

# JONES LIBRARY

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## **ADVISORY TO THE PUBLIC:**

*Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 and extended by Chapters 22 and 107 of the Acts of 2022, this Jones Library Investment Committee meeting will be conducted via remote means. Members of the public who wish to access the meeting may do so via Zoom or by telephone. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means.*

**Public Body:** The Jones Library, Inc. Board of Trustees' Investment Committee

**Date:** [Friday, March 10, 2023](#)

**Time:** [3-4pm](#)

**Location:** [Zoom](#)

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Mar 10, 2023 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: The Jones Library, Inc. Investment Committee

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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Webinar ID: 838 4685 6565

International numbers available: <https://amherstma.zoom.us/j/kb0on829Hx>

## **AGENDA**

1. Call to Order (Welcome, Bob, Austin, and Sharon!)
2. **Minutes (8-19-22; 2-15-23) \***
3. Public Comment
4. Investment Strategy
5. Adjourn

Next meeting: April, 2023

\* Indicates handout(s) will be made available.

\*\* Please note that the list of topics in this notice was comprehensive at the time of posting, however the public body may consider and take action on unforeseen matters not specifically named in this notice.

**RED** indicates vote required

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**Meeting of the Jones Library Board of Trustees Investment Committee**  
**August 19, 2022; 3:00 pm**

Present: Robert Pam, Austin Sarat, Sharon Sharry

Consulted by Zoom: Dan Voss, Vanguard Institutional Advisory Services (“Vanguard” or “VIAS”)

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The meeting opened by internet zoom call at 3:00 pm. Dan provided the data report through July 31, 2022. As of that date our endowment had a value of \$8,602,058 and the Woodbury Fund was valued at \$692,759. For 12 months the return was -10.21%, or -10.46% after fees. The Woodbury numbers were -10.04%/-10.29% for 12 months. The portfolios have asset allocations and results consistent with their mandates in matching the performance of the market. Losses since January 1 occurred in both stocks (-4.45%) and bonds (-8.44%).

We had asked that this meeting focus on the structure of the portfolio and whether any changes should be considered. Mr. Voss first provided a review of the portfolio and its performance, and ended by reviewing the long-term outlook for growth. When we reviewed performance based on values as of December 31, returns since we began working with Vanguard in 2015 produced an annual average of 9.51% returns in the endowment, which after fees was 9.23%. Valuation declines during this first part of 2022 mean that the average annual return since 2015 is now 6.67%/6.39% after fees. The actual growth of the portfolio is less because we withdraw funds each year for operations. Looking forward over the next 10 years returns are expected to be lower – nearer to 4-4.5%, our draw policy level, so we cannot depend on market earnings for any growth.

Mr. Voss presented his central argument that Vanguard index funds in each asset class outperforms active management through a combination of superior capture of market performance and lower fees. He then argued that if we wanted more active management that Vanguard had great experience and high quality managers to provide that. Two areas on which he provided information were international equity (we are 100% in an index) and US bonds (we are 50% in a broad index). The other question we asked about was whether our 60/40 allocation would be improved by shifting to 65/35. We did not hear a pressing argument for change, but will consider these further.

The conference call ended at 4:00 pm. Our next quarterly zoom conference will occur before the full Board.

Robert Pam, Chair

**Meeting of the Jones Library Board of Trustees Investment Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**February 15, 2023 4:30 pm**

Present: Robert Pam, Austin Sarat, Sharon Sharry

Consulted by Zoom: Dan Voss, Vanguard Institutional Advisory Services (“Vanguard” or “VIAS”)

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The September quarterly report and review was given at the October 2022 Board meeting, so it was not an Investment Committee meeting. Minutes for 5/23/2023 were approved.

The meeting opened by internet zoom call at 4:30 pm. Dan provided the data report through January 31, 2023. As of that date our endowment had a value of \$8,438,110 and the Woodbury Fund was valued at \$678,028. For 12 months the return was -7.88%, or -8.13% after fees. The Woodbury numbers were -8.02%/-8.27% for 12 months. The portfolios have asset allocations and results consistent with their mandates to match the performance of the market.

Mr. Voss provided a review of the portfolio and its performance, and ended by reviewing the long-term outlook for growth. When we reviewed performance based on values as of January 31, 2023, total returns since we began working with Vanguard in 2015 produced an annual average of 6.34% returns in the endowment, which after fees was 6.06% showing some recovery since the valuation declines during 2022. Looking forward over the next 10 years, average annual returns are expected to be modest – estimated six months ago at 4-4.5%, near to our draw policy level, but now raised to 5.5%. We still cannot depend on market earnings for any growth. There were no recommendations for changes in our investment strategy.

In response to questions about probably market performance over the next year or so, Dan gave the standard response of Vanguard: it doesn't offer short-term projections. We noted that Vanguard had recently published a 2023 Market Outlook which offered a framework for a “time-varying asset allocation” which seemed like such a recommendation. Dan responded that this was a recent publication and somewhat experimental; it sounded like if we wished to take a variable investment approach we might need to revisit the terms of our agreement with Vanguard.

The conference call ended at 5:10 pm. Our next quarterly zoom conference will occur in April, but we may meet again before that.

Robert Pam, Chair