

February 25, 2000

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Student Affairs and Athletics Committee:

Henry L. Valentine, II, Chair
Walter F. Walker, Vice-Chair/Athletics
Charles M. Caravati, Jr.
Champ Clark
Elsie Goodwyn Holland
Robert G. Schoenvogel
Benjamin P.A. Warthen
John P. Ackerly, III, Ex Officio

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

William G. Crutchfield, Jr.	Terence P. Ross
William H. Goodwin, Jr.	Albert H. Small
T. Keister Greer	Elizabeth A. Twohy
Timothy B. Robertson	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 February 25, 2000

The Student Affairs and Athletics Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 1:10 p.m., Friday, February 25, 2000, in the East Oval Room of the Rotunda; Henry L. Valentine, II, Chair, presided. Walter F. Walker, Vice Chair, Charles M. Caravati, Jr., M.D., Champ Clark, Mrs. Elsie Goodwyn Holland, Robert G. Schoenvogel, Benjamin P.A. Warthen, and John P. Ackerly, III, Rector, were present.

Other Members of the Board of Visitors present were William G. Crutchfield, Jr., T. Keister Greer, Timothy B. Robertson, Terence P. Ross, Albert H. Small, Ms. Elizabeth A. Twohy, James C. Wheat, III, and Joseph E. Wolfe.

Also present were John T. Casteen, III, Leonard W. Sandridge, Jr., Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr., Paul J. Forch, William W. Harmon, Terry Holland, Robert W. Cantrell, M.D., Peter W. Low, Robert D. Sweeney, Ernest H. Ern, Robert E. Reynolds, M.D., Gene D. Block, L. Jay Lemons, Ms. Colette Sheehy, Brian P. Hudak, Ms. Terra Weirich, and Ms. Jeanne Flippo Bailes.

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

Mr. Harmon asked Mr. Holland, Director of Athletics, to report. Mr. Holland reported on the fall teams as well as on the winter sports to date. He noted, as a general comment, that both the women's and men's teams are doing well this year. As for the Sears Cup, the University lost "a little ground" in football and field hockey in the fall, but Mr. Holland said he hopes that this will be made up in the winter sports team standings.

Mr. Holland asked Mr. Sweeney, Vice President for Development, to report on fundraising for Scott Stadium. Mr. Sweeney told the Committee that \$31m was needed to complete the funding for the Stadium construction; some \$21.8m of this has been raised to date from 249 donors. He praised Mr. Barry Parkhill for his work on this and called him "perhaps the best principal gift closer" at the University.

Of the 44 suites - the "skyboxes" - being built at the Stadium, all but 11 have been sold (Mr. Sandridge at this point observed that the sale of suites is ahead of the schedule set out by the business plan covering the suites). Mr. Small suggested that a sample suite be finished and put on view at Reunions Weekend. Mr. Sweeney and Mr. Holland invited Board Members to tour the suites at the end of the day. And Mr. Sandridge and Mr. Sweeney reminded the Committee that during the week, the completed suites will be used by the Office of Career Planning and Placement for interviews by prospective employers of graduating students.

Mr. Harmon introduced Ms. Terra Weirich, Vice Chair for Trials of the Honor Committee; Ms. Weirich spoke in the absence of Mr. Hunter Ferguson, Chair of the Honor Committee, who was in Washington to interview for a post-graduate fellowship.

Ms. Weirich reported that since the present Honor Committee took office last April, it has carried out 44 investigations of alleged violations of the Honor Code. As a result, 19 formal accusations were made, mostly for cheating. There have been 14 trials to date, 8 of which resulted in guilty verdicts. In addition, 3 students accused formally admitted guilt and elected to leave the University without trial.

Ms. Weirich told the Committee that the former Diversity Task Force of the Honor Committee has been made a permanent subcommittee of the Committee and is working with a variety of organizations of minority students to dispel the notion that there are racial and cultural biases on the Committee. She said there will be a two day retreat at the end of March which all members-elect of the Committee will be obliged to attend, along with members of the present Committee. The aim of the retreat is to give members-elect a thorough orientation in the workings of the Committee.

