p>	<p>The board solicits public comment on select board items and topics during some board meetings, including, but not limited to, board proposals on tuition and fee rates, as required by state law.</p>	<p>The board only solicits public comment prior to the consideration of board proposals on tuition and fee rates, as required by state law.</p>	<p>The board does not allow public comment on any topic at any time.</p>
CRITERIA	Excellent (3)	Sufficient (2)	Needs Improvement (1)	Poor (0)

Christopher Newport University

CRITERIA	POINTS EARNED	NOTES
BOARD TRANSPARENCY		
Board Membership	3	The board website (https://cnu.edu/whoweare/bov/) includes board member names, headshots, biographies, term dates, and hometowns. Meeting minutes for past meetings dated from 04/14/2009 are archived on the website (https://cnu.edu/whoweare/bov/minutes/).
Board Records & Materials	3	The board makes all board materials publicly available through the cloud-based board management software BoardDocs, including agendas, minutes for both the full board (since 2008-09) and board committees (since 2018-19), and other meeting materials (https://go.boarddocs.com/va/cnu/Board.nsf/Public).
Meeting Notices	3	The board's website lists all board meetings for the current academic year (2021-22) (https://cnu.edu/whoweare/bov/schedule/). Meeting schedules posted to BoardDocs list the time and location (building and meeting room) for meetings of the board committees and the full board (https://go.boarddocs.com/va/cnu/Board.nsf/files/CD6RF-V6D4159/\$file/BOV%20Schedule%20April%2014%202022.pdf).
	9/9 (100%) = A	
MEMBER ACCESSIBILITY		
Public Meetings	1	Board meeting rooms are readily accessible to members of the public and conducive to public attendance with audience seating available for members of the public. An option to observe full board meetings and board committee meetings remotely (off-campus) was provided when the board met electronically during the pandemic (11/13/20, 02/12/21), but remote viewing options have not been made available to members of the public since returning to in-person meetings. Meeting recordings or transcripts are not archived on the board's website for public record.
Member Communication	1	Individual board members are indirectly accessible to members of the public through a general email address (bov@cnu.edu), which is prominently listed on the board's website and BoardDocs.
Member Engagement	2	According to board policy 1075, at least three board members are present during opportunities for public comment and written comments are provided to all board members (https://cnu.edu/public/policies/policy/general-university-policies/cnu-policy-1075_public%20comment_on_tuition_and_mandatory_fees.pdf).
	4/9 (44.4%) = F	
BOARD RECEPTIVENESS (Public Comment)		
Public Notice	2	Notice of the board's most recent opportunity for public comment (03/29/2022) was posted to the website under "Newsroom" on 03/18/2022 and was also posted on BoardDocs. The registration and/or submission process for giving public comment and any relevant policies are clearly detailed. The public comment opportunity was not posted or advertised on the institution's social media channels.
Participation	3	According to the public notice for the public comment opportunity held on 03/29/2022, speakers may register in advance via an online form or may register in-person during a 30-minute window prior to start of the meeting (https://cnu.edu/news/2022/03/18-cnu-public-comment/#skipheader). The board accepts both verbal and written public comment. Written comments are accepted through an online portal and physical mail.
Frequency	1	According to board policy 1075, the board provides an opportunity for public comment prior to a vote on proposals to increase undergraduate tuition or mandatory fees or both (https://cnu.edu/public/policies/policy/general-university-policies/cnu-policy-1075_public%20comment_on_tuition_and_mandatory_fees.pdf).
	6/9 (66.7%) = D	
TOTAL POINTS = 19/27 (70.4%) = C-		

College of William & Mary

CRITERIA	POINTS EARNED	NOTES
BOARD TRANSPARENCY		
Board Membership	3	The board website (https://www.wm.edu/about/administration/bov/members/index.php) includes board member names, headshots, biographies, term dates, committee assignments, and hometowns.
Board Records & Materials	3	The board makes board materials publicly available on their website, including meeting agendas (since 2009-10), minutes for both the full board (since 2004-05) and board committees (since 2020), meeting announcements/advisories (since 2020), meeting presentations (since 2006), and pre-reads (since 2020) (https://www.wm.edu/about/administration/bov/meetings/index.php).
Meeting Notices	3	The board website lists upcoming board meetings for the 2020-21 academic year (https://www.wm.edu/about/administration/bov/index.php). A detailed meeting schedule with meeting times and locations is posted to the board website along with a copy of the public meeting notice/advisory.
	9/9 (100%) = A	
MEMBER ACCESSIBILITY		
Public Meetings	1	Board meeting rooms are readily accessible to members of the public and conducive to public attendance with audience seating available for members of the public. An option to observe board meetings remotely (off-campus) was provided when the board met electronically during the pandemic (05/12/2020, 06/16/2020, 08/03/2020), but remote viewing options have not been made available to members of the public since. Meeting recordings of the virtual meetings is archived on the board's website for public record (https://www.wm.edu/about/administration/bov/meetings/archive/2020-2021/index.php).
Member Communication	1	Individual board members are indirectly accessible to members of the public through a general email address (bov@wm.edu) and contact form, which are clearly and prominently listed on the board website.
Member Engagement	2	According to the board's guidelines for public comment on tuition and fee increases (https://www.wm.edu/about/administration/bov/documents/resolution-26-tuition-guidelines.pdf), at least three board members are present during opportunities for public comment and written comments are provided to all board members.
	4/9 (44.4%) = F	
BOARD RECEPTIVENESS (Public Comment)		
Public Notice	3	Notices of public comment opportunities are posted to the institution's website under "Campus Announcements," promoted on social media channels by the institution's Office of News and Media (W&M News) and posted to the board website.
Participation	3	According to the board's guidelines for public comment on tuition/fee increases, speakers can sign up to provide verbal comments on a first-come, first-serve basis and pre-registration is not required. The board also provides an online form for written submissions.
Frequency	2	The board allows for public comment on certain board items and topics, including, but not limited to, tuition and fee rate-setting proposals as required by state law. On 09/23/2020, the board held a public comment hearing to "receive feedback on any issues the public wanted to raise" (https://www.wm.edu/about/administration/bov/meetings/2020-09-listen/index.php).
	8/9 (77.8%) = B	
TOTAL POINTS = 21/27 (77.8%) = C+		

