

April 7, 2001

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Student Affairs and Athletics Committee:

Gordon F. Rainey, Jr., Chair
Charles M. Caravati, Jr., M.D.
Charles L. Glazer
Elsie Goodwyn Holland
Stephen S. Phelan, Jr.
Benjamin P.A. Warthen
John P. Ackerly, III, Ex Officio

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

Thomas J. Bliley, Jr.	Timothy B. Robertson
William G. Crutchfield, Jr.	Terence P. Ross
Thomas F. Farrell, II	Thomas A. Saunders, III
William H. Goodwin, Jr.	Elizabeth A. Twohy
T. Keister Greer	Joseph E. Wolfe

FROM: Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr.

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee on April 7, 2001

The Student Affairs and Athletics Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, April 7, 2001, in the Board Room of the Rotunda; Gordon F. Rainey, Jr., Chair, presided. Charles M. Caravati, Jr., M.D., Charles L. Glazer, Mrs. Elsie Goodwyn Holland, Stephen S. Phelan, Jr., Benjamin P.A. Warthen, and John P. Ackerly, III, Rector, were present.

Also present were Thomas J. Bliley, Jr., William G. Crutchfield, Jr., T. Keister Greer, Timothy B. Robertson, Terence P. Ross, Ms. Elizabeth A. Twohy, Thomas F. Farrell, II, Thomas A. Saunders, III, and Joseph E. Wolfe.

Ms. Sasha L. Wilson, the Student Member-elect, was present.

Present as well were John T. Casteen, III, Leonard W. Sandridge, Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr., Paul J. Forch, William W. Harmon, Peter W. Low, Ms. Colette Sheehy, Robert D. Sweeney, Gene D. Block, Terry Holland, Thomas B.W. Hall, and Ms. Jeanne Flippo Bailes.

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

Mr. Harmon introduced Mr. Thomas Hall, Chair of the Honor Committee, and asked him to report.

Mr. Hall discussed the recent student referenda on changes to the Honor System proposed by the Honor Committee; of the four propositions under consideration, only one was passed. The results, he said, were surprising to the Honor Committee, particularly in light of the hard work done by the Committee in trying to educate the student body on the proposals, and by polls which seemed to indicate strong support for the propositions. The Committee has not yet decided on a course of action - whether to reframe the proposals, leave them be and try to conduct a harder campaign, or substitute some other set of propositions.

The rather strong voter turnout, he said, was an encouraging sign of interest in the Honor System.

Mr. Hall said a recent random survey of about 1800 students showed widespread support for the System. About 6% of the respondents admitted to having lied or cheated while they were at the University; the figure runs as high as 85% at some of the University's peer institutions. The survey also indicated a general reluctance to bring charges against fellow students for Honor violations. This last point confirmed the Committee's anecdotal evidence; the

Honor Committee continues to work hard to change this particular mindset.

The Committee's caseload statistics continue to improve: the oldest outstanding case dates from late December and the Committee expects to clear all cases from its docket by the end of this month.

Mr. Hall then introduced members of the new Executive Committee of the Honor Committee.

Responding to a number of questions from Members, Mr. Hall said that on reflecting on the results of the Honor referenda, he thought there could have been better efforts at educating the voters. Some aspects of the proposals presented in referendum probably were threatening, and there probably was some distrust of the Honor Committee's motives in advancing the proposals.

Several Members suggested that there be better safeguards put on the Honor Committee's confidential records. Ms. Twohy told Mr. Hall that he should work with Ms. Deily, the University's Director of Audits, in setting up security procedures.

In reply to further questions, Mr. Hall said about one third of the accusations received by the Honor Committee come from students and about 50% from faculty. Some faculty are extremely supportive of the System, others dismiss it.

There is encouraging evidence that students matriculate here after lying, cheating or stealing in high school, but once here subscribe to the values of the Honor System and work to support them. Clearly, the System is working in that sense.

The Chair complimented Mr. Hall on his leadership, pointing out that he is the first Chair of the Honor Committee in a hundred years to be re-elected for a second term. He observed that good leadership is never easy and that Mr. Hall is doing a first rate job.

The Chair reminded the Committee that the Executive Committee on March 22nd had approved the University Judiciary Committee's revision of the Standards of Student Conduct. Mr. Goodwin moved that the Committee ratify the Executive Committee's approval; the motion was seconded and the ratification was approved (see the Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on March 22, 2001, for the text of the revised Standards; the text also appears in the Minutes of the Board of Visitors meeting of April 5-7, 2001).

Mr. Harmon then introduced the members of the recently elected Executive Committee of the Judiciary Committee, and congratulated Ms. Percopo, the outgoing Chair, for her hard work in devising the Revised Standards.

- - - - -

On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

AGG:lah

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