The Chair asked Ms. Weirich to comment on the proposed Honor referendum. She replied that the referendum will be on a proposal to eliminate seriousness (at present, the Committee is obliged to consider act, intent and seriousness when investigating an Honor accusation) as a factor in the consideration of cases of cheating. The referendum will put this question to the student body as a whole.

Mr. Harmon then introduced Mr. Brian Hudak, Chair of the Judiciary Committee.

It has been a good year for the Judiciary Committee, Mr. Hudak said. The Committee has more Advisors than ever and this year a record number of people have indicated their intention to stand for election to the Committee. He went on to report that the Committee has updated its Constitution and By-Laws, codified its rules on confidentiality and reduced the size of trial panels from seven to five elected members. The Committee is working with the IFC and ISC Judiciary Committees to sort out their

respective areas of responsibility. The Committee has codified its policies on parental notification (it now sends cases where parental notification is a possibility to the Vice President for Student Affairs for a ruling. Where parental notification is deemed necessary, the Vice President for Student Affairs actually carries it out).

Mr. Hudak said there have been 192 cases before the Committee this year, more than ever before. In response to a question from a Member, he said there has been an overall increase in alcohol related cases.

Mr. Warthen asked Ms. Weirich several questions - did she know of cheating cases which individual faculty members or committees of faculty handled themselves without reference to the Honor Committee? Ms. Weirich said she had no figures but that she guessed it happens fairly often, though she did say she thought more cases are brought to the Committee than not. Mr. Warthen asked if the Committee tried to intervene when it heard of cases of this sort. Ms. Weirich said no. Finally, Mr. Warthen asked if she thought elimination of the seriousness clause would eliminate this problem. Ms. Weirich replied that she thinks it would and that elimination of seriousness, as a matter of fact, could possibly restore the faith of disbelieving faculty members in the Honor System.

Mr. Greer asked Ms. Weirich how many cases go before student juries. She replied that this year all of their cases have been tried before juries.

The Chair asked Ms. Weirich and Mr. Hudak to take back to their respective committee colleagues the thanks of the Board for their work and to tell them that they are doing a wonderful job.

The Chair then asked leave of the Rector to introduce a resolution which was not on the Committee's Agenda. In so doing, he noted that the Board's rules required a two-thirds vote of the Board to bring forth such a motion. The Rector gave his assent, a motion was made to consider the Chair's resolution and the motion was approved by all Members of the Board present.

The Chair read his resolution and asked that a Member move it. The resolution was moved and seconded with Members suggesting two word changes. The Committee then approved the resolution and recommended it to the full Board for approval.

RESOLUTION ON FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES

RESOLVED that the Board of Visitors supports the University's fraternities and sororities and recognizes the importance of their roles in the life of students;

RESOLVED that the Board of Visitors declines to involve itself in the setting of rush dates unless it is established at a future date that the delay of rush seriously prejudices the financial stability of fraternities or sororities;

RESOLVED that the Board of Visitors affirms the authority of the Administration to determine the start date of rush for first-year students;

RESOLVED FURTHER that the Board of Visitors directs the University administration to work with the fraternity and sorority leadership to promote the good health and strength of the fraternity and sorority systems and to report to the Board at its June meeting of steps taken to strengthen the fraternity and sorority systems.

(See also the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Visitors, February 26, 2000.)

Mr. Schoenvogel said that in fairness to everyone concerned - the fraternities, the Administration, the Board - the line "seriously prejudices the financial stability of fraternities" needed to be defined. What constitutes "serious prejudice?" After discussion involving Members, Mr. Harmon and Mr. Sandridge, all agreed that there is a problem of a lack of reliable statistics and that no real determination of serious prejudice could be made until there are accurate financial figures.

Mr. Warthen asked if there could be a designated "point man" to whom individual Members might address their concerns and ideas on these matters. Mr. Harmon offered Student Affairs, but it was agreed that the Chair of the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee ought to be that person.

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On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

AGG:lah

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