# AGENDA

## I. OPENING REMARKS BY COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR (Mr. Atkinson)

## II. ACTION ITEMS (Ms. Sullivan and Mr. Simon)

| A. | Naming of the John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History in the College of Arts and Sciences (Ms. Sullivan) |
| B. | Establishment of the Stephenson Chair of Data Science (Ms. Sullivan) |
| C. | Establishment of the John G. Macfarlane Family Professor of Business Administration (Ms. Sullivan) |
| D. | Renaming the John L. Colley Jr. Research Professorship in Business Administration the John L. Colley Jr. Professorship in Business Administration (Ms. Sullivan) |
| E. | New Degree Program: Master of Science in Global Commerce in the McIntire School of Commerce (Mr. Simon) |

## III. REPORTS (Mr. Atkinson)

| A. | Curricular Development and Strategic Hiring of Faculty in the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences (Mr. Atkinson to introduce Mr. Ian B. Baucom; Mr. Baucom to report) |
| B. | Report on the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges Quality Enhancement Plan (Mr. Atkinson to introduce Mr. David A. Wolcott; Mr. Wolcott to report) |
| C. | New Dual Degree Program Between the School of Engineering and Applied Science and the Curry School of Education (Written report) |
IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION (to take place in separate session)
   • Faculty Personnel Actions
BOARD MEETING: June 11, 2015

COMMITTEE: Educational Policy

AGENDA ITEM: I. Opening Remarks by Committee Co-Chair

ACTION REQUIRED: None

BACKGROUND: Co-Chair Frank B. Atkinson will provide an overview of the committee agenda.
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF VISITORS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BOARD MEETING:       June 11, 2015

COMMITTEE:           Educational Policy

AGENDA ITEM: II.A. Naming of the John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History in the College of Arts & Sciences

BACKGROUND: The Center for Civil War History was created in 2015 to promote the pre-eminence of the University of Virginia in the study of 19th Century American History and the American Civil War. Among its programmatic initiatives, the Center will administer book prizes and thesis awards, organize an annual conference or lecture series, and provide travel research, faculty stipends, and scholarship and fellowship funds—all related to scholarly work on this period of American history. The chair holding the John L. Nau III Professorship in the History of the American Civil War will serve as director of the Center.

The Center has been established through the philanthropy of John L. Nau III, whose gifts provide him the opportunity to name the Center. The donor has requested that the Center be named the John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History.

Mr. Nau earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of Virginia in 1968. He is President and CEO of Silver Eagle Distributors, the nation’s largest distributor of Anheuser-Busch products, and he has been actively involved in the University community. Among his many volunteer leadership positions at the University, Mr. Nau has served as Chair of the Council of Foundations and as Vice Chair of the Knowledge is Power Campaign. He was appointed to the University’s Board of Visitors in 2011.

The University Committee on Names has approved this request.

DISCUSSION: President Sullivan will propose the naming of the Center for Civil War History, the John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History.

ACTION REQUIRED: Approval by the Educational Policy Committee and by the Board of Visitors
NAMING THE JOHN L. NAU III CENTER FOR CIVIL WAR HISTORY

WHEREAS, John L. Nau III took a B.A. in History from the University of Virginia in 1968, and for many years has been a student of the American Civil War; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Civil War History was established in the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences in 2015, through Mr. Nau’s philanthropy, to promote the University’s pre-eminence in the study of 19th Century American History and the American Civil War; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nau has been a generous benefactor and active supporter of the University through a number of volunteer leadership roles;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors names the Center for Civil War History the John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History.
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF VISITORS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BOARD MEETING:       June 11, 2015

COMMITTEE:            Educational Policy

AGENDA ITEM:          II.B. Establishment of the Stephenson Chair of Data Science

BACKGROUND: Scott Gerard Stephenson is a 1979 alumnus of the University of Virginia School of Engineering and Applied Science, with a major in Mechanical Engineering. While attending the University, Mr. Stephenson received the Alumni Association's Distinguished Student Award; he participated in many student organizations including Student Council, the I.M.P. Society, T.I.L.K.A., and Sigma Pi fraternity. Honorary society memberships included the Raven Society, Omicron Delta Kappa honorary society, and the Tau Beta Pi, Pi Tau Sigma, and Trigon engineering honorary societies. Mr. Stephenson has been an active alumnus, serving multiple times as a Reunions giving and planning volunteer.

