MEMORANDUM

TO: The Academic and Student Life Committee:

Barbara J. Fried, Co-Chair
Bobbie G. Kilberg, Co-Chair
Frank B. Atkinson
Mark T. Bowles
Whittington W. Clement
Frank M. Conner III
Helen E. Dragas
Frank E. Genovese
Tammy S. Murphy
William H. Goodwin Jr., Ex-officio
Joe Garofalo, Faculty Consulting Member
Daniel T. Judge, Student Member
Allison S. Linney, Consulting Member

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

L.D. Britt, M.D. John G. Macfarlane III
Kevin J. Fay James V. Reyes
John A. Griffin Jeffrey C. Walker
Victoria D. Harker

FROM: Susan G. Harris

RE: Minutes of the Academic and Student Life Committee on February 19, 2016

The Academic and Student Life Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 8:30 a.m., on Friday, February 19, 2016, in the Auditorium of the Albert & Shirley Small Special Collections Library of the Harrison Institute. Barbara J. Fried, Co-Chair, presided.

Present were William H. Goodwin Jr., Frank B. Atkinson, Mark T. Bowles, Whittington W. Clement, Frank M. Conner III, Frank E. Genovese, Tammy S. Murphy, Joe Garofalo, Daniel T. Judge, and Allison S. Linney.
L.D. Britt, M.D., Kevin J. Fay, John A. Griffin, Victoria D. Harker, James V. Reyes, and Jeffrey C. Walker were also present.

Present as well were Teresa A. Sullivan, Patrick D. Hogan, Thomas C. Katsouleas, Richard P. Shannon, M.D., Melody S. Bianchetto, Susan G. Harris, Donna P. Henry, Ronald R. Hutchins, Patricia M. Lampkin, W. Thomas Leback, Craig D. Littlepage, David W. Martel, Debra D. Rinker, Nancy A. Rivers, Roscoe C. Roberts, Colette Sheehy, and Farnaz F. Thompson.

Presenters were Allen W. Groves, Christopher P. Holstege, M.D., Archie L. Holmes, Bronco C. Mendenhall, Brad Noyes, and Billie G. Perez.

Ms. Fried opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

Consent Agenda: HEALTH INSURANCE: Reaffirms requirement that University of Virginia students carry health insurance, and approves updated policy text related to this longstanding requirement.

On motion, the committee approved the following resolution and recommended it for full Board approval:

REAFFIRMATION OF REQUIREMENT THAT ALL UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA STUDENTS CARRY HEALTH INSURANCE AND APPROVAL OF UPDATED POLICY TEXT RELATED TO THIS REQUIREMENT

WHEREAS, the Board of Visitors adopted a resolution on September 1, 1967, requiring “all students enrolled at the University at Charlottesville” to carry “hospitalization insurance;” and

WHEREAS, the Board of Visitors adopted a second resolution on September 1, 1989, reaffirming this requirement and extending it to “all University of Virginia students (except those enrolled in the Division of Continuing Education) and all Clinch Valley College students;” and

WHEREAS, both of these resolutions permitted students to choose between a health insurance plan sponsored by “Student Council” or a comparable plan; and

WHEREAS, this policy text requires updating to reflect current nomenclature and practice;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors reaffirms the requirement that students maintain health insurance throughout their enrollment at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville and at The University of Virginia’s College at Wise (the College at Wise); and
RESOLVED FURTHER, the Board of Visitors authorizes the University Vice President and Chief Student Affairs Officer and the College at Wise Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management and Student Life to oversee compliance with this requirement, provided that eligible students are permitted to enroll in any health plan sponsored by the University or a comparable plan.

University Housing Panel Discussion

Ms. Patricia M. Lampkin, Vice President and Chief Student Affairs Officer, introduced the panelists: Mr. Allen Groves, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students; Ms. Gay Perez, Associate Dean of Students and Executive Director of Housing & Residence Life; Mr. Brad Noyes, Senior Vice President, Brailsford & Dunlavey; and Mr. Archie Holmes, Vice Provost for Educational Innovation & Interdisciplinary Studies.

