

January 25, 2002

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Educational Policy Committee:

T. Keister Greer, Chair
Elsie Goodwyn Holland
Elizabeth A. Twohy
Sasha L. Wilson
Joseph E. Wolfe
John P. Ackerly, III, Ex Officio

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

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

FROM: Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr.

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Educational Policy
Committee on January 25, 2002

The Educational Policy Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 11:00 a.m., Friday, January 25, 2002, in the Board Room of the Rotunda; T. Keister Greer, Chair, presided. Ms. Elizabeth A. Twohy, Ms. Sasha L. Wilson, Joseph E. Wolfe, and John P. Ackerly, III, Rector, were present.

Also present were Thomas J. Bliley, Jr., William G. Crutchfield, Jr., Thomas F. Farrell, II, Charles L. Glazer,

Timothy B. Robertson, Terence P. Ross, Thomas A. Saunders, III, and Benjamin P.A. Warthen.

Present as well were John T. Casteen, III, Leonard W. Sandridge, Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr., Paul J. Forch, Gene D. Block, Robert D. Sweeney, Ms. Patricia M. Lampkin, Robert E. Reynolds, M.D., R. Ariel Gomez, M.D., William W. Harmon, William B. Quandt, Edward L. Ayers, Robert M. Grainger, Larry J. Sabato, and Ms. Jeanne Flippo Bailes.

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

The first two items on the Agenda requiring action were Consent items. The first was a resolution approving the election of Mr. Andrew D. Hart, Jr., of Albemarle County, as a member of the Governing Council of the White Burkett Miller Center of Public Affairs. Mr. Hart would serve a three year term.

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, January 26, 2002).

The second item was a resolution approving a conflict of interest exemption. The Curry School of Education wishes to enter into a research contract with Sport Tech, Inc., a Michigan medical technology company. Two members of the faculty, Mr. Stuart S. Berr of the School of Medicine, and Mr. Arie M. Rijke of the School of Engineering, own in excess of 3% of the company's equity. Messrs. Berr and Rijke will be required to submit the necessary annual statements of personal interest, and the University will file the obligatory annual report on the contracts with the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

On motion, the Committee approved the necessary resolution and recommended it to the full Board for consideration (see Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Visitors, January 26, 2002).

The Chair said that he and Mr. Warthen have been attending meetings of the Shannon Center Board and that they both have been concerned about the predicament of

graduate students. It is a concern, too, of the Shannon Center Board and the issue has been raised at all of the Board meetings they have attended. The Chair asked Mr. Warthen to comment. Mr. Warthen said that although the recent decision to provide health insurance to graduate students has helped, graduate students are consistently underfunded to the point that the University is no longer competitive in its ability to attract the best students. In reply to a question, the Provost said funding for graduate students in the sciences is about at par, but behind for students in the humanities. Mr. Warthen cited a return rate of no higher than 35% in offers made to graduate students.

Mr. Ross and the Chair asked for a report on the recruitment of graduate students, to be given at the April meeting of the Committee. Mr. Block promised to provide the report.

The Provost gave his customary report: his office is working closely with departments to alleviate the affects of the budget cuts. The bleak budget picture notwithstanding, research grants are up significantly from last year in the first half of the current fiscal year. Dr. Gomez will give a complete report on grants at the April meeting of the Committee.

Mr. Block reported that the Woodrow Wilson Department of Government and Foreign Affairs voted to change the name of the Department to the Woodrow Wilson Department of Politics. His office approved the proposed change in name and will forward it to the State Council of Higher Education, where approval will be automatic. The approval of the Board is not required, Mr. Block explained, and the proposal was brought to the Committee's attention for purposes of information only.

There was considerable discussion of the suggested change in name and Members expressed concern that there might be confusion between the new name of the Department and the Institute of Politics.

Mr. Block then introduced several speakers, who gave reports to the Committee.

The first was Mr. William B. Quandt, the Vice Provost for International Affairs, who spoke about international programs. Mr. Quandt emphasized five new programs which will begin this summer: in Rabat, Shanghai, St. Petersburg, Lyon, and in South Africa. The Rabat program will emphasize Moroccan culture and French; Shanghai will be language and culture studies; St. Petersburg will offer Russian conversation, Russian culture and society, and Russian history and politics; business, politics and culture in the European Union and courses in contemporary France and renaissance Lyon will be given at Lyon; and environmental science and African culture will be taught in South Africa.

There was discussion of the possibility of the University, some day, establishing a center - owned by the University - abroad.

Mr. Block next introduced Mr. Edward L. Ayers, Dean of the College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Mr. Ayers told the Committee about administrative changes in his office, along with a general overview of some of the things he would like to accomplish. He spoke, too, of ways in which Arts & Sciences is trying to cope with the budget crisis. Mr. Ayers also talked about the plans for the South Lawn renovations, emphasizing the need for this work by comparing the facilities available here with those available at peer institutions. Space, he said, is the biggest obstacle to attaining greatness.

The Provost introduced Mr. Grainger, Chair of the Faculty Senate, who reported on recent activities of the Senate. He said students have suggested to the Senate that an Undergraduate Office of Research be established. He is enthusiastic about the idea, as is Mr. Ayers.

Finally, the Provost introduced Mr. Larry Sabato who reported on the work of the Center for Governmental Studies. The two principal goals of the Center, which he said are inseparable, are political education and the encouragement of participation in the political process. The Center is rigorously non-partisan. He described the

Center's various programs. Mr. Sabato said the Center is contemplating changing its name in the spring and that it would like to establish itself at Birdwood. The necessary renovations at Birdwood are considerable, however, and the Center's fundraising efforts would have to take this into account.

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On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

AGG:lah

These minutes have been posted to the University of Virginia's Board of Visitors website.

<http://www.virginia.edu/bov/educationalminutes.html>