George Mason University

CRITERIA	POINTS EARNED	NOTES
BOARD TRANSPARENCY		
Board Membership	3	The board website (https://bov.gmu.edu/board-membership/) includes board member names, headshots, biographies, and term dates.
Board Records & Materials	3	All board materials are publicly available on the board website for all board meetings, including agendas, meeting books, board presentations, meeting minutes. The board archives all video recordings of past meetings (4/2/2020-present) on Vimeo, prominently listing the link on the board website (https://bov.gmu.edu/recordings/).
Meeting Notices	3	The board's website lists the dates of all board meetings for the current and upcoming academic year (https://bov.gmu.edu/meeting-schedule/). The board gives notice on how members of the public can observe the meeting on the "Meeting Postings" page of the website. The meeting notices provide information on how the public can observe the meeting in-person and a link to the live-stream.
	9/9 (100%) = A	
MEMBER ACCESSIBILITY		
Public Meetings	3	The board room is readily accessible to members of the public with ample visitor seating for in-person meetings, also providing an overflow room. The board routinely provides the public an option to observe their meetings remotely by live stream. The board archives all video recordings of past meetings (4/2/2020-present) on Vimeo, prominently listing the link on the board website (https://bov.gmu.edu/recordings/).
Member Communication	1	A generic email address (BOV@gmu.edu) is listed as the contact for the board; no individual is specified as the point-of-contact that monitors the email account. Contact information to communicate with individual board members is not available.
Member Engagement	2	While the board previously allowed public comment at all committee and full board meetings, public comment opportunities are now scheduled outside the board's regular meeting schedule. All written comments are distributed timely to all board members and prior to the board's consideration of the subject(s) that the comments address.
	6/9 (66.7%) = D	
BOARD RECEPTIVENESS (Public Comment)		
Public Notice	3	Public notices of opportunities for public comment are issued timely and made visible to members of the public and are posted prominently on the board's website, the institution's news pages, and promoted through the social media platforms (George Mason News). The process for giving public comment and any relevant policies are clearly detailed.
Participation	3	The board's public comment procedures and policies promote public participation by imposing a non-restrictive registration process. The board allows for verbal and written comment. At the public comment session on 04/05/2022, the board extended the deadline for written comment an additional 16 days.
Frequency	1	While the board previously allowed public comment on all board items and topics during all committee and full board meetings, public comment opportunities are held during non-regular meetings specific to tuition and fee rate setting decisions.
	7/9 (77.8%) = C	
TOTAL POINTS = 22/27 (81.5%) = B-		

James Madison University

CRITERIA	POINTS EARNED	NOTES
BOARD TRANSPARENCY		
Board Membership	3	The board website lists board member names, headshots, biographies, term dates, committee assignments, and hometowns (https://www.jmu.edu/visitors/about/members.shtml ; https://www.jmu.edu/visitors/about/members-bios.shtml).
Board Records & Materials	2	Board materials are publicly available on the board website (www.jmu.edu/visitors), including agendas for both the full board and board committees (since 2021), minutes of the full board (since 1999), and minutes of the board committees (since 2021). Meeting presentations and reports are not posted to the website.
Meeting Notices	3	Meeting notices posted to the news section of institution's website provide information on how the public can observe the meeting remotely and are cross posted to the board website, where meeting agendas, location and times are listed (https://www.jmu.edu/news/2022/04/18-bov-meeting-notice.shtml).
	8/9 (88.9%) = B	
MEMBER ACCESSIBILITY		
Public Meetings	3	The board room is readily accessible to members of the public with ample visitor seating for in-person meetings. The board provides the public an option to observe their meetings remotely, with the board most recently utilizing a YouTube channel. Video recordings of meetings held on 04/06/2022 and 04/22/2022 can be found on the board's YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVLAEDKazi65HRDGC00c5xQ/featured).
Member Communication	1	The board is indirectly accessible to the public through general contact information, including an email (raderpm@jmu.edu), mailing address (MSC 7613, 91 Alumnae Drive, Harrisonburg, VA 22807), and phone number (540-568-3705). The board website also lists contact information for designated points-of-contact, including Donna Harper (bovsecretary@jmu.edu) and board rector Lara Major (Rector@jmu.edu). Unique contact information for each individual board member is not available.
Member Engagement	2	Public comment opportunities are scheduled during a special/non-regular meeting outside the board's regular meeting schedule of the board that allows for a limited number of board members present. Written comments from the most recent public comment period held on 04/06/2022 were distributed to board members prior to the board's consideration of proposed tuition and fee rates during a regular board meeting on 04/22/2022, according to the public notice circulated on 03/22/2022 (https://www.jmu.edu/news/2022/03/22-public-comment-tuition-fees.shtml).
	6/9 (66.7%) = D	
BOARD RECEPTIVENESS (Public Comment)		
Public Notice	2	Notice of the board's most recent opportunity for public comment was found on the news section of the institution's website and cross posted to the board website. Public comment opportunities are not promoted through social media platforms.
Participation	2	The board accepted verbal and written public comment on proposed tuition and fee rate proposals on 04/06/2022 in advance of a scheduled decision on 05/15/2020. Participants were required to schedule a five-minute time slot in advance by noon the day prior. The board also accepted written public comment by email (bovsecretary@jmu.edu) and through an online submission form (https://jmu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bCbo1SfiXzjJmS).
Frequency	1	The board sometimes allows for public comment on certain board items and topics. Verbal public is accepted during limited non-regular or special board meetings.
	5/9 (55.6%) = F	
TOTAL POINTS = 19/27 (70.4%) = C-		

