



SR25-23

A Resolution Declaring No Confidence in the University of Virginia Board of Visitors

Sponsored By: Clay Dickerson (President), Imane Akhanous (Chair of the Representative Body), Princess Wuraola Olubuse-Omisore (Vice President for Administration)

On Behalf of: Elected Leadership of the Student Council Executive Board, Fourth Year Trustees, Third Year Class Council, and Second Year Class Council

WHEREAS: The purpose of the Student Council at the University of Virginia is to protect and improve the rights, opportunities, and quality of life every student at the University of Virginia¹; **AND,**

WHEREAS: The Board of Visitors violated their statement of visitor responsibilities by failing to protect the University from outside interference from the Federal Government and Department of Justice subsequently leading to resignation of President James Ryan under circumstances that pose an ongoing threat to academic freedom, free speech and independent governance²; **AND,**

WHEREAS: The 2025-2026 UVA Student Council Representative Body unanimously passed SR25-21 on July 15th, 2025, which called for transparency, student representation on the presidential search committee, regular updates, and open communication; this was delivered to the Rector and Vice Rector on July 17th, 2025³; **AND,**

WHEREAS: The Board of Visitors has thus far failed to honor or discuss these requests, proceeding with a presidential search process that lacks transparency, sufficient student representation, and accountability measures. The absence of meaningful student representation and input undermines shared governance and damages the trust between the student body and the university's highest governing body; **AND,**

WHEREAS: Multiple elected student leaders and bodies have expressed unified concern and opposition to the current process including the elected executive leadership from Student Council, Fourth Year Trustees, Third Year Class Council, and Second Year Class Council;
THEREFORE BE IT,

¹ https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ba956a916b6406fa63a6a71/t/66f841b8dbbf6f27fa9e747e/1727545784423/Constitution_240416.pdf

² <https://bov.virginia.edu/sites/g/files/jsddwu1171/files/2023-10/APPROVAL-OF-STATEMENTVISITOR%20-RESPONSIBILITIES.pdf>

³ <https://www.cavalierdaily.com/article/2025/07/student-council-passes-resolution-to-uphold-student-voicesduring-presidential-search>



RESOLVED: That the undersigned student leadership bodies and elected student leaders **formally declare no confidence** in the University of Virginia Board of Visitors; **AND BE IT FURTHER,**

RESOLVED: That we condemn the Board of Visitors' disregard for the core requests outlined in SR25-21 and their failure to respond meaningfully to follow-up efforts by student leaders to engage in good-faith dialogue; **AND BE IT FURTHER,**

RESOLVED: That we call upon the Board of Visitors to immediately revise the presidential search process to reflect the principles of shared governance and student self-governance, including but not limited to:

- Increased student representation on the presidential search committee in collaboration with Student Council and Class Councils
- Public declaration of the rules and guidelines for the search process, including feedback mechanisms, committee bylaws, voting procedures, and timeline made available on the University's website and discussed at the first open meeting of the Special Committee with (time/space) for public attendance and comment;
- A joint meeting between the Special Committee and elected student leaders, or a public student town hall to solicit input;
- Request for the Student Council Representative Body to conduct a simple majority vote of approval or disapproval of the final candidate as an official advisory opinion, alongside advisory votes from the Faculty and Staff senates, prior to any final BOV decision on the selection of the 10th President;
- Regular, transparent updates to the student body, including formal updates to be presented to Student Council throughout the process as requested in SR25-21; **AND BE IT FURTHER,**

RESOLVED: That we cannot support any future presidential appointment made through a process that inadequately represents the voices of students, unless and until confidence is restored through the implementation of the above requests and a demonstrated commitment to student participation. This position is not intended as a reflection on the current interim president; rather, it is a call for a transparent and inclusive process going forward ; **AND BE IT FINALLY,**

RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution shall be sent to all members of the Board Visitors, including the Rector and Vice Rector, as well as to the Office of the President, the Office of the Provost, and shall be made available to the student body through official Student Council communications channels.

President	Date
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Sponsor(s)	Date
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