

January 16, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Student Affairs and Athletics Committee:

Thomas F. Farrell, II, Chair
Susan Y. Dorsey
Charles L. Glazer
Mark J. Kington
Don R. Pippin
John R.M. Rodney
Warren M. Thompson
Georgia M. Willis
Gordon F. Rainey, Jr., Ex Officio

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

Thomas J. Bliley, Jr.	Terence P. Ross
William G. Crutchfield, Jr.	Thomas A. Saunders, III
William H. Goodwin, Jr.	E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., M.D.
Lewis F. Payne	John O. Wynne

FROM: Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr.

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Student Affairs and Athletics
Committee on January 16, 2004

The Student Affairs and Athletics Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 2:10 p.m. on Friday, January 16, 2004, in the offices of Dominion Power, 120 Tredegar Street, Richmond; Thomas F. Farrell, II, Chair and Vice Rector, presided. Ms. Susan Y. Dorsey, John R.M. Rodney, Ms. Georgia M. Willis, and Gordon F. Rainey, Jr., Rector, were present.

Charles L. Glazer and Don R. Pippin participated by telephone.

Also present were Leonard W. Sandridge, Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr., Ms. Patricia Lampkin, Craig K. Littlepage, Richard Kast, Dirk Katstra, William L. Ashby, Ms. Christina Morell,

Elliott H. DeJarnette, Ms. Marisa Nelson, and Charles Gregory Moore.

The Chair asked Ms. Lampkin, Vice President for Student Affairs, to present the Agenda.

The first Agenda item was an action item, a resolution proposing revisions to the Guidelines governing the Student Activity Fee. Ms. Christina Morrell, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, and Mr. Elliott (Eli) DeJarnette, the Student Council Vice President for Organizations, explained the proposed revisions. The Board of Visitors must approve the Guidelines, which specify how the Student Council may distribute to eligible organizations the funds provided by the student activity fee.

(The revised Guidelines are appended to these Minutes as Attachment 1.)

On motion, the Committee approved the following resolution and recommended it to the full Board of Visitors for approval:

APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE GUIDELINES

WHEREAS, the Board of Visitors has established Student Activity Fee Guidelines to govern the University of Virginia and its Student Council in distribution of Student Activity Fee funds to and among eligible student organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Visitors last revised the Student Activity Fee Guidelines on August 21 and November 10, 1995; and

WHEREAS, the changes adopted in 1995 were not integrated into the text of the current guidelines but instead continue to appear as separate and sometimes confusing amendments; and

WHEREAS, the Student Council has requested additional helpful clarification with respect to defining political or religious activity ineligible for funding, and also recommends a revision to the Guidelines in order to allow Student Activity Fee funds to support honoraria for speakers at events open to the entire University community;

RESOLVED, the attached document, entitled "Board of Visitors Student Activity Fee Statement of Purpose and Funding Guidelines," which integrates the 1995 amendments, clarifies religious/political activity ineligible for funding, and permits funding to support speaker honoraria as requested by the Student Council, is approved.

Ms. Lampkin then gave her customary report.

She told the Committee she wanted to review two major areas which have required attention recently. The first was student behavior, and she described the mechanisms in place and projected for dealing with incidents of the kind that occurred in the fall.

The second area was student elections, a subject, she reminded the Committee, discussed at the last Committee meeting. As a result of a student referendum conducted in November, a University Board of Elections is being formed, and beginning this spring, it will oversee student elections for all schools of the University. The Board is made up of eleven student members, four of whom are graduate students.

Ms. Lampkin introduced Ms. Marisa Nelson and Mr. Greg Moore, members of the Student Council who introduced a resolution, adopted by Council in November, to establish an Off-Grounds Housing Office under the auspices of Council. The Office, whose activities are described in more detail in Attachment 2 to these Minutes, will attempt to educate students to the rental process in Charlottesville, set up a database with a listing of available housing, on the Grounds as well as off, and introduce students to the services provided by University Mediation Services and Student Legal Services.

In response to a question from the Committee, Mr. Sandridge said that more University housing will have to be available and some existing housing is in need of rehabilitation. A concept to be explored - something that is being done now at The University of Virginia's College at Wise - is the creation of housing in partnership with the private sector.

