

February 25, 2000

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Educational Policy Committee:

T. Keister Greer, Chair  
Champ Clark  
Elsie Goodwyn Holland  
Robert G. Schoenvogel  
Elizabeth A. Twohy  
Walter F. Walker  
Joseph E. Wolfe  
John P. Ackerly, III, Ex Officio

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

Charles M. Caravati, Jr., M.D. Terence P. Ross  
William G. Crutchfield, Jr. Albert H. Small  
William H. Goodwin, Jr. Henry L. Valentine, II  
Timothy B. Robertson Benjamin P.A. Warthen  
James C. Wheat, III

FROM: Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr.

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Educational Policy  
Committee on February 25, 2000

The Educational Policy Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 2:03 p.m., Friday, February 25, 2000, in the East Oval Room of the Rotunda; T. Keister Greer, Chair, presided. Champ Clark, Mrs. Elsie Goodwyn Holland, Robert G. Schoenvogel, Ms. Elizabeth A. Twohy, Walter F. Walker, Joseph E. Wolfe, and John P. Ackerly, III, Rector, were present.

Other Members of the Board of Visitors present at the meeting were Charles M. Caravati, Jr., M.D., William G. Crutchfield, Jr., Timothy B. Robertson, Terence P. Ross, Albert H. Small, Henry L. Valentine, II, Benjamin P.A. Warthen, and James C. Wheat, III.

Also present were John T. Casteen, III, Leonard W. Sandridge, Jr., Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr., Paul J. Forch, Peter W. Low, Gene D. Block, Robert W. Cantrell, M.D., Ernest H. Ern, William W. Harmon, Robert E. Reynolds, M.D., Terry Holland, Ms. Sondra F. Stallard, Ms. Rebecca Kneedler, David T. Gies, and Ms. Jeanne Flippo Bailes.

The Chair asked Mr. Low, Vice President and Provost, to present the Agenda.

Mr. Low proposed a resolution to change the name of the Division of Continuing Education to "School of Continuing and Professional Studies." The reasons for this change, he said, were to indicate the Board of Visitors' interest in and support of Continuing Education, to enhance the School and to market it better, and to do away with some problems that have been encountered in transferring Continuing Education credits to institutions outside the University.

Continuing Education, Mr. Low explained, was first called the "Extension Division," then the "School of General Studies," then "School of Continuing Education" and finally "Division of Continuing Education."

Dr. Caravati asked if the Faculty approves the proposed name change; Mr. Low, the Chair, and Mr. Gies, the Chair of the Faculty Senate, all said they knew of no opposition.

On motion, the Committee approved the necessary resolution and recommended it to the full Board for approval. (See Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Visitors, February 26, 2000.)

Mr. Low asked Mr. David Gies, Chair of the Faculty Senate, to give a brief report on the activities of the Senate. Mr. Gies mentioned four things: (1) The Harrison Undergraduate Research Awards, which were established with a gift from Mr. David Harrison of Prince George County. Twenty six awards were available and there were 157 applicants. (2) The Senate continues to manage the Teaching Initiatives, a program that is now in its third year.

(3) On March 24<sup>th</sup>, the Senate will sponsor a forum to discuss the recent report on the climate for women at the University. (4) The Senate continues to be heavily involved in faculty/student initiatives and supplies speakers for a number of meetings and discussions in this regard.

Mr. Low asked Mr. Gies to describe the faculty speakers series, which is a kind of speakers bureau managed by the Senate. Organizations within the University and without, and indeed all over Virginia, can apply for speakers on subjects of interest to them.

Mr. Ross asked Mr. Gies if he would report at the April meeting on the Senate's two year old initiative to encourage faculty/student interaction outside the classroom. Mr. Gies agreed to do so.

Mr. Low asked Mr. Gene Block, Vice President for Research and Public Service, to report on the growth of the University's research enterprise.

Mr. Block cited some trends in Federal research support, nationwide. The most dramatic increases in recent years has been the support given by the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. Support from NASA has remained constant, support from the Department of Defense has declined and support from the Department of Energy has shown only modest increases. Support for research in the life sciences is the most significant and has shown the greatest increase since 1995. Support for engineering research is next, but it has remained about constant since 1995. Support for the physical sciences showed first a decline and then a modest rise in the same period. Support for environmental sciences has remained constant, math and computer sciences have risen slightly and psychology, for which support is relatively modest, has remained constant.

Reflecting some of these national trends, sponsored research at the University rose significantly in the last fiscal year, with the biggest increase in support coming from the National Institutes of Health. National Science Foundation support rose while NASA's contributions remained almost the same. There was a nice rise in support from foundations.

Mr. Block outlined some of the improvement in research infrastructure required by the increases in funding. The most pressing of these is what he called the "shortfall of high quality research space in all schools."

Mr. Block then gave a brief description of the Medical Automation Research Center and Carilion Biomedical Institute, a joint undertaking of the University and Virginia Tech with the Carilion Institute in Roanoke. One project is the development of robotic aids for the elderly.

Mr. Low asked Dr. Robert Reynolds, Interim Vice President for Information Technology, to report on the Desktop Computing Initiative, an effort begun by Ms. McClure, the previous Vice President for Information Technology.

The Initiative, Dr. Reynolds explained, is University-wide and has begun with the first computers being installed. The objects of the Initiative are greater efficiency and quality and substantial savings in costs. The program is voluntary.

In reply to questions from Members, Dr. Reynolds and Mr. Low said the program is attractive to students as well. The cost of a standard computer is about \$1200; a high performance model is \$1900. Mr. Low said there are substantial aid programs for students.

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

AGG:lah

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