Longwood University

CRITERIA	POINTS EARNED	NOTES
BOARD TRANSPARENCY		
Board Membership	1	The board website lists the names of board members along with their hometowns, class year (if a graduate of the institution), and any board positions. No headshots, biographies, or occupations are made available.
Board Records & Materials	3	All board materials are publicly available on the board website for all board meetings beginning 09/11-12/2009, including agendas, schedules, meeting materials, minutes, and video files of past meetings of meetings that were held electronically during the pandemic (http://www.longwood.edu/about/leadership/board-of-visitors/minutes/).
Meeting Notices	3	The board's website lists the dates of all board meetings for the current academic year and the two subsequent academic years (http://www.longwood.edu/about/leadership/board-of-visitors/meetings/). Meeting agendas posted the website under "Minutes & Meeting Materials" list the time and location (building and meeting room) of board meetings (http://www.longwood.edu/about/leadership/board-of-visitors/minutes/).
	7/9 (77.8%) = C	
MEMBER ACCESSIBILITY		
Public Meetings	1	The board room is readily accessible to members of the public with visitor seating for in-person meetings. While the board offered an option for the public to observe meetings remotely via Zoom when the board met remotely during the pandemic from 05/15/2022 to 03/19/2021, remote viewing options have not been made available to members of the public since returning to in-person meetings. Video/audio files from board meetings held electronically during the pandemic from 05/15/2022 to 03/19/2021 are archived on the board website.
Member Communication	1	An email address for a board representative, Kay Stokes (stokeskl@longwood.edu) is listed on the board website as the board's points-of-contact. Contact information to communicate with individual board members is not listed.
Member Engagement	3	According to the Longwood University Board of Visitors Bylaws (http://www.longwood.edu/about/leadership/board-of-visitors/bylaws/), the board allows members of the public to address the board during every meeting by notifying the Office of the President at least 72 hours before. The board's public comment policy predates the state mandate. According to a notice for a board meeting held on 06/06/2022, electronic comment and verbal comment were accepted, noting that the electronic comments would be provided to the board members (http://www.longwood.edu/media/presidents-office/public-site/board-of-visitors/Longwood-University-Board-of-Visitors-to-consider-tuition-and-fees-for-2022.pdf).
	5/9 (55.6%) = F	
BOARD RECEPTIVENESS (Public Comment)		
Public Notice	2	Notices of public comment opportunities prior to board decisions on tuition and fee rates (06/12/2020, 06/11/2021, 06/06/2022) are posted to the institution's website under "Minutes & Meeting Materials." While the board's bylaws allow for public comment at every board meeting, only the public comment opportunities at the aforementioned meetings were mentioned in a public notice (http://www.longwood.edu/about/leadership/board-of-visitors/minutes/2021---2022-minutes/). Public comment opportunities are not promoted through social media platforms.
Participation	3	According to the board bylaws, participants must provide the board with 72 hours' notice to give public comment. The public notices for the public comment opportunities prior to board decisions on tuition and fee rates (06/12/2020, 06/11/2021, 06/06/2022) do not make any mention of this requirement for preregistration. According to these aforementioned public notices, electronic (written) public comment was accepted via email (http://www.longwood.edu/media/presidents-office/public-site/board-of-visitors/Longwood-University-Board-of-Visitors-to-consider-tuition-and-fees-for-2022.pdf).
Frequency	3	The board allows for public comment at every board meeting in accordance with the board bylaws (http://www.longwood.edu/about/leadership/board-of-visitors/bylaws/).
	8/9 (88.9%) = B	
TOTAL POINTS = 20/27 (74.1%) = C		

Norfolk State University

CRITERIA	POINTS EARNED	NOTES
BOARD TRANSPARENCY		
Board Membership	1	The board website lists the names of board members along with their headshots, hometowns, term dates, and any board positions (https://www.nsu.edu/board-of-visitors/members). No biographies or occupational information are available.
Board Records & Materials	3	The board makes board materials publicly available on their website, including meeting agendas for meetings of board committee and the full board (since 2016), minutes for both the full board and board committees (since 2016), meeting boards/pre-reads with meeting presentations (since 2021), and archived video recordings and transcripts of meetings held remotely from 05/7/2020 through 06/30/2021 (https://www.nsu.edu/bov/agenda-and-minutes-2021).
Meeting Notices	3	A meeting schedule through the 2022-2023 academic year is posted prominently on the board website (https://www.nsu.edu/About/Leadership-and-Initiatives/Office-of-the-President/Board-of-Visitors/Upcoming-Meetings). Links to meeting notices that provide the meeting times and locations and information detailing how the public may observe the meeting are posted prominently to the board website prior to the meeting date (https://www.nsu.edu/board-of-visitors).
	7/9 (77.8%) = C	
MEMBER ACCESSIBILITY		
Public Meetings	1	Board meeting rooms are readily accessible to members of the public and conducive to public attendance with audience seating available for members of the public. An option to observe board meetings remotely was provided when the board met electronically during the pandemic (05/7/2020 through 06/30/2021), but remote viewing options have not been made available to members of the public since returning to in-person meetings. Meeting videos and transcripts of remotely held meetings are archived on the website for public record.
Member Communication	1	Individual board members are indirectly accessible to members of the public through a general email address (bovbe@nsu.edu), mailing address, phone number and fax number which are clearly and prominently listed on the board website (https://www.nsu.edu/board-of-visitors/contact-us).
Member Engagement	3	According to BOV Policy #36 (2019), public comment will be permitted during the regular board meeting that the board is scheduled to consider any proposed increase in undergraduate tuition and fees (https://www.nsu.edu/getattachment/About/Leadership-and-Initiatives/Office-of-the-President/NSU-Policy-Library/Policies/BOV-Policy/BOV-Policy-36-Tuition-and-Fees-Public-Comment-Policy.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US). While Board Policy #36 only requires public comment pertaining to proposed tuition and fee increases, the board (in practice) has permitted both written and oral public comment at full board meetings since 04/21/2020 according to the meeting notices and meeting agendas on the board website (https://www.nsu.edu/About/Leadership-and-Initiatives/Office-of-the-President/Board-of-Visitors/Upcoming-Meetings). According to BOV Policy #36, all written comments and a transcript of oral comments are included in the board's meeting minutes.
	5/9 (55.6%) = F	
BOARD RECEPTIVENESS (Public Comment)		
Public Notice	2	Prior to the board's return to in-person meetings, the process for giving or submitting public comment during remote meetings was clearly detailed on the public notices posted to the board's website. The Zoom webinar registration form where the public could register to observe meetings remotely included three checkboxes where participants could opt to provide written comment (directed to atalbritton@nsu.edu), verbal comment, or no comment. Instructions for providing public comment at upcoming meetings are detailed in the meeting agendas posted to the board website. The public notice dated 04/05/2022 regarding the consideration of tuition and fee rates at the 05/06/2022 meeting solicited written comment by email (cost_of_education@nsu.edu) but did not mention the process for providing verbal comment during the meeting (https://www.nsu.edu/News/2022/April/Notice-Regarding-Changes-to-Tuition-and-Fees). Public comment opportunities are not promoted through social media platforms.
Participation	3	Beginning on 05/27/2020, the board has regularly allowed both verbal and written comment at board meetings. While BOV Policy #36 limits speaking time for participants who do not provide the board with 48 hours' notice to one minute, this restriction does not appear to be enforced in practice as no registration deadline is posted on the meeting notices.
Frequency	3	The board has permitted both verbal and public comment at every meeting of the full board (since 05/27/2020) on all agenda items, according to the meeting notices on the board website (https://www.nsu.edu/About/Leadership-and-Initiatives/Office-of-the-President/Board-of-Visitors/Upcoming-Meetings). The board also allowed public comment during board committee meetings from 05/27/2020 until 08/27/2021.
	8/9 (88.9%) = B	
TOTAL POINTS = 20/27 (74.1%) = C		