Mr. Groves provided an overview of the first-year residential life program and housing options for upperclass students. The first year program emphasizes diversity, self-governance, safety, and the preparation of students for more independence. All first year students are housed on Grounds to inculcate them into the University environment. Housing options for upperclass students include single rooms, apartments, and themed housing. The goal is to create desirable spaces based on student demand. The academic mission is the core principle of the residential experience. The Housing Division, for example, supports the study abroad program by allowing students to opt out of their room contracts when they are overseas.

Ms. Perez introduced Mr. Noyes of Brailsford & Dunlavey, a firm commissioned by the University to study student housing needs. Mr. Noyes provided an overview of the housing system, which offers 6,540 beds. Traditional rooms with shared baths account for 59% of the beds, apartments account for 26%, and suites account for 16%. The occupancy rate is 97%. The system houses 100% of first year students, 43% of second years, 14% of third years, 8% of fourth years, and 6% of graduate students. The system includes three residential colleges and three language houses.

Mr. Noyes reviewed the recently completed master planning process for the housing and residence life program. Phase I was completed in 2012. It assessed building conditions and opportunities for improvements. There was then a pause in the process while strategic questions were analyzed, and changes, such as the improvements to the Gooch/Dillard and Copeley Hill residence areas, were implemented. Phase II was completed in 2015. It included a survey to assess the changes implemented after the 2012 survey and to gauge current opinion. It showed that residents had a 97% satisfaction rate; the national average is in the 60% range. The rate for similar institutions is in the 80% range. The survey indicated that walkability and location are critical and drive the student
experience. On-Grounds housing preferences are largely driven by proximity to Central Grounds. Upperclass students are interested in features that provide privacy and independence. Residential colleges have a small but loyal following, with students interested in them primarily due to their location on-Grounds.

New off-Grounds housing options have had little impact on the on-Grounds undergraduate housing demand, but have impacted graduate students. Since 2012, the demand by graduate students for on-Grounds housing is down 39%. There is a slowly increasing undergraduate interest in on-Grounds housing. The Brandon Avenue/JPA area is the most desirable location for new housing. Lambeth/Ivy Road is second. Convenient location and wireless internet services should be the top physical features for new on-Grounds housing.

In contrast to national averages, physical features were not as important to University students, whose housing experience is impacted by their overall positive University experience. There was not much change in the ranking of housing decision factors between 2012 and 2015. An assessment of housing costs found that off-Grounds housing costs approximately 33% more than on-Grounds housing and that the rates for off-Grounds housing have been rising more quickly.

Mr. Groves summarized the study's key points: the overall satisfaction rate for on-Grounds and off-Grounds housing was 97%; every rising second year student who wants to live on Grounds is able to do so; upperclass students prefer housing with single rooms, access to full kitchens, shared baths, and near Central Grounds; and there is some demand by third and fourth year students for additional on-Grounds housing if it offers single room apartment style living close to Central Grounds.

Mr. Holmes emphasized that a positive residential experience has a positive impact on the academic experience.

During the committee discussion, the Rector asked about next steps. Mr. Hogan and Mr. Groves stated that enrollment growth is a key housing factor. Once a growth plan has been approved, the University can project the first-year housing need and the impact on upperclass housing. The University will provide an assessment of the impact of enrollment growth at the June Board meeting. The Vice Rector asked for a future discussion of the isolation experienced by African-American students in the first year residence halls.

Executive Vice President and Provost Remarks

Mr. Katsouleas reported that searches are underway for 100 regular faculty hires, 20 cluster hires, and 11 target of opportunity hires with one-half in the offer stage and one-half in the shortlist stage. The goal is to hire 90 new faculty this academic year. Nearly 20 faculty, including four African-Americans, have already been hired.
Schools are in the midst of the first year of responsibility centered management (RSM) and it is going well. By the end of May, each school will have an annual faculty peer review process and a diversity plan in place. The College is accessing the availability of first year courses and is conducting a general education curriculum review. The faculty have returned to the original mission statement by thinking about what it means to create citizen leaders for a democracy and a life of useful purpose and meaning. They want a focus on engagement and literacies, and have proposed the formation of an academy of faculty that would own general education. The goal is to create an integrated curriculum rather than a cafeteria approach.