Finally, Ms. Lampkin introduced Mr. William Ashby, Director of Newcomb Hall, who reported on renovations and improvements to Newcomb Hall, recently completed, in progress, and contemplated. He described in particular the "Diversity Resource Center," scheduled to open in February, that is being put in underused space at the north end of the building on the third floor. Members had questions about the specific uses planned for the Center, and the Chair suggested that once it is opened, there be a follow-up report to the Committee at its next meeting on how the space is being used.

The Chair then asked Mr. Craig Littlepage, Director of Athletics, to report on construction at the John Paul Jones Arena. Mr. Littlepage discussed a recent site visit by the Arena Steering Committee to the Comcast Center at the University of Maryland, and compared figures and plans for the Arena with those

at Maryland. He also spoke to the Committee about possible audiovisual upgrades to the Arena as the result of requests made by a donor.

On the following motion, the Committee went into Executive Session at 3:25 p.m.:

That the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee of the Board of Visitors go into Executive Session to discuss fund-raising and specific bequests in connection with the planned arena, as provided for in Section 2.2-3711 (A) (8) of the Code of Virginia.

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The Committee resumed in Open Session at 3:45 p.m. and adjourned after approving the following resolution certifying the legality of its discussions in Executive Session:

That we vote on and record our certification that, to the best of each Board member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and which were identified in the motion(s) authorizing the closed session, were heard, discussed or considered in closed session.

AGG:lah

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

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

*University of Virginia
Board of Visitors Student Activity Fee
Statement of Purpose and Funding Guidelines
(Adopted on February 1, 1991, revised August 21, 1995 November 10, 1995, and
January 16, 2004)
Submitted to the full Board of Visitors for approval on February 7, 2004*

RESOLVED that with respect to the purpose of an allocation from the Fund, unless otherwise directed by the President, the procedure shall be as follows:

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the student activity fee is to provide financial support for student organizations that are related to the educational purpose of the University of Virginia. As a required student fee the monies collected by the University for funding student activities are public funds which must be administered in a manner consistent with the educational purpose of the University as well as with state and federal law.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

The Rector and Visitors of the University have determined that activities of the student organizations in the following categories relate to the educational environment or purposes of the University and are thus eligible for funding.

1. Special Status Student Organizations charged by the Board of Visitors
2. co-curricular organizations which are not administered by University departments or units;
3. club sports;
4. student news, information, opinion, entertainment or academic communications media groups;
5. cultural organizations;
6. fine arts organizations;
7. Madison House;
8. hobby organizations;
9. groups whose predominate purpose is to present speakers on topics of general interest to the University;
10. the Student Legal Service,
11. service organizations;
12. political organizations; and
13. religious organizations

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

The Board of Visitors has determined that fraternities, sororities, honor societies, and special status student organizations not charged by the Board of Visitors are ineligible for funds from the student activities fees. An organization is also ineligible when admission is exclusionary in nature and not open to all students or if membership is restricted by reason of race, religion, disability, national origin, political affiliation, or gender. Notwithstanding these requirements, a student organization may restrict membership based on ability to perform the activities related to the organization's purpose. In determining cases of discrimination, it is not sufficient to look merely to the constitution of an organization but to its actual practices and operations.

STUDENT EXPENDITURES AND ACTIVITIES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

The Board of Visitors has further determined that the following expenditures and activities do not relate to the educational purpose of the University and thus are not eligible for funding:

1. honoraria or similar fees for events that are not open to the University community;
2. religious activities;
3. social entertainment or related expenses;
4. philanthropic contributions and activities;
5. political activities;
6. activities which would jeopardize the University's tax exempt status.