Old Dominion University

CRITERIA	POINTS EARNED	NOTES
BOARD TRANSPARENCY		
Board Membership	3	The board website includes member names, headshots, biographies, class year (if a graduate of the university), board positions, and term dates (https://www.odu.edu/about/bov/members).
Board Records & Materials	3	The board makes board materials publicly available on their website, including agendas, meeting minutes, board presentations ("Board of Visitors Dashboard"), and video recordings. Meeting materials for all past meetings dated from the 2012-2013 academic year to present are archived on the website (https://www.odu.edu/about/bov/agendas-minutes). Video recordings of all meetings held virtually during the pandemic are posted to the website.
Meeting Notices	3	The board website lists the board meeting dates through the current academic year (https://www.odu.edu/about/bov) along with links to meeting notices and agendas listing detailed meeting information including meeting times and locations (building and meeting rooms).
	9/9 (100%) = A	
MEMBER ACCESSIBILITY		
Public Meetings	1	Board meeting rooms are readily accessible to members of the public and conducive to public attendance with audience seating available for members of the public. An option to observe board meetings remotely was provided when the board met electronically during the pandemic (03/23/2020 through 04/22/2021). When the board resumed in-person meetings on 06/17/2021, a Zoom link was listed in the public meeting notice to allow the public the option to observe the meetings in-person or remotely. For the next three consecutive quarterly board meetings (09/14/2021, 12/10/2021, and 04/22/2022), which were all held in-person, the public was able to observe the meetings on-campus in designated viewing rooms on-campus where the meeting was streamed, but an option to view the meeting remotely (off-campus) was no longer provided. Meeting videos and transcripts of remotely held meetings are archived on the website for public record.
Member Communication	1	Board members are indirectly accessible to members of the public through general contact information listed on the board website, including an email address (BoardofVisitors@odu.edu), physical address, phone number, and fax number. Contact information to communicate with individual board members is not available.
Member Engagement	2	While board policy 1106 states that public comment will be held in the presence of a minimum of three board members prior to the board's consideration of proposed tuition and fee rates, the board allowed either verbal or written public comment at full board meetings between 04/23/2020 and 09/14/2021 (https://www.odu.edu/content/dam/odu/offices/bov/policies/1100/bov1106.pdf). According to the meeting notices for the aforementioned meetings, submitted comments were distributed to the board prior to the meeting. Since 09/14/2021, the board has only accepted public comment during a special/non-regular meeting held on 03/28/2022 following meetings of the Executive Committee and the Governance Committee.
	4/9 (44.4%) = F	
BOARD RECEPTIVENESS (Public Comment)		
Public Notice	2	The process for giving or submitting public comment is clearly detailed on the public notices of each full board meeting on board's website. Public comment opportunities are not promoted through social media platforms.
Participation	2	In accordance with the board bylaws updated on 09/14/2021, the board will accept public comment upon written request via the Executive Secretary to the Rector and President in accordance with the timeline notated in the meeting notice. According to the public notice for the most recent public comment opportunity held on 3/28/2022, participation was limited to those who registered to give verbal comment as no process for submitted written comment was mentioned. According to board policy 1106, order preference is given to those participants who pre-registered with the board secretary but individuals who did not pre-register may be offered the opportunity to speak should time allow during the 60-minute session. The board previously allowed either verbal or written public comment at full board meetings held between 04/23/2020 and 09/14/2021.
Frequency	1	The board allowed either verbal or written public comment on board agenda items during full board meetings between 04/23/2020 and 06/17/2021, but since then has only taken public comment once, during a special/non-regular meeting held on 03/28/2022 where comments were limited to proposed tuition and fee rates.
	5/9 (55.6%) = F	
TOTAL POINTS = 18/27 (66.7%) = D		