Mr. Katsouleas discussed the creation of an academic dashboard to assess academic performance. Institutions typically measure success based on the number of student applications and on the amount of research funding, but he would like to use 10 metrics to measure areas, such as quality of teaching, quality of learning, diversity, interdisciplinary efforts, global presence, engagement with the arts. Mr. Katsouleas asked the Board for metric suggestions.

Mr. Katsouleas concluded his report with the status of the selection process for the next pan-university institute. The proposals include the Resilience Institute; the Water Research Institute; the Julian Bond Institute for the Study of Race, Civil Rights and Social Justice; the BRAIN Institute; Global Infectious Disease Institute; and the Healthspan Institute. Proposals are due on March 14. The selection will be announced on May 6. The evaluation will include an assessment of the strengths and connectivity of the faculty participants using a modeling tool developed, Academic Analytics.

During the committee discussion, it was suggested that collaborations with other state universities be part of the institute evaluation criteria since collaboration is emphasized by the state. It was suggested that even though only one proposal will be selected for institute status, the University ought to consider funding the others. Mr. Katsouleas responded that this would probably happen and that more than one proposal could possibly be selected for institute status. It was also suggested that the faculty productivity presentation given by Academic Analytics at a previous committee meeting be presented to the full Board.

The Vice Rector asked if there was a portal that researchers can use to find out what other faculty are researching. Mr. Katsouleas replied that the University will be developing such a portal. The goal is to create a database where one could data mine grant proposals for areas of common interest.

The Chair ended the discussion with a review of committee follow-up actions: future residence halls; a research portal; input on the pan-university institute; and academic dashboard metrics.
Counseling and Psychological Services Discussion

Dr. Holstege, Executive Director of Student Health, reviewed the data for the Center for Counseling and Psychological services (CAPS) for the past two years in the context of national trends. A 2015 nationwide survey by the Center for Collegiate Mental Health examined changes in enrollment growth and counseling center utilization over the previous six years. The data from 93 institutions showed an increase in counseling center appointments that is more than seven times the growth of enrollment. Depression and anxiety were two types of self-reported student distress that show slow but consistent growth.

The University’s experience mirrors national trends. The number of CAPS visits has increased from 7,000 in 2005 to over 9,000 in 2015. Due in part to more counselors, CAPS visits this year are on track to increase to 11,480.

CAPS is conducting a review to ensure that it is maximizing its internal and external resources. It is reviewing best practices at other universities. CAPS launched a pilot program that embeds counselors in the schools. It is also expanding its collaboration and outreach services to schools, departments, and residence halls.

The committee requested a presentation that addresses issues such as counseling outreach in residence halls, work with faculty advisors, range of treatment options, parental involvement, and depression. The Chair proposed a follow-up session on total advising.

University of Virginia Football Program Discussion

Mr. Littlepage, Director of Athletics, introduced Mr. Bronco Mendenhall, the new head football coach. Mr. Mendenhall’s goal is to create a culture that supports success not only in football, but also in academics. He stressed the importance of lifelong learning.

Committee discussion focused on recruitment, a new football building, isolation of athletes, and equivalent programs. Coach Mendenhall responded that when recruiting, the coaching staff focuses on what it takes to graduate from the University and not just on what it takes to get in. He explained that modern sports centers are helpful, but not essential. A good program can be run on a minimal budget, but consideration needs to be given to aspirational goals. The message conveyed by the McCue Center is that of an old and outdated program. Coach Mendenhall wants the team woven into the fabric of the University and would prefer to share a building with other teams. He singled out Duke and Northwestern as having similar programs with high academic standards and a holistic approach that focuses on who the athletes are becoming.

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On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

SGH:wtl
These minutes have been posted to the University of Virginia’s Board of Visitors website:  http://www.virginia.edu/bov/educationalminutes.html