

January 14, 2026

SENT VIA E-MAIL:

cwilliams@dagglaw.com

Christine A. Williams, Esq.
DURRETTE, ARKEMA, GERSON & GILL
Bank of America Center
1111 E. Main Street, 16th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: Response to Your Letter Dated December 22, 2025

Dear Ms. Williams,

Thank you for your letter of December 22, 2025. My client likewise appreciates your attendance at the informational session on December 11, which was intended to provide your group with a clear understanding of the extensive process undertaken by the Virginia Wesleyan University Board of Trustees in reaching its decision to rename the University as Batten University, effective July 1, 2026.

Respectfully, my client disagrees with your characterizations of its actions and its reasons for renaming the University and certain of your statements about our meeting on December 11. We do not believe it productive, however, to continue to debate the sufficiency of what was done and the justifications for the Board's decision in May, 2025 to change the name to Batten University.

As outlined during the December 11 meeting, the 36-member Board of Trustees—including 11 voting alumni—voted (unanimously by all voting members) after review of the deliberate and methodical process assessing the name change. This included, but was not limited to, structured outreach to 52 of the University's most active and engaged supporters between December, 2024 and February, 2025, followed by outreach to another comparable group between February and May, 2025.

You also heard directly from Mr. McFarland that at the February, 2025 Board meeting he introduced the motion to authorize representatives to proceed with detailed planning and analysis regarding the name change and to return to the Board in May with a proposed course of action. All participants at the December 11 meeting—each of whom attended both the February and May Board meetings—confirmed that final action on the name change occurred at the May, 2025 meeting. The Board minutes accurately reflect this sequence of events.

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It is important to note that Virginia Wesleyan today is a fundamentally different institution from what it was even a decade ago. The University now includes two campus-based private academies, a collaborative campus in Tokyo, expanded graduate, online, and lifelong-learning programs, and the forthcoming integration of Sentara College of Health Sciences and the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art. These permanent initiatives—all launched within the past ten years—underscore that the institution has evolved dramatically since it started as Virginia Wesleyan College and that this moment of change is both appropriate and timely.

At the same time, the Board has been intentional in preserving and honoring established institutional identities. Just as the University will retain the Sentara College of Health Sciences name under Batten University following its integration, retaining Virginia Wesleyan within the University's trademark protections and renaming the current College of Arts and Sciences as the Virginia Wesleyan College of Arts and Sciences reflect a thoughtful and balanced approach. This decision recognizes the institution's history, alumni identity, and academic legacy while allowing the University as a whole to move forward under a name that reflects its current status and honors transformative philanthropy. This approach is consistent with practices at other institutions and represents a reasonable and respectful way to honor the past while positioning the University for the future. The University's financial position and enrollment have never been stronger.

The Board acted squarely within its authority, after careful consideration of the matter and with due diligence and foresight. Without waiver of attorney-client privilege and work product protection, the Board considered your requests in your December 22, 2025, letter and there was no support for a reconsideration of the May, 2025 vote.

The Board and President hope you—and other alumni—will choose to support this transition and engage actively in the next chapter of this institution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DTS', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel T. Stillman, Esq.

CC: Mrs. Nancy DeFord, Chair
Mr. Scott Miller, President