Radford University

CRITERIA	POINTS EARNED	NOTES
BOARD TRANSPARENCY		
Board Membership	3	The board website identifies board membership by including member names, term dates, their appointing governor, headshots, occupational background, and detailed biographies, providing the public a clear understanding of who the board members are (https://www.radford.edu/content/bov/home/board.html).
Board Records & Materials	3	The board makes board materials publicly available on their website, including meeting agendas for both the full board and board committees (since 2014), minutes for both the full board (since 2005) and board committees (since 2011), and meeting announcements/notices (since 2020). Meeting presentations and pre-reads are included in the meeting minutes. (https://www.radford.edu/content/bov/home/meetings/minutes.html , https://www.radford.edu/content/bov/home/meetings.html)
Meeting Notices	3	A schedule of board meeting dates is clearly and prominently posted on the board website. Meeting notices are posted at the top of the main page of the board website directly to the board website, listing the dates, times, and locations of each meeting of the full board and any board committees. Current and archived meeting notices can be found under "Meetings and Actions" (https://www.radford.edu/content/bov/home/meetings.html).
	9/9 (100%) = A	
MEMBER ACCESSIBILITY		
Public Meetings	1	The board room is readily accessible to members of the public with ample visitor seating for in-person meetings. The board held meetings electronically from 06/12/2020 to 9/11/2020, allowing members of the public to observe the meeting virtually by video streaming. The board resumed meeting in person on 12/04/2020, designating overflow rooms where the public can observe meetings on-site, but not remotely (off-campus). Meeting videos or meeting transcripts of remote meetings are not archived on the board's website for public record.
Member Communication	1	Board members are indirectly accessible to members of the public through general contact information listed on the board website, including an email address (bov@radford.edu), mailing address, and phone number. The board website also lists contact information for a point-of-contact for the board (Karen Castele, Secretary to the Board and Special Assistant to the President), including a phone number (540-831-5426) and an email address (kcastele@radford.edu). Contact information to communicate with individual board members is not available.
Member Engagement	1	The board provides opportunities for public comment prior to the consideration of tuition and fee rate in a non-regular meeting with a minimum of three board members in attendance, as detailed in the board's policy for "Procedures for Tuition Notice and Public Comment" (https://www.radford.edu/content/dam/departments/administrative/bov/Procedures-for-Public-Comment.pdf).
	3/9 (33.3%) = F	
BOARD RECEPTIVENESS (Public Comment)		
Public Notice	2	Public notice of the board's Budget Presentation and Public Comment Session held on 04/14/2022 was posted prominently on the board website and on the university website under "News and Events." (https://www.radford.edu/content/dam/departments/administrative/bov/Procedures-for-Public-Comment.pdf , https://www.radford.edu/content/radfordcore/home/news/releases/2022/may/bov-tuition-fees.html). The public notice clearly details the process for giving or submitting public comment and for accessing the live public comment session. Public comment opportunities are not promoted through social media platforms.
Participation	3	According to board policy (https://www.radford.edu/content/dam/departments/administrative/bov/Procedures-for-Public-Comment.pdf) members of the public can sign up to give verbal public comment until noon the day prior to the Public Comment Session but additional individuals who did not sign up by the deadline may be given an opportunity to speak should time permit. Written comments may be emailed to tuition@radford.edu no later than three days prior to the meeting at which the vote on tuition and fees will take place to allow time to prepare copies available for all board members.
Frequency	1	The board allows for public comment during a non-regular meeting prior to the consideration of any tuition and fee rate increases, according to the board's policy for "Procedures for Tuition Notice and Public Comment" (https://www.radford.edu/content/dam/departments/administrative/bov/Procedures-for-Public-Comment.pdf).
	6/9 (66.7%) = D	
TOTAL POINTS = 18/27 (66.7%) = D		

University of Mary Washington

CRITERIA	POINTS EARNED	NOTES
BOARD TRANSPARENCY		
Board Membership	3	The board website lists the names, headshots, biographies, term dates, class years (if a graduate of the university), board positions, and committee assignments of each member (https://www.umw.edu/bov/members/ and https://www.umw.edu/bov/committees/).
Board Records & Materials	3	The board makes board materials publicly available through the cloud-based board management software BoardDocs, including meeting agendas for both the full board and board committees, minutes for both the full board and board committees (since 2011), meeting reports and presentations, board policies, and other board records from 2011 (https://go.boarddocs.com/va/umw/Board.nsf/Public).
Meeting Notices	3	The homepage of the board website features a link to a meeting notice and agenda for an upcoming meeting on BoardDocs (www.umw.edu/bov). The board's website lists all board meetings for the current academic year under "Meeting Dates." The board website visibly notes the regular meeting location (building, room, and address) and a note specifying that meeting cancellations for inclement weather will be posted on the board website, the Commonwealth Calendar, and on the main entrance to Jepson Alumni Executive Center (https://www.umw.edu/bov/meeting-dates/).
	9/9 (100%) = A	
MEMBER ACCESSIBILITY		
Public Meetings	3	The board room is readily accessible to members of the public with visitor seating for in-person meetings. The board has provided an option for members of the public to observe meetings by video streaming since 10/25/2018 via Zoom until switching to using YouTube on 03/27/2020. Video recordings for all virtual meetings since 05/08/2020 are archived on BoardDocs (https://go.boarddocs.com/va/umw/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BU5P8Y637498#).
Member Communication	1	Contact information for Jeffrey W. McClurken, Chief of Staff and Clerk of the Board, is listed as the point-of-contact on the board website, including a physical address (1301 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA 22401-5300), phone number (540-654-1301) and email (ClerkOfTheBoard@umw.edu). The featured page on the board's BoardDocs portal also lists Mr. McClurken as the point-of-contact with the same contact information except with a different email address (jmcclurk@umw.edu). Contact information to communicate with individual board members is not available.
Member Engagement	3	According to board policy B.2.9, a period of public comment will be set prior to a vote on tuition and fees and (https://go.boarddocs.com/va/umw/Board.nsf/files/BG6QXK6ACDE4/\$file/B.2.9%20Public%20Comment%20Policy%2009132019.pdf). Written comments are accepted on a rolling basis by electronic form and email to the Clerk of the Board and will be distributed to board members, according to board policy B.2.9. The most recently public comment opportunity was held on 02/17/2022 during a regularly scheduled board meeting, with seven member of the public participating.
	7/9 (77.8%) = C	
BOARD RECEPTIVENESS (Public Comment)		
Public Notice	2	Notice of the board's most recent opportunity for public comment that took place during a regularly scheduled board meeting on 02/17/2022 was posted to the board website with a link to an online form where the public can sign-up to participate (https://www.umw.edu/bov/public-comments/). Public comment opportunities are not promoted through social media platforms.
Participation	3	According to board policy B.2.9, participants must sign-up to give verbal comment on the online portal "before the meeting begins," but the policy is non-specific on the timing. The policy states that each speaker will be requested – but not required – to provide fifteen written copies of their comments to be distributed to all members of the board, each speaker will be permitted to address the board on any subject involving the university, and that unlimited opportunities for written public comment by mail or electronically are welcome and should be addressed to the Clerk of the Board, to be distributed to Board of Visitors members.
Frequency	3	Verbal public comment is accepted during a limited number of board meetings, specially prior to the board's consideration of tuition and fee rate proposals. The board allows unlimited opportunities for written comment submissions in written form by mail or electronically. The board allows for public comment on any subject involving the university, according to board policy B.2.9 (https://go.boarddocs.com/va/umw/Board.nsf/files/BG6QXK6ACDE4/\$file/B.2.9%20Public%20Comment%20Policy%2009132019.pdf).
	8/9 (88.9%) = B	
TOTAL POINTS = 24/27 (88.9%) = B+		

