FULL BOARD OF VISITORS’ MEETING
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
APRIL 6, 2001
FULL BOARD MEETING

Friday, April 6, 2001
4:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Dome Room, The Rotunda

AGENDA

• ACTION ITEMS (Mr. Casteen)
  A. Establishment of the William Parson Visiting Professorship in Teaching Excellence in the School of Medicine
  B. Establishment of the Merrill D. Peterson Professorship in the School of Architecture
  C. Naming of a new Building in the Engineering School Complex as Wilsdorf Hall
WILLIAM PARSON VISITING PROFESSORSHIP IN TEACHING EXCELLENCE IN THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

BACKGROUND: Dr. William Parson was Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine in the Medical School from 1949 to 1966. He is a dedicated teacher - in fact he will not be at this Board meeting because of teaching commitments in Seattle - and he is renowned in this country and abroad for his devotion to medical education, a devotion and commitment that spans sixty years.

Dr. Parson’s former student, Dudley B. Anderson (MD ’64), organized the effort to raise money for the establishment of a chair in Dr. Parson’s honor. The number of Dr. Parson’s colleagues, friends and former students who contributed to the fund is an indication of the esteem in which he is held. There have been gifts as well from the Charles A. Dana Foundation, the Class of 1953 Fund and members of Dr. Parson’s family.

The Parson chair is intended to be used to bring a different master teacher each year as a visiting professor to the Department of Internal Medicine.

DISCUSSION: The President will propose the establishment of the Parson Professorship.

ACTION REQUIRED: Approval by the Board of Visitors
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WILLIAM PARSON VISITING PROFESSORSHIP IN TEACHING EXCELLENCE IN THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

WHEREAS, William Parson was Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at the School of Medicine from 1949 to 1966; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Parson is renowned for his dedication to medical education, a career that has covered sixty years of teaching; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Dudley B. Anderson, a former student of Dr. Parson, organized an effort to raise money to honor Dr. Parson’s commitment to teaching; and

WHEREAS, numerous friends, colleagues and former students, in addition to the Charles A. Dana Foundation and Dr. Parson’s family, have contributed generously to the fund;

RESOLVED that the Board establishes the William Parson Visiting Professorship in Teaching Excellence, to be held in the Department of Internal Medicine in the School of Medicine, and thanks the many donors whose generosity has made this possible.
MERRILL D. PETE RSON PROFESSORSHIP IN THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

BACKGROUND: Merrill D. Peterson is without doubt the most distinguished living Jefferson scholar in the country. He is a native of Kansas and an alumnus of the University of Kansas and of Harvard University, where he took the Ph.D. after service in the United States Navy during World War II. He joined the faculty of the University as Thomas Jefferson Foundation Professor of History in 1963, having won the most prestigious Bancroft Prize in American History two years earlier for his The Jefferson Image in the American Mind. After serving as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences from 1981 to 1985, in addition to his professorial duties, Mr. Peterson retired from the faculty in 1987 and was elected Professor Emeritus.

Bahman Batmanghelidj is a real estate developer who lives in McLean in Fairfax County. He is both a good friend of the University and an admirer of Thomas Jefferson; he has a particular interest in Jefferson as an architect as manifested in his design for the University. It is Mr. Batmanghelidj’s intent that his gift honor Mr. Peterson and encourage the study of Jefferson’s precepts of innovation, strong design principles and sensitivity to the landscape.

DISCUSSION: The President will propose the renaming of the Peterson Professorship.

ACTION REQUIRED: Approval by the Board of Visitors
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MERRILL D. PETERSON PROFESSORSHIP IN THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

WHEREAS, Merrill D. Peterson, a native of Kansas, joined the faculty of the University in 1963 as Thomas Jefferson Foundation Professor of History and retired in 1987, having served also as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences for four years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Peterson is recognized for his pre-eminence as a Jefferson scholar, having published a number of works on Thomas Jefferson including The Jefferson Image in the American Mind, which won the Bancroft Prize in American History in 1961; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bahman Batmanghelidj of McLean is both a friend of the University and a great admirer of Thomas Jefferson; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Batmanghelidj has made a generous gift to the University for a professorship in the Architecture School to honor Mr. Peterson’s Jefferson scholarship as well as Thomas Jefferson’s architectural genius;

RESOLVED that the Board of Visitors expresses its thanks to Mr. Batmanghelidj and establishes the Merrill D. Peterson Professorship in the School of Architecture. The Peterson Professor will serve for one term, with the possibility of renewal, and will be either a member of the Architecture School faculty or an invited distinguished professor.
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF VISITORS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BOARD MEETING: April 6, 2001

COMMITTEE: Full Board

AGENDA ITEM: C. Naming of a new Building in the Engineering School Complex as Wilsdorf Hall

NAMING OF A NEW BUILDING IN THE ENGINEERING SCHOOL COMPLEX AS WILSDORF HALL

BACKGROUND: Heinz F.G. Wilsdorf and Doris Kuhlmann-Wilsdorf met as students at Goettingen University in Germany immediately after the Second World War; Heinz Wilsdorf was a metallurgist and Doris Kuhlmann-Wilsdorf a physicist. Both took the Ph.D. from Goettingen and after marrying, taught at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa, where both were awarded the D.Sc. They came to the United States and taught and did research in Philadelphia and joined the faculty of the School of Engineering in 1963. Heinz Wilsdorf eventually became the first Chair of the Department of Materials Science and Doris Kuhlmann-Wilsdorf the University Professor of Applied Science. Heinz Wilsdorf died last year after retiring in 1991; Doris Kuhlmann-Wilsdorf retired and is living in Charlottesville.

Both Professors Wilsdorf attained great distinction in their fields and both published extensively.

Gregory H. Olsen took the Ph.D. from the School of Engineering in 1971. He is President and CEO of Sensors Unlimited, Inc., a fiber optics firm in Princeton. He has given $15 million to the School of Engineering, the largest single gift ever received by the School. Money from the gift will be used for a building which will provide research and teaching space, as well as new conference rooms and faculty offices, for the Materials Science and Engineering departments. It is proposed that this building be named Wilsdorf Hall.

DISCUSSION: The President will propose the naming of a new Building in the Engineering School complex as Wilsdorf Hall.
ACTION REQUIRED: Approval by the Board of Visitors

NAMING OF A NEW BUILDING IN THE ENGINEERING SCHOOL COMPLEX AS WILSDORF HALL

WHEREAS, Heinz G.F. Wilsdorf and Doris Kuhlmann-Wilsdorf, natives of Germany who both took the PhD from Goettingen University, joined the faculty of the School of Engineering in 1963; and

WHEREAS, Heinz Wilsdorf, a metallurgist, became, in due course, the first Chair of the Department of Materials Science and Doris Kuhlmann-Wilsdorf, a physicist, the University Professor of Applied Science; and

WHEREAS, Heinz Wilsdorf retired in 1991 and died in 2000, and Doris Kuhlmann-Wilsdorf has retired, both of them having had most distinguished careers; and

WHEREAS, Gregory H. Olsen, who took the PhD. From the School of Engineering in 1971, has made a generous gift to the University for the construction of a new building at the School of Engineering;

RESOLVED that the Board thanks Gregory H. Olsen for his generosity and designates the building to be constructed with his gift, Wilsdorf Hall in honor of the late Heinz G.F. Wilsdorf and his widow, Doris Kuhlmann-Wilsdorf, both of them distinguished former members of the faculty of the School of Engineering.