FUND ALLOCATION AND APPEAL PROCEDURES/PROCESS:

The Student Activities Committee chaired by the designee of the Vice President for Student Affairs is charged with the authority and responsibility for supervision of the student activities fee fund. With respect to distributions from the fund, Student Council is responsible for allocations to eligible student organizations. The ceiling on the aggregate amount allocated to all such organizations shall be the current balance in the student activities fees fund. The allocation process follows procedures established by Student Council which are intended to maximize the use of the funds and are consistent with the above guidelines. The Student Council Appropriations Committee is responsible for following these procedures and making the recommendations to the Student Council Representative Body on the funding requests. In providing student organizations with appropriations deemed needed, the Student Council Appropriations Committee shall be further guided by such criteria as the size of the group, the University wide benefit of the group's activities, and the group's level of financial self-sufficiency. The committee is encouraged but is not required to appropriate all of the available fund balance. The Appropriations Committee recommended allocation to a student organization may be appealed to the Student Council Representative Body by any student or student organization. The Student Activities Committee is the next and final appeal for any budget reviewed and, in some cases, adjusted by the Student Council Representative Body. In addition, the Student Activities Committee may examine on its own motion any student organization's allocation request submitted to the Student Council. After the allocations are finalized, the Student Council Vice President for Student Organizations writes the chair of the Student Activities Committee requesting that the allocations for those funded organizations be released to the Student Activities Business Manager. When the Student Activities Business Manager receives the funds, they are deposited into a demand deposit account. Expenditures from the allocations can be made provided the student organization completes the proper authorization forms with the Student Activities Business Manager. The student organizations receive their allocation on a per semester basis for payment of expenses of activities conducted during the, fall and spring semesters only. Any funded student organization alleged to be in violation of the above guidelines is subject to the suspension or loss of student activity fee funding after notice and an opportunity to be heard by Student Council. The Student Activities Committee is the next and final appeal body.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

These definitions of terms are intended to provide clarification of the student activity fee fund guidelines. In those cases where further clarification is needed, Student Council and, if necessary, the Student Activities Committee will interpret the guidelines based on the facts presented and the Board of Visitors intent for the student activity fee.

Ability to Perform - a student organization may restrict membership based on ability to perform the activities related to the organization's purpose. For example, a student publication may make requirements based on writing skills. A club sport may restrict membership where selection is based on competitive skill or the activity involved is a contact sport thus resulting in a team of one or predominately one gender. Likewise, ' a choral group may restrict membership based on vocal range or quality which may also result in a chorus or choruses of one or predominantly one gender.

Co-curricular Organization - a group which provides opportunities outside the classroom setting for students to apply classroom theory and/or to acquire knowledge, experience and/or skills.

Cultural Organization - an organization which is primarily concerned with studying, promoting, and/or expressing racial, ethnic, or affinity group traditions, social forms, art, and/or tastes.

Hobby Organization - a group which primarily pursues an activity for relaxation, recreation, or entertainment.

Political Activity - an activity related to: (1) lobbying the principal purpose of which is to influence the passage or defeat of specific legislation, and/or (2) electioneering which encompasses participation or intervention in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. These restrictions on funding political activities are not intended to preclude funding of any otherwise eligible student organization which: (1) advocates, as an incidental or insubstantial part of its activities, the adoption or rejection of legislation; (2) engages in nonpartisan analysis, study, or research, and makes the results available to the public, or (3) espouses particular positions or ideological viewpoints, including those that may be unpopular or are not generally accepted, or that may coincidentally be prominently held by particular political parties or political candidates.

Political Organization - an organization primarily devoted to political discussion or debate and the organization of meetings to further such interests, and which in advancing such general social and educational interests through its membership does not use student activities fee funding for political activity as defined herein.

Religious Activity - the organized worship of a deity, divine power, or supernatural entity, whether or not such activity is consistent with the precepts of an organized religion or denomination. No student news, information, opinion, entertainment or academic communications media group shall be considered to be engaging in religious activity merely because it expresses ideas or viewpoints that are religious in nature.

Religious Organization - an organization primarily devoted to religious discussion or debate and the organization of meetings to further such interests, and which in advancing such general social and educational interests in a secular context through its membership does not use student activities fee funding for religious activity as defined herein.

Student Activities Committee - the University faculty/student committee charged by the Vice President for Student Affairs to provide oversight to the student activity fee fund and its allocation by Student Council.

Special Status Student Organizations - Student organizations which have University delegated functions to perform are termed special status. These groups which include but are not limited to Student Council, school councils, University Guides, and University Singers, have a University department or a school responsible for each group relative to the delegated functions. Two groups, Student Council and WTJU, are charged by the Board of Visitors. The other Special Status Student Organizations receive their charge from a University department or school. Because of this relationship to a school or department and the concomitant funding available to the group,

Special Status Student Organizations not charged by the Board of Visitors are ineligible for student activity fee fund allocations.