University of Virginia

CRITERIA	POINTS EARNED	NOTES
BOARD TRANSPARENCY		
Board Membership	2	The board website lists the names of board members along with their headshots, board positions, hometowns, employers, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, term expiration dates, and occupations. While biographies are not posted to the website, it notes that "Biographical information available upon request" (https://bov.virginia.edu/visitors-staff).
Board Records & Materials	3	The board all board materials publicly available on their website, including Work Session Books, meeting presentations, schedules, full board minutes, meeting handouts, and meeting videos. Meeting materials for past meetings dated from 1817 are archived on the website (http://xtf.lib.virginia.edu/xtf/search?smode=advanced ; https://bov.virginia.edu/public-minutes)
Meeting Notices	3	The board's website lists all upcoming board meeting dates through 2025 (https://bov.virginia.edu/upcoming-meetings). Public meeting notices, as required by state law, are posted to the "Upcoming Meetings" section of the website no less than 30 days prior and includes meeting and event schedules, locations, times, and information relevant to public attendance. Meeting notices posted under "Upcoming Meetings of the Board," include a full meeting schedule. The meeting notices have provided links where the public can observe the meeting remotely via YouTube since the 04/27/2020 meeting (https://bov.virginia.edu/june-2-3-2022-meeting-board).
	8/9 (88.9%) = B	
MEMBER ACCESSIBILITY		
Public Meetings	3	The board room is readily accessible to members of the public with visitor seating for in-person meetings. Since seating is limited in the historic board room of the Rotunda where the board meets, the board provides an overflow room in another room of the building where a live stream of the meeting is aired for additional attendees and a link where the public can observe meetings remotely (off-campus). Video recordings of past board meetings from 06/04/2020 to the present are posted to the university's YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJtAU6H5Tj0gpX0cgBCAghg/).
Member Communication	3	The board website lists contact information for board secretary Susan G. Harris, including a mailing address, telephone number, fax number, and email address (sg4c@virginia.edu). The board website also lists direct contact information for each individual board member, including mailing addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses.
Member Engagement	2	According to board policy BOV-019, a minimum of three board members must be present during opportunities for public comment (https://uvapolicy.virginia.edu/policy/BOV-019). During the most recent public comment period that took place during a non-regular board meeting on 12/02/2021 with six board members were in attendance (https://bov.virginia.edu/system/files/public/minutes/%2719%20NOV%208%20FULL%20BOARD%20MINUTES_0.pdf). BOV-019 also states that the board will accept written comments by email or hard copy from the date of the public notice is issued and that all members of the board will have access to the minutes of the public comment period session and all written comments submitted.
	8/9 (88.9%) = B	
BOARD RECEPTIVENESS (Public Comment)		
Public Notice	2	Notice of the board's most recent opportunity for public comment that took place during a non-regular board meeting on 12/02/2021 provided the date, time, building location and room number of the in-person public comment session, details for remote participation over Zoom, and an email address (respond_uva_tuition@virginia.edu) where written comments can be directed (https://bov.virginia.edu/december-2-2021-educational-workshop-and-public-comment-session-regarding-proposed-undergraduate). Public comment opportunities are not promoted through social media platforms.
Participation	3	The board accepts verbal public comment at a limited number of board meetings where individuals can participate in-person on a first-come, first-serve basis, no pre-registration required. The board also allows participation over Zoom but requires participants to register the day prior to the meeting. The board accepts written public comment from the time of the notice of the public comment session (https://uvapolicy.virginia.edu/policy/BOV-019).
Frequency	1	Verbal and written comments are accepted during a limited number of board meetings where it is requested that comments are limited to the topic of tuition and fees (https://uvapolicy.virginia.edu/policy/BOV-019). The board accepts written public comment from the time of the notice of the public comment session (https://uvapolicy.virginia.edu/policy/BOV-019).
	6/9 (66.7%) = D	
TOTAL POINTS = 22/27 (81.5%) = B-		

Virginia Commonwealth University

CRITERIA	POINTS EARNED	NOTES
BOARD TRANSPARENCY		
Board Membership	3	The board website lists the names of each board member, headshots, job title and employer, board positions, term dates, their appointing governor, and biographies (https://bov.vcu.edu/members/).
Board Records & Materials	3	The board all board materials publicly available on their website, including agenda books, meeting minutes for the full board (since 2004) and board committees (since 2017), board bylaws and policies, and meeting videos.
Meeting Notices	3	The board's website lists upcoming meeting dates for the current and upcoming academic year and specifies the regular meeting location, including building, room number and address (https://bov.vcu.edu/meetings/). The meeting notices include detailed instructions for public attendance, a link where the meeting can be observed remotely, and details the board's public comment process for each meeting.
	9/9 (100%) = A	
MEMBER ACCESSIBILITY		
Public Meetings	3	The board room is readily accessible to members of the public during in-person meetings, with ample visitor seating available. The board regularly provides the public options to observe meetings by video streaming or in-person. Video recordings of in-person or virtual meetings are posted to the board website for public record (https://president.vcu.edu/board/minutes/).
Member Communication	1	The board is indirectly accessible to the public through a general email address (bov@vcu.edu) and mailing address and through a designated point-of-contact for the board (Chelsea Gray, Assistant Secretary and Board Liaison). Contact information for individual board members is not available.
Member Engagement	3	The board has routinely accepted both verbal and written public comment at every regular meeting of the full board since 06/05/2020.
	7/9 (77.8%) = C	
BOARD RECEPTIVENESS (Public Comment)		
Public Notice	3	Opportunities for public comment are posted visibly on the "Meetings and agendas" section of the board website (https://bov.vcu.edu/meetings/) and the "Open comment portal" section of the board website (https://bov.vcu.edu/open-comment-portal/), with the process of participation clearly detailed in the meeting notices. The public comment opportunity was advertised through university communications channels and social media platforms (https://twitter.com/VCU/status/1534223671740485634).
Participation	3	The board has routinely accepted both verbal and written public comment at every regular meeting of the full board since 06/05/2020. The amount of time allocated for verbal public comment varies by meeting, from 15 minutes to an hour, according to the meeting notices. Participants may participate in-person or online (remotely). Participants must register by email or phone, but no deadline is listed, and are heard on a first-come, first-serve basis. The number of participants for each meeting is limited to the time allocated for public comment. Written comment is also accepted through an online portal (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfZei71cY_3tRIJ2PRzWP0p-UxFrpDkfljnn-NU5lg5cnfyoA/viewform).
Frequency	3	The board has routinely accepted both verbal and written public comment every regular meeting of the full board since 06/05/2020.
	9/9 (100%) = A	
TOTAL POINTS = 25/27 (92.6%) = A-		