Mr. Stephenson received an M.B.A. from Harvard University in 1983. He currently serves as the President & CEO of Verisk Analytics, Inc., in Jersey City, New Jersey. Verisk Analytics provides risk assessment services and decision analytics for numerous fields, including property/casualty insurance, healthcare, mortgage, and human resources. Mr. Stephenson manages the daily operations of Verisk Analytics; he joined the company in 2001 and is a former COO and executive vice president.

Before joining Verisk Analytics, Mr. Stephenson served as president of Ohio-based Intego Solutions, and prior to that he was an advisor at Silver Lake Partners focusing on the information services sector.

Mr. Stephenson has served as a trustee of The Carter Center in Atlanta, as well as advisory board member for the Emory University Goizueta Business School. He has three children; his daughter, Virginia, is an alumna of the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences (2010, B.A., History) as well as the McIntire School of Commerce (2011, M.S., Marketing & Management).
Mr. Stephenson's wife, Elizabeth Frances "Beth" Stephenson, is an alumna of Dartmouth College (1982, A.B., History) and Stanford University (1988, M.B.A.). Formerly, she was an executive managing director at BMO Nesbitt Burns Equity Partners in Chicago, and a former managing director and founding partner of the Chicago-based private equity firm Willis Stein & Partners. Prior to that, she worked with Continental Illinois Venture Corporation and Hewlett-Packard.

Mrs. Stephenson currently serves on the Board of Directors for Opportunity International, an international micro-finance organization. She previously served on the Board of Overseers for the Dartmouth College Hopkins Center for the Arts and on the Board of Trustees for the Stanford Graduate School of Business Trust.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Stephenson has experienced tremendous success in the field of data science throughout his career, and his passion for data science is demonstrable. In April 2014, Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson made a commitment of $3,000,000 to establish a professorship in data science at the University in honor of Mr. Stephenson's 35th reunion and in support of President Sullivan's and the University's pioneering initiative in the interdisciplinary field of data science. Recognizing that the University has extraordinary talent and potential in this area and that data science will play an ever-increasing role in all fields of basic science, engineering, medicine and health, the social sciences, and the humanities, Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson have expressed their wish to support the University's aspiration to be the premier teaching and research institution in the field.

By establishing this professorship, the Stephensons are providing the resources that will enable the University to recruit a distinguished scholar in the field, who will help establish the University as a world leader in data science.

ACTION REQUIRED: Approval by the Educational Policy Committee and by the Board of Visitors

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STEPHENSON CHAIR OF DATA SCIENCE

WHEREAS, Scott Gerard Stephenson took a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences in 1979; and
WHEREAS, Mr. Stephenson participated in many student activities including Student Council, the I.M.P. Society, T.I.L.K.A., and Sigma Pi fraternity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stephenson was awarded the Alumni Association’s Distinguished Student Award, and membership in the Raven Society, as well as Omicron Delta Kappa, and the Tau Beta Pi, Pi Tau Sigma, and Trigon engineering honorary societies; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stephenson took an M.B.A. from Harvard University in 1983; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stephenson serves as the President & CEO of Verisk Analytics, Inc., in Jersey City, New Jersey. Before joining Verisk Analytics in 2001, Mr. Stephenson served as president of Ohio-based Intego Solutions. Prior to that he was an advisor at Silver Lake Partners focusing on the information services sector; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Frances “Beth” Stephenson is an alumna of Dartmouth College and Stanford University. Formerly, she was an executive managing director at BMO Nesbitt Burns Equity Partners in Chicago, and a former managing director and founding partner of the Chicago-based private equity firm Willis Stein & Partners. Mrs. Stephenson currently serves on the Board of Directors for Opportunity International, an international microfinance organization; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson have been actively involved in supporting their alma maters in numerous important ways; and

WHEREAS, through this professorship, Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson honor Mr. Stephenson’s 35th reunion and support in a substantial way the University’s significant and pioneering initiatives in the area of data science, recognizing the University’s aspiration to be the premier teaching and research institution in the field;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors establishes the Stephenson Chair of Data Science; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Board thanks Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson for their extraordinary generosity to the University and to the field of data science.
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF VISITORS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BOARD MEETING: June 11, 2015

