

January 19, 2001

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Student Affairs and Athletics Committee:

Gordon F. Rainey, Jr., Chair
Walter F. Walker, Vice Chair
Charles M. Caravati, Jr., M.D.
Charles L. Glazer
Elsie Goodwyn Holland
Stephen S. Phelan, Jr.
Benjamin P.A. Warthen
John P. Ackerly, III, Ex Officio

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

Thomas J. Bliley, Jr.	Timothy B. Robertson
William G. Crutchfield, Jr.	Terence P. Ross
William H. Goodwin, Jr.	Elizabeth A. Twohy
T. Keister Greer	James C. Wheat, III
Joseph E. Wolfe	

FROM: Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr.

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Student Affairs
and Athletics Committee on January 19, 2001

The Student Affairs and Athletics Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 10:25 a.m., Friday, January 19, 2001, in the Board Room of the Rotunda; Gordon F. Rainey, Jr., Chair, presided. Walter F. Walker, Vice Chair, Charles M. Caravati, Jr., M.D., Mrs. Elsie Goodwin Holland, Stephen S. Phelan, Jr., Benjamin P.A. Warthen, and John P. Ackerly, III, Rector, were present.

Also present were Thomas J. Bliley, Jr., William G. Crutchfield, Jr., William H. Goodwin, Jr., T. Keister

Greer, Timothy B. Robertson, James C. Wheat, III, and Joseph E. Wolfe.

Present as well were John T. Casteen, III, Leonard W. Sandridge, Jr., Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr., Paul J. Forch, William W. Harmon, Robert W. Cantrell, M.D., Peter W. Low, Ms. Colette Sheehy, Robert E. Reynolds, M.D., Terry Holland, Ms. Penny Rue, Justin Saunders, Frederick C. Godbolt, Ms. Jill C. Ford, Ms. Sylvia Terry, George E. Culbertson, and Ms. Jeanne Flippo Bailes.

The Chair asked Mr. Harmon, Vice President for Student Affairs, to present the Agenda.

By way of introducing representatives from the African-American Peer Advising Program, Mr. Harmon cited some figures on student attrition and graduation rates. Students who consider dropping out of the University, he said, mostly consider doing so in their first six weeks. The University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill have the overall lowest first year attrition rates in the country. As for the graduation rates for black students, the national average is 35-40% five years after matriculation. At the University of Virginia, the comparable rate is 76%, and 89% six years after matriculation.

Mr. Harmon then introduced Ms. Jill Ford and Mr. Frederick Godbolt, student members of the African-American Peer Advising Program. They and their colleagues work under the direction of Dean Sylvia Terry; the Program was organized in 1984. Ms. Ford and Mr. Godbolt described the organization of the Program and its work - Ms. Ford commented that next to her classes, her involvement with the Program has been the most significant thing that she has experienced as a student at the University. Mr. Godbolt noted that the Program has attracted national attention.

The Chair commended Dean Terry for her work and Ms. Ford and Mr. Godbolt for their participation in the Program and their presentation to the Committee.

Mr. Harmon next introduced Ms. Penny Rue, Dean of Students, and Mr. Justin Saunders, President of the Inter-Fraternity Council. He noted that in February, 2000, the Board had directed the administration to work to strengthen the fraternity system. President Casteen shortly thereafter appointed the Fraternity Working Group, with Dean Rue as Chair. The Fraternity Working Group is composed of students, faculty, administrators and alumni, and it has been meeting frequently since it was organized. The Group has written a report, with recommendations,

and submitted it to the President, the Chief Operating Officer, and the Board.

Ms. Rue and Mr. Saunders gave a quick summary of the report and its recommendations. Ms. Rue prefaced their summary by saying that the Fraternity Working Group recognized that the sorority system is basically sound. She said, too, that the Fraternity Working Group's recommendations will benefit everyone, not just the fraternities addressed.

Ms. Rue's and Mr. Saunders' presentation provoked a lively discussion among Members.

The Rector concluded the discussion by thanking Ms. Rue and the Fraternity Working Group for their work.

The Chair noted that the problems considered by the Fraternity Working Group are complicated, and that there will have to be cultural and systemic changes for the Group's recommendations to work. He said a partnership must be created: the active student members of the fraternities must accept a higher level of accountability; there must be very strong support from the administration and the faculty; and the fraternity alumni must provide strong and responsible backing. He told Ms. Rue, "you have the support of this Board;" and Members that "we all need to stay with it. What matters now is what we do."

The Chair also thanked members of the Committee, particularly Mr. Warthen, for their interest and support.

The Chair then offered a resolution accepting the report, directing the administration to implement its recommendations, and expressing support for the fraternity system. In seconding the Chair's motion, Dr. Caravati congratulated Ms. Rue for her work.

The Committee adopted the resolution and recommended it to the full Board for approval at the Board's meeting on January 19, 2001 (see Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Visitors, January 19, 2001).

The Chair asked Mr. Holland, Director of Athletics, to give his report.

Mr. Holland commented first on the search process for a new Head Football Coach and thanked particularly the President and Mr. Sandridge for their involvement. There was an inherent

difficulty in that a number of schools were looking for new head coaches at the same time.

He reported briefly on fall sports, noting that Field Hockey was ranked 10th in the country, Men's Soccer 5th and Women's Soccer 13th.

Mr. Holland then reported on an initiative announced week before last by Mr. Cedric Dempsey, President of the NCAA, at the NCAA's annual convention. He quoted a press release "that the NCAA will implement a multiyear, national program to enact a cultural change within the organization, targeting institutional chief executive officers, members of governing boards, faculty, athletic directors, conference commissioners, coaches and student-athletes. The curriculum will focus on ethics, academic integrity and the philosophy of intercollegiate sport..."

"A new model for financial management" will be a key. "A modest start...may be a change in the philosophy that athletics programs should be self-sustaining.."

The Chair complimented the President and Messrs. Holland, Sandridge and Burris on the football coach selection process.

On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

The Committee met briefly, in Open Session, at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 20, 2001, to meet Mr. Al Groh, the new Head Football Coach. Mr. Groh was introduced by Mr. Holland, Director of Athletics.

AGG:jb

Copies to: Mr. John T. Casteen, III
Mr. Gene D. Block
Dr. Robert W. Cantrell
Mr. Paul J. Forch
Mr. William W. Harmon
Mr. Terry Holland
Mr. George Culbertson
Mr. Peter W. Low
Dr. Robert E. Reynolds
Mr. Leonard W. Sandridge
Ms. Colette Sheehy
Mr. Robert D. Sweeney
Ms. Louise Dudley