

June 16, 2000

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Educational Policy Committee:

T. Keister Greer, Chair
Elsie Goodwyn Holland
Stephen S. Phelan, Jr.
Elizabeth A. Twohy
Walter F. Walker
Joseph E. Wolfe
John P. Ackerly, III, Ex Officio

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

Thomas J. Bliley, Jr.	Gordon F. Rainey, Jr.
Charles M. Caravati, Jr.	Timothy B. Robertson
William G. Crutchfield, Jr.	Terence P. Ross
Charles L. Glazer	Benjamin P.A. Warthen
William H. Goodwin, Jr.	James C. Wheat, III

FROM: Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr.

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Educational Policy Committee on June 16, 2000

The Educational Policy Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 12:03 p.m., Friday, June 16, 2000, in the East Oval Room of the Rotunda; T. Keister Greer, Chair, presided. Stephen S. Phelan, Jr., Ms. Elizabeth A. Twohy, Walter F. Walker, Joseph E. Wolfe, and John P. Ackerly, III, Rector, were present. Also present were Thomas J. Bliley, Jr., Charles M. Caravati, Jr., M.D., William G. Crutchfield, Jr., Charles L. Glazer, William H. Goodwin, Jr., Gordon F. Rainey, Jr., Terence P. Ross, Benjamin P.A. Warthen, and James C. Wheat, III.

Present as well were John T. Casteen, III, Leonard W. Sandridge, Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr., Paul J. Forch, Peter W. Low, Robert W. Cantrell, M.D., Ms. Colette Sheehy, Robert D. Sweeney, Robert E. Reynolds, M.D., Gene D. Block, Ms. Patricia Werhane, Ms. Anita Jones, L. Jay Lemons, and Ms. Jeanne Flippo Bailes.

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

The first item, Mr. Low explained, was a Consent Item. The Curry School of Education has the necessary funding to study how students with disabilities interact with certain technologies. The project will require specialized hardware which can be provided best by ERICA Inc., a Charlottesville company with several owners who are University faculty or employees. A contract with ERICA Inc. would violate the terms of the Virginia Conflict of Interests Act unless the Board of Visitors approves an exemption.

On motion, the Committee approved the necessary resolution granting the exemption, and recommended it to the full Board for approval. (See Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Visitors, June 17, 2000.)

Mr. Low introduced Ms. Patricia Werhane, Ruffin Professor of Business Ethics in the Darden School; Ms. Werhane has just assumed her duties as Chair of the Faculty Senate.

Ms. Werhane reminded the Committee of initiatives undertaken by the Faculty Senate in recent years. This past year, for example, the Senate's theme was "Links between Teaching and Research." It was a success because it was a failure - faculty concluded that teaching and research are inextricably linked. The theme for the coming academic session will be "Leadership, Diversity and Academic Excellence," and these themes will be explored at a faculty retreat to be lead by the President in the fall.

Mr. Low then introduced Ms. Anita Jones, University Professor and Chair of the 2020 Commission on Science and Technology, and former Chair of the Department of Computer

Science in the School of Engineering. Ms. Jones made a presentation, "Information Technology: A Strategy for the Future."

Ms. Jones based her premise on what she called the enabling discipline - computer and information science and engineering, referred to hereafter by its acronym CISE. She cited examples of how CISE has already contributed to a number of disciplines at the University; e.g., the uses of computer technology Mr. Ayres in the History Department has made both in teaching and in research. Ms. Jones proposed that these established uses be built upon for what she called "The Virginia Information Initiative." The Virginia Information Initiative would make extensive use of CISE in teaching and research across the University and would be an inter-disciplinary effort.

Ms. Jones told the Committee there is a tremendous demand among students for CISE. She pointed out that there is no undergraduate science or liberal arts major in CISE nor access to classes in computation and information science. In reply to questions from Members, she said students are being turned away from what classes there are in CISE simply because there is no room for them. Members expressed great concern over this problem and said it is important not only that classes be offered in CISE but that the classes be open to all students. Ms. Jones promised to collect more precise data on the number of students who apply for these courses but are unable to get in.

Ms. Jones proposed that the existing Shannon Center for Advanced Studies be used as a base for implementing the Virginia Information Initiative. Her reasons are based on the Center's demonstrated success and superb reputation, and on its cross-disciplinary approach.

The Virginia Information Initiative would also work to improve and enlarge CISE and to provide computer classes for all undergraduates.

The President endorsed Ms. Jones' proposals and emphasized the importance to the University of the Virginia Information Initiative.

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On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

AGG:jb

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