Virginia Community College System

CRITERIA	POINTS EARNED	NOTES
BOARD TRANSPARENCY		
Board Membership	3	The board website includes the names of each board member, headshots, board positions, term dates, their appointing governor, and biographies (https://www.vccs.edu/governance/#State-Board-Members).
Board Records & Materials	3	The board makes all board materials publicly available through the cloud-based board management software BoardDocs, including agendas, meeting minutes for the full board and board committees, meeting presentations, board proposals, and board policies. Meeting materials for past meetings dated from 11/10/2014 are archived on BoardDocs (https://go.boarddocs.com/va/vccs/Board.nsf/Public).
Meeting Notices	3	The board's website lists upcoming meeting dates for the remainder of the current academic year, specifying that "unless otherwise noted," board meetings will be held "in-person at the Arboretum 300 Arboretum Place, Richmond, VA 23236" (https://www.vccs.edu/governance/#state-board-meetings). Meeting notices for upcoming meetings are also posted to the board website and include meeting locations (including building names and room number) dates, times, and a link to observe the meeting remotely via Zoom.
	9/9 (100%) = A	
MEMBER ACCESSIBILITY		
Public Meetings	1	The board room is readily accessible to members of the public with visitor seating for in-person meetings. The board has provided an option for members of the public to observe meetings by video streaming since 05/20/2020 via Zoom (http://go.boarddocs.com/va/vccs/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BMTGJM44076C). Video recordings of in-person or virtual meetings are not posted to the board website or to BoardDocs for public record.
Member Communication	3	Each individual board member is directly accessible to the public through a unique email address listed for each individual board member of the board website.
Member Engagement	3	The board allows both verbal and written public comment at each regular meeting of the board, according to a past agenda item dated 05/19/2022.
	7/9 (77.8%) = C	
BOARD RECEPTIVENESS (Public Comment)		
Public Notice	1	According to a past agenda items, found in BoardDocs under each meeting agenda, the board allows verbal and written public comment at each regular meeting of the board. Meeting notices posted to the board website and the Commonwealth Calendar do not mention public comment. Public comment opportunities are not promoted through social media platforms.
Participation	1	The board allows both verbal and written public comment at each regular meeting of the board, but verbal public comment is restricted to individuals who provide the Chancellor notice at least 5 business days prior to the meeting.
Frequency	3	The board allows both verbal and written public comment at each regular meeting of the board.
	5/9 (55.6%) = C	
TOTAL POINTS = 21/27 (77.8%) = C+		

Virginia Military Institute

CRITERIA	POINTS EARNED	NOTES
BOARD TRANSPARENCY		
Board Membership	3	The board website lists the names of each board member, class years (if graduates of the university), board positions, hometowns, term dates, appointing governors, headshots, and biographies (https://www.vmi.edu/about/governance/board-of-visitors/bov-members/).
Board Records & Materials	3	The board makes all board materials publicly available on their website, including meeting notices, agendas (since 2019), meeting minutes for the full board (since 2019) and board committees (since 2020), media releases, meeting recaps and reports, board bylaws and policies, and meeting videos for meetings held remotely (https://www.vmi.edu/about/governance/board-of-visitors/past-meetings/).
Meeting Notices	3	The board website lists the meeting schedule for the current academic year (https://www.vmi.edu/about/governance/board-of-visitors/upcoming-meetings/). Meeting notices for upcoming meetings are posted prominently on the main page of the board website and list times and locations (including building and room name). The main page of the board website also prominently notes the following: "Agendas, schedules, and livestream information (where applicable) can be found on the Board's upcoming meetings and past meetings pages."
	9/9 (100%) = A	
MEMBER ACCESSIBILITY		
Public Meetings	1	The board room is readily accessible to members of the public with visitor seating for in-person meetings. The board provided an option for the public to observe meetings that were held remotely by video streaming from 11/13/2020 through 04/15/2021. Since the board resumed in-person meetings on 04/30/2021, they have not provided a remote viewing option to the public. Meeting videos or meeting transcripts of remote meetings are archived on the board's website for public record.
Member Communication	1	The board is indirectly accessible to the public through a general email address (VMI-BOV@vmi.edu) and mailing address and through two designated points-of-contact for the board (Board Secretary LTC Kevin Ryan and Board Administrative Assistant Crystal Perry). Contact information for individual board members is not available.
Member Engagement	3	The board has received public comment during meetings of the full board and during committee meetings. In accordance with the board's bylaws, public comment will be accepted at a regular board meeting prior to the consideration of any increases in undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees (https://www.vmi.edu/media/content-assets/documents/bov/BOV-By-Laws.pdf).
	5/9 (55.6%) = F	
BOARD RECEPTIVENESS (Public Comment)		
Public Notice	2	Public notices detailing opportunities for public comment are prominently posted to the main page of the board website and on the "Upcoming Meetings" section. The process of participation is clearly detailed in the meeting notices. Public comment opportunities are not promoted through social media platforms.
Participation	3	According to the board's bylaws, an opportunity for public comment on proposed increases in undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees will be provided at the meeting at which the vote will take place, with public comment limited to 3-minutes per individual (https://www.vmi.edu/media/content-assets/documents/bov/BOV-By-Laws.pdf). No other restrictions or guidance for implementation is included in the bylaws. Both verbal and written comment were accepted at the 1/29/2022 and 04/30/2022 meetings of the full board. According to meeting notices, members of the public can sign up to give verbal public comment until 4:30 PM the day prior to the meeting but additional individuals who did not sign up by the deadline may be given an opportunity to speak should time permit. Written comments must be submitted by the same deadline and will be provided to board members in advance.
Frequency	2	The board solicits both verbal and written public comment on select board items and topics during some board meetings, including, but not limited to, tuition and fee rate-setting proposals as required by state law. The board has solicited public comment during select meetings of the full board and certain board committees, including the Commemorations and Memorials Naming and Review Committee, the VMI Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, and the VMI Superintendent Search Committee.
	7/9 (77.8%) = C	
TOTAL POINTS = 21/27 (77.8%) = C+		

