

# Board of Visitors, who are they and what do they do?

By Danielle Kirsh

Elected by the governor through the Secretary of Commerce, the Board of Visitors is responsible for University operations and is recently the subject of controversy for former Norfolk State President Tony Atwater's termination.

The Board of Visitors Bylaws states that "the Board shall elect its officers from its own body." The officers, who are unpaid, begin to serve their term on July 1 of the year they were elected.

The Board of Visitors elects a Rector, Vice Rector and a Secretary, who each serve a term of two years. They are elected by an affirmative vote of seven voting members from the Board and can serve no more than two consecutive terms.

The current Rector, Thomas N. Chewning, serves as the "presiding officer, spokesperson, and designated representative of the Board," in accordance to the bylaws. During a meeting, he ensures that all sides of a question are heard.

The bylaws also state that he is to "maintain the integrity of the Board procedures and facilitate a high level of interest, involvement, and activity among all of the Board members."

The Vice Rector is Wade W. Perry, Jr. of Suffolk, Virginia. His duties include stepping in when the Rector is absent

from meetings. He serves as the Board parliamentarian and responsible for presenting Executive Committee reports and tracking and reporting unfinished business.

In addition, the Vice Rector is also responsible for formulating the BOV Operating Budget so it is ready for presentation to the board for approval.

The current BOV Secretary, Lula B. Holland, is responsible for taking and supervising the minutes of an open meeting and has custody of all books and records of the board. The Secretary also supervises the issuance of notices of meetings and represents the board.

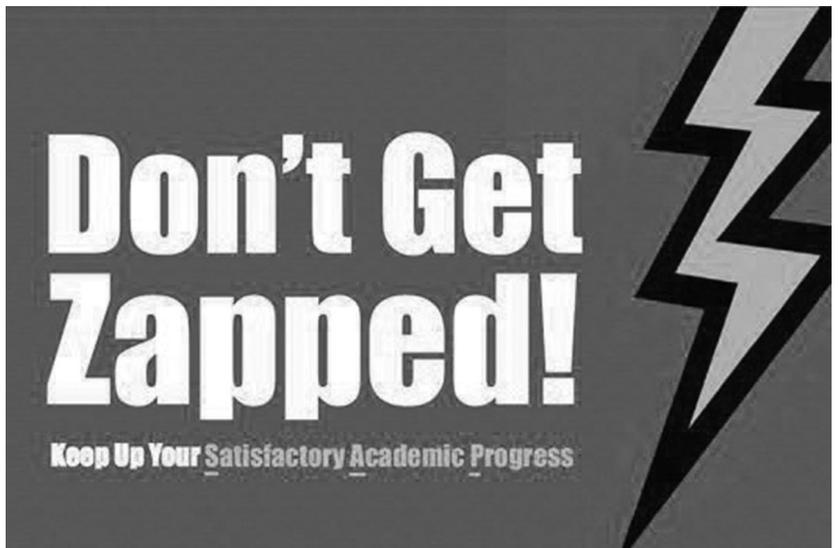
The bylaws state that the university president is "appointed by the Board of Visitors and serves at the pleasure of the Board. The president is the chief executive and academic officer of the university."

The bylaws also state, "The President shall be subject to an annual performance evaluation in accordance with the Board of Visitors' Presidential Evaluation Policy."

This evaluation occurs once a year in a closed meeting. If the Board decides to change the president's contract or terminate the president, it must be done by majority vote from all members of the board.

# Enrollment issues at NSU part II: Understanding S.A.P.

By Melissa Rawls



Students who do not show satisfactory academic progress are in danger of being 'zapped.'  
Graphic from [NSU.edu/enrolment-management/financial-aid/sap](http://NSU.edu/enrolment-management/financial-aid/sap).

All schools receiving Title IV funding are required by law to have a standard process of evaluating satisfactory academic progress. It is this process that permits the distribution of financial assistance to qualifying students.

During the 2012-2013 academic year over 1,600 Norfolk State University students were placed on SAP for failure to adequately meet academic progress standards. The SAP worthy offenses that put so many students in jeopardy of being able to return included at least one of the following:

Students did not meet the required GPA based on academic classification. Freshmen students have to maintain a minimum GPA of 1.7, sophomores require a 1.8 or higher and both juniors and seniors must have at least a 2.0. Graduate level

students are responsible for maintaining a 3.0.

Students were not passing a minimum of 67 percent of all of their attempted classes. This means that students who continually drop, fail, or withdraw from classes put themselves in a position where they are attempting more classes than they are passing and getting credit for.

Students were taking excessive number of hours. Here at NSU students must complete 120 hours of program specific coursework to qualify for graduation. Those students that exceed 120 hours of academic study without the completion of a specified degree program bring into question the proper use of federally issued funds.

Taking into consideration that there are personal circumstances surrounding the individual case of every student,

the university offers an appeal process. Every student has the right to one formal appeal over the course of their academic lifetime; this policy is formally referred to as "one and done."

"If you're on SAP, you are eligible to do an appeal. Most appeals that are granted come with academic stipulations; these stipulations dictate what students must do to get off SAP. If the outlined academic plan is not followed students will lose their financial aid here at NSU, forever," said Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management Terricita Sass.

Unsuspectingly, the group with the highest SAP offenders is seniors. With over 22 percent of the university's student population teetering on the brink of successful academic progression, one has to bring into account the amount of individual student accountability.