COMMITTEE: Educational Policy

AGENDA ITEM: II.C. Establishment of the John G. Macfarlane Family Professor of Business Administration

BACKGROUND: John G. Macfarlane III is managing partner of Arrochar Management LLC, an advisory firm specializing in investment management and financial services. He is founding partner and non-executive chair of VZ Capital, a macro-oriented investment management company focused on emerging markets. Prior to the formation of VZ Capital, he was vice chair and managing director of Tudor Investment Corporation where he served as chief operating officer and co-chairman of the firm’s management committee from 1998 to 2009. Prior to joining Tudor, Mr. Macfarlane worked at Salomon Brothers for 18 years, as treasurer and then managing director of several fixed income trading businesses.

Mr. Macfarlane took a B.A. in classical studies from Hampden-Sydney College in 1976, where he was a George Baker Scholar, and a M.B.A. from the Darden School of Business (the Darden School) in 1979. He received Darden’s Rosenthal Fellowship for innovation in the field of finance for his work on interest rate swaps.

An active, engaged, and generous alumnus of the Darden School and the University, Mr. Macfarlane served on the Darden School Foundation Board of Trustees from 2001 to 2014, and as chair from 2007 to 2009.

Mr. Macfarlane is currently a member of the Board of Visitors, and serves as a Board representative to the University of Virginia Investment Management Company (UVIMCO) Board of Directors. He was chair of the UVIMCO board from 2011 to 2013. He also serves on the College Foundation Board, and the boards of Hampden-Sydney College, the Nantucket Conservation Foundation, and the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Foundation.

Honors and awards from the University include the Raven Award in 2008, induction into the Raven Society in 2009, and the Charles C. Abbott Award, the highest honor bestowed upon a Darden School alumnus by the Darden School Alumni Association.
Board of Directors in recognition of extraordinary contributions to the Darden School’s mission.

John Macfarlane’s family includes his wife, Dudley, and three sons, Jack, Clay, and Brian. Jack and Brian graduated from the University, and Clay from the University of North Carolina.

DISCUSSION: Mr. and Mrs. Macfarlane have been generous donors to the Richard A. Mayo Center for Asset Management at the Darden School. The Richard A. Mayo Center was created to advance the study and practice of asset management through top-quality research, regular conferences and activities, support for the students of Darden Capital Management, and the development of educational programs.

Mr. and Mrs. Macfarlane funded the academic chair for the Richard A. Mayo Center in 2015 to attract an expert in the field of asset management. The Darden School proposes that the chair be named the John G. Macfarlane Family Professor of Business Administration.

ACTION REQUIRED: Approval by the Educational Policy Committee and by the Board of Visitors

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JOHN G. MACFARLANE FAMILY PROFESSOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS, John G. Macfarlane III took a B.A. in classical studies from Hampden-Sydney College in 1976, where he was a George Baker Scholar, and an M.B.A. from the Darden School of Business in 1979 where he received the Rosenthal Fellowship for innovation in the field of finance for his work on interest rate swaps; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Macfarlane is managing partner of Arrochar Management LLC, an advisory firm specializing in investment management and financial services, and founding partner and non-executive chair of VZ Capital, a macro-oriented investment management company focused on emerging markets. Prior to the formation of VZ Capital, he was vice chair and managing director of Tudor Investment Corporation. Prior to joining Tudor, Mr. Macfarlane worked at Salomon Brothers for 18 years, as treasurer and then managing director of several fixed income trading businesses; and
WHEREAS, Mr. Macfarlane is an active, engaged, and generous alumnus of the Darden School and the University, serving on the Darden School Foundation Board of Trustees from 2001 to 2014, and as chair from 2007 to 2009; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Macfarlane is currently a member of the Board of Visitors, and serves as a Board representative to the University of Virginia Investment Management Company (UVIMCO) Board of Directors. He was chair of the UVIMCO board from 2011 to 2013. He also serves on the College Foundation Board, and the boards of Hampden-Sydney College, the Nantucket Conservation Foundation, and the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Foundation; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 Mr. Macfarlane received the Raven Award, and was inducted into the Raven Society in 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Charles C. Abbott Award, the highest honor bestowed upon a Darden alumnus by the Darden School Alumni Association Board of Directors in recognition of extraordinary contributions to the Darden School’s mission, was awarded to Mr. Macfarlane in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Macfarlane and his wife, Dudley, have been generous donors to the Richard A. Mayo Center for Asset Management, including funding an academic chair for the Mayo Center to attract an expert in the field of asset management who will prepare skilled future asset managers and ensure Darden’s place as a global leader in the field; and