Virginia State University

CRITERIA	POINTS EARNED	NOTES
BOARD TRANSPARENCY		
Board Membership	3	The board website lists the names of each board member, term dates, appointing governors, headshots, and biographies (http://www.vsu.edu/about/leadership/board-of-visitors/board-membership.php).
Board Records & Materials	3	The board makes all board materials publicly available on their website, including meeting notices (since 2021), agendas (since 2020), meeting minutes for the full board (since 2009) and board committees (since 2016), board bylaws, meeting presentations and reports (since 2021), and transcripts for meetings held remotely between (05/21/2020 through 06/11/2021) (https://www.vsu.edu/about/leadership/board-of-visitors/minutes.php , https://www.vsu.edu/about/leadership/board-of-visitors/meeting-materials.php , https://www.vsu.edu/about/leadership/board-of-visitors/notice.php).
Meeting Notices	3	The board features their meeting schedule for the 2022-2023 academic year prominently on the main page of the board website. Meeting notices for upcoming meetings are posted prominently on the main page of the board website and list times and locations (building and address) and details pertaining to public comment (https://www.vsu.edu/about/leadership/board-of-visitors/index.php , https://www.vsu.edu/about/leadership/board-of-visitors/notice.php).
	9/9 (100%) = A	
MEMBER ACCESSIBILITY		
Public Meetings	1	The board room is readily accessible to members of the public with visitor seating for in-person meetings. The board provided an option for the public to observe meetings that were held remotely by video streaming from 05/21/2020 through 06/11/2021. Since the board resumed in-person meetings on 08/05/2021, they have not provided a remote viewing option to the public. Meeting transcripts of remote meetings are archived on the board's website for public record.
Member Communication	1	The board is indirectly accessible to the public through a general email address (boardofvisitors@vsu.edu), general mailing address (Virginia Hall, Box 9001, Virginia State University, 1 Hayden Dr., Petersburg, VA 23806) and through a designated point-of-contact for the board (Annie C. Redd, Ed.D., Special Assistant to the President and Liaison to the Board). Contact information for individual board members is not available.
Member Engagement	2	The board's most recent public comment period took place during a non-regular board meeting on 02/02/2022 with four board members present in-person and four board members participating electronically, accounting for a quorum. According to the minutes for the public comment opportunity, written comments were added to public record and made available to the Board prior to the consideration of proposed tuition and fee rates (https://www.vsu.edu/files/docs/bov/feb-public-comment-minutes.pdf).
	349 (44.4%) = F	
BOARD RECEPTIVENESS (Public Comment)		
Public Notice	1	Notice of the board's most recent opportunity for public comment that took place during a non-regular board meeting on 2/02/2022 provided the date, time, and building of public comment session and clearly detailed the process for participation. The meeting notice was clearly posted to the announcements section of the university website but was not cross posted to the board website/webpages (https://www.vsu.edu/news/2022/bov-meeting-notice.php). Public comment opportunities are not promoted through social media platforms.
Participation	2	The board accepts verbal and written public comment at a non-regular board meeting prior to the consideration of tuition and fee increases. Speakers are required to register on a first-come, first-served basis. Written comments are only accepted from the date of the public notice until seven days prior to the meeting. (http://www.vsu.edu/files/docs/hr-forms/Public%20Comment%20Policy_Policy%201006.pdf).
Frequency	1	The board solicits both verbal and written public comment during a limited number of board meetings and restricted to the topic of tuition and fee proposals.
	4/6 (44.4%) = F	
TOTAL POINTS = 17/27 (63%) = D		

Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

CRITERIA	POINTS EARNED	NOTES
BOARD TRANSPARENCY		
Board Membership	3	The board website (https://bov.vt.edu/members.html) includes the names of each board member, headshots, board positions, addresses, and biographies.
Board Records & Materials	3	The board makes all board materials publicly available on their website, including agendas (since 2020), meeting minutes for the full board (since 2003) and board committees (since 2016), board bylaws, and board resolutions and presentations.
Meeting Notices	3	The board website lists the meeting schedule for the current academic year prominently on the main page of the board website, along with the time and locations of upcoming meetings, and a link to meeting materials for upcoming meetings. The board website also features meeting notices and other news items posted to the "Virginia Tech Daily" page of the university website under "Latest News" (https://bov.vt.edu/).
	9/9 (100%) = A	
MEMBER ACCESSIBILITY		
Public Meetings	2	The board room is readily accessible to members of the public with ample visitor seating for in-person meetings. The board provided an option for the public to observe meetings that were held remotely by video streaming from 03/26/2020 through 08/13/2020 on YouTube Live. Video recordings of meetings that were live-streamed are archived on the board website. The board did not live-stream meetings held in-person between 08/25/2020 through 06/14/2022. According to the board website, the board will resume live-streaming full board meetings on 08/23/2022.
Member Communication	2	The board is indirectly accessible to the public through a general email address (bov@vt.edu), general mailing address (319 Burruss Hall (0125), 800 Drillfield Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24061), and phone number (540-231-6232) through a designated point-of-contact for the board (Ms. Kim O'Rourke, Secretary to the Board of Visitors). Mailing addresses for individual board members are provided, but not unique email addresses or phone numbers (https://bov.vt.edu/members.html).
Member Engagement	1	According to board policy pertaining to public comment, at least three board members will be present for the public comment period (https://bov.vt.edu/assets/Guidelines%20for%20Public%20Comment%20Period%20on%20Tuition%20and%20Fees%20August%202019.pdf). According to the meeting notice for the 06/14/2022 meeting, during which a proposal on tuition and fee rates was considered, all comments received from the public comment meeting held on 03/22/2022 were provided to the full board.
	5/9 (55.6%) = F	
BOARD RECEPTIVENESS (Public Comment)		
Public Notice	2	The public notice for the most recent public comment period (03/22/2022) was posted to the "Virginia Tech Daily" news section of the website, cross-posted to the board website, and clearly detailed the procedure for participation (https://vtx.vt.edu/articles/2022/03/bov-fees-april2022.html). Public comment opportunities are not promoted through social media platforms.
Participation	3	The board accepts verbal and written comments at non-regular board meetings with a limited number of board members prior to the consideration of proposals on tuition and fee rates. While speakers are asked to pre-register on a first-come, first-serve basis for the public comment period 7 days in advance, additional speakers who did not preregister will be given the opportunity to speak if time allows. Written comments were accepted electronically or by mail from the date of the public notice until six days after the public comment meeting.
Frequency	1	The board solicits both verbal and written public comment during a limited number of board meetings and restricted to the topic of tuition and fee proposals.
	6/9 (66.7%) = D	
TOTAL POINTS = 20/27 (74.1%) = C		



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