Student Organizations Eligible for Funding - Contracted Independent Organizations which have been Student Council qualified and comply with the Student Council appropriations process guidelines as well as Special Status Student Organizations charged by the Board of Visitors are eligible for student activity fee funding. Currently, Student Council and WTJU are Special Status Organizations eligible for funding.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the foregoing amendments to the Guidelines for Student Activities Current Fund Allocation shall apply to all student organization funding requests that are pending on, or are made after January 16, 2004.

A Description of the Student Off-Grounds Housing Office:

The purpose of the Student Off-Grounds Housing Office will be to support and provide a positive “upperclassmen experience,” through assisting in finding and living in housing while attending the University of Virginia.

1. Education

The education component to the Student Off-Grounds Housing Office is critical to introducing students to their housing options at the University of Virginia. This component shall have both programs and published documents:

- **Housing Fair:** Restructure the Housing fair to offer all the resources and housing options to students. Increase publicity/communication.
- **“Dorm Talks”:** This program will have team members of the office going to discuss housing options informally to students, at their dorms or Newcomb Hall after the Housing Fair (Q & A session).
- **Student Off-Grounds Housing Handbook** which includes: Advice in terminations, sub-leases, *Virginia Landlord-Tenant Act*, inspections, late-policies, safety, and refers University resources.
- **“Roommate Open House:”** A program to help students find people they feel comfortable living with and with filling openings in leases.

2. Student Database/Website

The database will provide a comprehensive list of available On-Grounds & Off-Grounds housing to give students a selection to compare prices/amenities in an environment that gives equal opportunity to all student choices.

- Relieves the student stress/time of finding housing (e.g. camping-out).
- Centralizes the student search so they get the right information before signing a lease.
- Gives the Housing division/private landlords a single source for listings
- *Student Council has to work with technology chair/ITC to build some database examples*
- Put a list of landlords with good and bad relations towards students.

3. Mediation Services

This service can remedy situations that arise between both roommates to roommates and tenants to landlords. Through offering a resource to have an open discussion, this will become invaluable before relationships fracture between parties. [*University Mediation Services*]

4. Legal Support

The Off-Grounds Housing office will help educate and refer the student legal services to the student body. Although many services Student Legal Services already existing working with students and landlords, there needs to be an increased student awareness of this highly successful resource.

FR 03-04: Resolution to create a Student Off-Grounds Housing Office

Sponsored by Representative Moore and Representative Nelson

Whereas, 65.1% of the student body live in off-grounds housing controlled by private landlords¹.

Whereas, the University of Virginia's Housing Division cannot supply housing for the entire student body and students therefore rely on private landlords to provide housing.

Whereas, the new city of Charlottesville Zoning Ordinance adopted September 15, 2003, allows greater densities in student neighborhoods which presents and will continue to present substantial and potentially challenging changes to off-grounds housing.

Whereas, due to early lease-signing dates, students are pressured into off-grounds housing decisions without adequate time and educational resources.

Whereas, there is a need to centralize, strengthen, broaden and coordinate the University's support concerning physical and financial housing standards and students' safety.

Whereas, a student off-grounds housing office would complement the University's educational environment by promoting educated and mature decisions.

Whereas, institutions, such as Virginia Tech and James Madison University, and peer institutions such as the University of Michigan, and the University of California—Berkeley, under similar conditions have addressed these concerns through an off-campus housing office.

Whereas, off-grounds housing is an expressed concern of the University's student body, President Casteen, and the Board of Visitors; therefore be it,

Resolved, the Student Council of the University of Virginia, in partnership with the Office of the Dean of Students, the Housing Division office, and other supportive University resources, create a student off-grounds housing office, whose services shall include education, mediation, legal counseling and a comprehensive housing database; be it further,

Resolved, the student off-grounds housing office shall commit to a sustained initiative to push back lease-signing dates; be it also,

Resolved that the Student Council of the University of Virginia commit to securing permanent funding for a student off-grounds housing office.

¹ This statistic is found at the UVA Geo-Statistics Lab (Alderman Library) and at <http://www.web.virginia.edu/iaas/home.htm>.