WHEREAS, the Darden School proposes naming the academic chair for the Richard A. Mayo Center the John G. Macfarlane Family Professor of Business Administration;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors establishes the John G. Macfarlane Family Professor of Business Administration; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Board thanks John and Dudley Macfarlane for their generous donations of both time and funding to the University and the Darden School of Business.
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF VISITORS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BOARD MEETING: June 11, 2015

COMMITTEE: Educational Policy


BACKGROUND: The Board of Visitors established the Alumni Research Professorship in Business Administration at the Darden School of Business in 1995. The donors who gave the funds to establish the professorship wished to honor Professor John L. Colley Jr. and name the chair for him, but at the time University policy prohibited the naming of a chair in honor of active faculty members. The rules later changed, however, and the Board renamed the chair in 2006.

Professor John L. Colley Jr., a member of the Darden School faculty since 1967, is the current holder of the John L. Colley Jr. Research Professorship in Business Administration. Throughout his career, Professor Colley has authored or co-authored 15 books, more than 332 case studies and teaching notes, and more than 50 instructional notes and materials. He currently resides in the upper apartment of Pavilion VIII on the Lawn. Professor Colley received the Thomas Jefferson Award in 2010, the highest honor the University bestows upon its faculty members.

DISCUSSION: As the result of a 2011 pledge from the Commonwealth Foundation, funding needed to raise the value of the research professorship fund to that of a fully-funded professorship has been completed. The current combined value of the funds now exceeds the minimum required to establish a fully-endowed Darden School professorship. The donor whose gift established the chair, and all other donors of the funds supporting the professorship, support naming the professorship the “John L. Colley Jr. Professorship in Business Administration.”

ACTION REQUIRED: Approval by the Educational Policy Committee and by the Board of Visitors
RENAME THE JOHN L. COLLEY JR. RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION THE JOHN L. COLLEY JR. PROFESSORSHIP IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS, the Board of Visitors established the Alumni Research Professorship in Business Administration at the Darden School of Business in 1995; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Visitors changed the name of the professorship in 2006 to honor Darden School Professor John L. Colley Jr., as the donors who gave the funds to establish the professorship had intended; and

WHEREAS, funding needed to raise the value of the research professorship fund to that of a fully-endowed professorship at the Darden School has been completed; and

WHEREAS, the donors of the funds supporting the professorship all support the renaming, and the Darden School and the donor who executed the fund agreement to establish the research professorship agreed to this change in writing;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors renames the John L. Colley Jr. Research Professorship in Business Administration the John L. Colley Jr. Professorship in Business Administration; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Board congratulates Mr. Colley for his exemplary service to the Darden School and the University, and thanks the many donors who made this professorship possible.
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF VISITORS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BOARD MEETING: June 11, 2015

COMMITTEE: Educational Policy

AGENDA ITEM: II.E. New Degree Program: Master of Science in Global Commerce in the McIntire School of Commerce

BACKGROUND: The University of Virginia proposes to establish a new degree program, a Master of Science (M.S.) in Global Commerce, to be offered by the McIntire School of Commerce.

DISCUSSION: Pillar 3 of the Cornerstone Plan seeks to "provide educational experiences that deliver new levels of student engagement." Strategy 7, which addresses global experiences, states that "the University will strengthen its global presence." The M.S. in Global Commerce is one manifestation of the University's commitment to "prepare students for leadership in a global context."

The M.S. in Global Commerce is a 40-credit degree program offered to pre-work experience students. The program was developed in partnership with two esteemed international partners, ESADE in Barcelona, Spain, and Lingnan (University) College at Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, China. The program is designed to provide a high-impact, global educational experience that prepares recent college graduates from the Americas, Europe, and Asia to excel in an increasingly complex and dynamic global economy.

