

May 25, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Student Affairs and Athletics Committee:

Thomas F. Farrell, II, Chair  
Susan Y. Dorsey  
G. Slaughter Fitz-Hugh, Jr.  
W. Heywood Fralin  
James W. Head  
Glynn D. Key  
Don R. Pippin  
Warren M. Thompson  
Georgia M. Willis  
Gordon F. Rainey, Jr., Ex Officio

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

William G. Crutchfield, Jr. Terence P. Ross  
Mark J. Kington Thomas A. Saunders, III  
Lewis F. Payne E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., M.D.  
John O. Wynne

FROM: Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr.

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee  
Meeting on May 25, 2004

The Student Affairs and Athletics Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 25, 2004 in the Kaleidoscope Center at Newcomb Hall; Thomas F. Farrell, II, Chair and Vice Rector, presided. Ms. Susan Y. Dorsey, W. Heywood Fralin, James W. Head, and Gordon F. Rainey, Jr., Rector, were present.

Don R. Pippin participated by telephone.

Present as well were Leonard W. Sandridge, Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr., Ms. Patricia M. Lampkin, Craig K. Littlepage, Ms. Peggy Browne, Ms. Meghan Sullivan, Noah Sullivan, Ms. Julie Myers, Mark Bernardino, and Ms. Jeanne Flipppo Bailes.

The Chair asked Ms. Lampkin, Vice President for Student Affairs, to present the Agenda.

Ms. Lampkin made her customary report to the Committee and took as her subject student behavior over the last year. On at least four occasions, she said, students were involved in serious acts of violence on or near the Grounds, including the stabbing to death of a local citizen by a student. On the other hand, University Police statistics show a decrease in certain categories of crime: aggravated assault, for example, is down considerably from 2002, as are arrests for weapons law violations.

Speculating on the reasons for this, Ms. Lampkin cited a number of factors - exposure to violence in the media, societal violence, terrorism, and breakdowns and scandals within authoritative systems throughout society. She also spoke of the effects of technology: students communicating by e-mail and cell phone rather than face-to-face. The University and other colleges are finding that more students come to school with emotional disturbances; counseling center services, as a result, are more in demand than ever before and anti-depressants and mood-altering medications are becoming more common. And racial tensions continue to exist among students or between students and the local community.

Students, Ms. Lampkin said, are taking less ownership for what happens around them and don't go beyond what affects them individually. There is a paradox of considerable community involvement as far as service, but a lack of involvement when conflict or danger are at hand. The number of students seeking help from the University's Counseling and Psychological Services has increased and perhaps 20 to 30% of those students are put on medication.

Ms. Lampkin then outlined measures her office is taking and will take to deal with some of these issues.

Ms. Lampkin introduced Ms. Meghan Sullivan, the new Chair of the Honor Committee; Ms. Sullivan gave a summary of what the Committee has done over the past year and outlined some goals that have been set for the coming year.

In 2003-2004, 76 Honor cases were initiated, 83% of them by faculty or Teaching Assistants. Of these 76 cases, 59 students were either formally accused or left admitting guilt; 30 cases went to trial and 15 students were found guilty. Academic dishonesty and cheating continue to make up the majority of charges. There was a significant increase in the Committee's case load from the previous year, which was down after the

Bloomfield initiations. Ms. Sullivan said the Committee is now back to a slightly above average case load.

The Committee has set several goals for the coming academic session - the first of these is to increase the quality and quantity of the Committee's outreach to international students. Another is to try to change what the Committee has perceived as an increasing reluctance of students to initiate Honor charges. The Committee is also working extensively with members of the faculty, both to define the faculty's role in the Honor System and to make discussion of the Honor Code more prevalent in the classroom.

Ms. Lampkin next introduced Mr. Noah Sullivan, the new President of the Student Council. Mr. Sullivan talked about Council's plans for the next academic Session, saying that Council plans to be more outward looking than it has been in the past. He talked about the new Off Grounds Housing Office and what it hopes to accomplish and about plans to initiate reforms in Council's appropriations process. The Student Council is setting diversity initiatives as its first priority for the coming year, and it will continue to work closely with the Administration as an advocate for University issues before the General Assembly.

Finally, Ms. Lampkin introduced Mr. Littlepage, Director of Athletics. Mr. Littlepage thanked the Committee for the Board's support of athletics at the University and then introduced two coaches whose teams have enjoyed particularly successful seasons: Mr. Mark Bernardino and Ms. Julie Myers.

Mr. Bernardino, Coach of Swimming and Diving, talked about his teams' accomplishments. He also spoke of their academic achievements and involvements in the community.

Ms. Myers, the Women's Lacrosse Coach, was congratulated by the Committee on the national championship won by her team this spring. She, too, talked about some of the individual achievements - academic as well as athletic - of members of her team.

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On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

AGG:lah

These minutes have been posted to the University of Virginia's Board of Visitors website.

<http://www.virginia.edu/bov/studentminutes.html>