

October 3, 2002

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Committee on the University of Virginia's
College at Wise:

William G. Crutchfield, Jr., Chair
Thomas J. Bliley, Jr.
Don R. Pippin
John P. Ackerly, III, Ex Officio

and

Thomas F. Farrell, II	Gordon F. Rainey, Jr.
Charles L. Glazer	Terence P. Ross
William H. Goodwin, Jr.	Thomas A. Saunders, III
T. Keister Greer	Warren M. Thompson
Elsie Goodwyn Holland	Elizabeth A. Twohy
Mark J. Kington	E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., M.D.
H. Timothy Lovelace, Jr.	

FROM: Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr.

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee on the
University of Virginia's College at Wise on
October 3, 2002

The Committee of the Board of Visitors on The University of Virginia's College at Wise met, in Open Session, at 3:35 p.m., Thursday, October 3, 2002, in the Chapel of All Faiths at the College in Wise. Earlier in the afternoon, the Committee toured the campus of the College.

William G. Crutchfield, Jr., Chair, presided at the meeting. Thomas J. Bliley, Jr., Don R. Pippin, and John P. Ackerly, III, Rector, were present.

Also present were Thomas F. Farrell, II, Charles L. Glazer, William H. Goodwin, Jr., Mark J. Kington, Gordon F. Rainey, Jr., Terence P. Ross, Thomas A. Saunders, III, Ms. Elizabeth A. Twohy, E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., M.D., and H. Timothy Lovelace, Jr.

Present as well were John T. Casteen, III, Steven H. Kaplan, Leonard W. Sandridge, Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr., and several members of The University of Virginia's College at Wise Board, faculty, students and administrators of the College.

The Rector opened the meeting, thanked Chancellor Kaplan and his colleagues for their hospitality and introduced the Members of the Board of Visitors. He spoke about the special relationship between the University and the College, remarks that were echoed by Mr. Kaplan, who then introduced Members of the Wise Board.

The Rector deferred to Mr. Crutchfield, the Chair, who presided over the meeting.

The Chair asked Mr. Kaplan to present the Agenda.

As the first item, Mr. Kaplan proposed the election of Elizabeth G. Cauthen to The University of Virginia's College at Wise Board. Mrs. Cauthen, he explained, would fill the unexpired term of Mr. Joe Tom Howard, who resigned because of his move to another state. Mrs. Cauthen's term would run to June 30, 2005.

Mrs. Cauthen, a native of Norton, is the daughter of the late Fred B. Greear, one of the "three Wise men" who were instrumental in the founding of the College. She is an alumna of Hollins College and of the University, and is the widow of Irby Cauthen, for many years Professor of English and Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at the University.

The Committee approved the resolution and recommended it to the full Board for approval (see Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Visitors, October 5, 2002).

Mr. Kaplan then asked Mr. Joseph Smiddy, Chancellor of the College for many years, to speak. Mr. Smiddy welcomed the Board of Visitors to the College and then talked about the many contributions of Mr. Kenneth Asbury to the College. Following this, Mr. Kaplan introduced various guests at the meeting, including members of the College administration, faculty, students and alumni.

He continued with his customary report, pointing out that the College has been ranked as the #1 liberal arts college whose students graduate with the lowest debt. He then said that he has formed a group to study the possibility of establishing computer oriented engineering programs.

Emphasizing the role of the College in the economic life of Southwest Virginia, Mr. Kaplan introduced Mr. Chris Achua, Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship, Leadership, and Service, who described the work of the Center, a prime example of the College's outreach in the community. Mr. Achua introduced one of his students, Mr. David Torrey, who talked about his work in the Center.

Mr. Kaplan then introduced Ms. Aleta Childress, a recent alumna of the College and an employee of the Crutchfield Corporation in Wise County. Ms. Childress described her work and how the College had prepared her for it.

There was then a general discussion about the College. In response to questions, Mr. Kaplan said 68 to 70% of the students have some form of financial aid. The College has a 74% retention rate and the lowest crime rate of any school in the state. As to possible growth, Mr. Kaplan said he thought the College could have no more than 2500 students and remain the kind of institution it is. About one third of the students live at the College - he thought 50-60% would be the ideal. The College, he said, once had an active adult education program but the opening of the Center at Abingdon - in which the College is a participant - and other factors had caused a decline in the College's involvements in these programs. It seems clear that the College should do more in this regard.

Mr. Kaplan then discussed the need for more student gathering places, both at the College and in the town of Wise. The new Student Activities Building, scheduled to open in the spring, will help in this regard, but there are no student-oriented businesses in Wise, no places where students can congregate in the evening. There is vacant land, which belongs to the state at the entrance to the College, and Mr. Kaplan proposes that a kind of Corner, as in Charlottesville, be established there by private businesses but with the encouragement and help of the College. He cited examples of colleges similar to Wise in size and location where this sort of thing has been done.

Mr. Ross suggested that Mr. Kaplan prepare a descriptive listing of efforts of this kind at other colleges, and present it to the Committee at the January meeting.

On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

AGG:lah

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

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