Annual cohorts of approximately 60 students - 20 students recruited by each partner school - will live, study, and travel together throughout the 10-month program. Students will spend 15 weeks at the University of Virginia, nine weeks at Lingnan (University) College at Sun Yat-sen University, and 15 weeks at ESADE. The experience will be highly integrative, with all curricular, capstone, thesis, residential, and student life experiences coordinated by the three partner schools. Graduates will receive a degree from both the University of Virginia and ESADE, as well as a certificate from Lingnan (University) College at Sun Yat-sen University.

The mission of the M.S. in Global Commerce program is to develop future managers who will add value through their ability to skillfully respond to complex opportunities and challenges
facing firms globally, as well as their ability to work effectively in international settings and cross-cultural teams.

Through the cohort structure and residencies at each university, students will develop not only their analytical and technical abilities, but their adaptability, global and regional knowledge, and cross-cultural and managerial communication skills. The program will unite the curricular, the co-curricular, and the extracurricular in a coherent academic and personal experience that reflects the best practices in graduate global business education.

Graduates of the M.S. in Global Commerce program will be able to:

- Identify business opportunities and risks in both a regional and global context;
- Design and implement regionally appropriate strategies and business plans;
- Work effectively on cross-cultural teams and in international settings;
- Demonstrate communication and cultural competencies needed to be effective managers and leaders;
- Move with skill between American, Chinese, and European business environments; and
- Immediately add value to organizations through the application of strong analytical skills enhanced by a broad global perspective.

Business educators and business school accreditors recognize that the global nature of business in the 21st century requires managers and future leaders who understand and can manage complexity, ambiguity, and rapid change. A 2011 report issued by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) notes that today’s work environment “demands students who are prepared to implement global strategy and who possess international experience, cultural awareness, and the ability to work in cross-cultural environments.” The AACSB study goes on to state that the recent “spectacular wave of globalization” created “a significant demand for administrative talent educated in the challenges and opportunities of globalization.”

The AACSB report calls on business schools to engage in innovative programs that enhance and develop business education globally. “Whereas at one time only national systems of business education existed, business schools today are
components of a global system, producing students who may one day work together as colleagues or clients on different sides of the globe. As members of this system, business schools have a collective responsibility to help elevate the quality of business education across the globe. International partnerships that support synergies between schools, benchmarking, and institutional development have the potential to contribute to the global growth of quality management education.

The degree program was approved by the McIntire School of Commerce Faculty, the Dean of the McIntire School, the Faculty Senate, the Provost, and the President. All degree programs must be approved by the Board of Visitors before they can be forwarded to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) for review and approval. Dual degree programs, such as the M.S. in Global Commerce, also require notification to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

ACTION REQUIRED: Approval by the Educational Policy Committee and by the Board of Visitors

NEW DEGREE PROGRAM: MASTER OF SCIENCE IN GLOBAL COMMERCE

RESOLVED, subject to approval by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and notification to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), the Master of Science in Global Commerce is established in the McIntire School of Commerce.
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF VISITORS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BOARD MEETING: June 11, 2015

COMMITTEE: Educational Policy

AGENDA ITEM: III.A. Curricular Development and Strategic Hiring of Faculty in the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences

ACTION REQUIRED: None

BACKGROUND: Over the course of the 2014-15 academic year, the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences has initiated a comprehensive strategic planning process to examine key areas of focus for the School as it reaffirms the core values and purpose of a liberal arts education while pioneering teaching and advanced research in a wide array of enduring and newly emerging fields.

The Dean of the College, Ian Baucom, and the Arts & Sciences Committee on Academic Priorities (CAP) recently completed a retreat (following a year of planning) to affirm the guiding principles that will shape the emerging strategic framework for the College and Graduate School. Primary areas of focus for that strategic planning include a reform of the general education requirements for students in the College; the development of a multi-year faculty hiring plan balancing investments in enduring disciplines and emerging cross-disciplinary research and teaching fields; a commitment to increasing the diversity of the faculty; significant advancement of Arts & Sciences’ position at the frontiers of research across all fields (with particular emphasis in the Sciences); the development of global research and teaching initiatives; and the strengthening of the Graduate School.

DISCUSSION: Ian Baucom began his tenure as Buckner W. Clay Dean of Arts & Sciences in July, 2014. As the College and Graduate School advances its strategic planning, Dean Baucom wishes to discuss with the Committee how the School’s curricular reform and other pedagogical initiatives, faculty hiring plans, and investments in new global partnerships and research and discovery efforts co-ordinate with and advance the Cornerstone Plan and cross-Grounds planning for the generational turnover of faculty.
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF VISITORS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BOARD MEETING: June 11, 2015

COMMITTEE: Educational Policy

AGENDA ITEM: III.B. Report on the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges Quality Enhancement Plan

ACTION REQUIRED: None

BACKGROUND: The University has been an accredited member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) since 1904. Accreditation by a U.S. Department of Education-recognized accrediting agency is necessary for access to Title IV financial aid. The University receives approximately $130 million per year in Title IV financial aid. Accreditation also facilitates transfer of credit to, and degree recognition by, other institutions of higher education. For faculty, accreditation is necessary to access many sources of research funding.

DISCUSSION: Every 10 years, the University is required to document compliance with the totality of the Principles of Accreditation. The University’s decennial compliance certification is due September 2016.

In addition to the compliance certification, a significant component of the decennial reaffirmation is the development of a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). According to SACSCOC, the QEP is “an opportunity for the institution to enhance overall institutional quality and effectiveness by focusing on an issue or issues the institution considers important to improving student learning.” The University’s QEP is due February 2017.

The first step in the development of a QEP is the selection of a topic. One of the criteria used by SACSCOC to judge the selection of a QEP topic is that it be based on the results on institutional assessment. The University’s primary method of assessing student learning at the institutional level is the core competency assessment regime. The six core competencies are critical thinking, oral communication, quantitative reasoning, scientific reasoning, undergraduate research, and written communication.
During summer 2014, the provost’s office engaged the deans of the University’s undergraduate schools on both the QEP and the core competency assessments. After these discussions, executive summaries of the core competency assessments, as well as the QEP topics of other RU/VH institutions, were provided to the deans. The deans were asked to solicit constituent feedback, within their respective schools, as to an appropriate broad topic of inquiry for the University’s QEP.

At the institutional level, the provost’s office consulted with the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) of the Faculty Senate. AAC was consulted again to review and discuss the feedback received from the undergraduate schools of the University. Additional QEP-related presentations were given to the vice provosts and the University Assessment Advisory Committee.

Among the eight undergraduate schools, written communication was included among the recommendations of six. Written communication was also among the prospective topics recommended by AAC. Emblematic of the feedback received is the following from the School of Architecture. During a meeting to discuss QEP topics, the school noted:

There was the view that increasingly students were not seeking out courses that had more of an emphasis on writing assignments. We felt this was in part a sign that students did not understand the importance of writing to all aspects of their work and in their future. The group discussed the idea that many courses need to further emphasize their writing component in order to give students more opportunity to develop this competency.

Feedback from the Batten School emphasized the importance of written communication to employers:

No matter the sector, employers of Batten students have emphasized the importance of sound communication skills to our faculty, administrators, and the student-recruits themselves. Public and private sector employers alike have met with our director of career services to affirm the importance of training our students to write persuasively, clearly, and succinctly.

After review and consideration of the various sources of feedback, the president selected written communication as the University’s QEP topic. A QEP development committee—consisting of faculty and students—will now be charged with
developing a detailed plan for submission to SACSCOC in February 2017.
BACKGROUND: The School of Engineering and Applied Science and the Curry School of Education have proposed a dual degree program.

DISCUSSION: The Executive Vice President and Provost has approved a memorandum of understanding creating a dual degree program between the School of Engineering and Applied Science and the Curry School of Education. Students enrolled in the program may obtain both the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Engineering Science and the Master of Teaching (M.T.) in five years instead of the six years that would be required if each degree were taken separately. The dual degree program has been approved by the deans and the requisite faculty bodies in each school.

The program is designed to accommodate the interests of students who desire to gain eligibility for an initial teaching license in secondary science or mathematics. The program is modeled on the long-standing B.A./M.T. dual degree program in place between the College of Arts and Sciences and the Curry School.