

October 1, 2004

MEMORANDUM

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

William G. Crutchfield, Jr., Chair
Thomas F. Farrell, II Don R. Pippin
G. Slaughter Fitz-Hugh, Jr. Gordon F. Rainey, Ex Officio

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

Susan Y. Dorsey Thomas A. Saunders, III
W. Heywood Fralin Warren M. Thompson
Glynn D. Key E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., M.D.
Mark J. Kington Georgia M. Willis
Lewis F. Payne John O. Wynne
Terence P. Ross Jamie W. Head

FROM: Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr.

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Committee on The University of
Virginia's College at Wise Meeting on October 1, 2004

The Committee of the Board of Visitors on The University of Virginia's College at Wise met, in Open Session, at 8:30 a.m., Friday, October 1, 2004, in the East Oval Room of the Rotunda; William G. Crutchfield, Jr., Chair, presided. Thomas F. Farrell, II, G. Slaughter Fitz-Hugh, Jr., Don R. Pippin, and Gordon F. Rainey, Jr., Rector, were present.

Also present were Ms. Susan Y. Dorsey, W. Heywood Fralin, Mark J. Kington, Lewis F. Payne, Terence P. Ross, E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., M.D., Ms. Georgia M. Willis, and James W. Head.

Present as well were John T. Casteen, III, Leonard W. Sandridge, Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr., Paul J. Forch, Ernest H. Ern, Gene D. Block, Arthur Garson, Jr., M.D., William W. Harmon, R. Edward Howell, Robert E. Reynolds, M.D., Ms. Yoke San L. Reynolds, Ms. Colette Sheehy, and Ms. Jeanne Flippo Bailes.

Mrs. Irby Cauthen, Jr., Mrs. Carl Smith and Joseph C. Smiddy were present as special guests.

The Chair asked for a motion to allow the consideration of an addendum to the published Agenda. On motion, the Committee voted unanimously to consider the addendum.

The Chair introduced Mrs. Irby Cauthen, whose father, Mr. Fred Greear, was one of the "Three Wise Men" of Wise County who persuaded President Darden to undertake what was then called Clinch Valley College as a two-year branch of the University. He also introduced Mrs. Carl Smith who, with her husband - a native of Wise County - has been a great benefactor of the College. Finally, he introduced Mr. Joseph Smiddy, known affectionately in Southwest Virginia as "Papa Joe," who was Chancellor of the College for 30 years and built it into a viable institution.

The Chair then asked Mr. Ern, the Interim Chancellor, to present the Agenda.

Chancellor's Report

Mr. Ern's report took the form of an account of the College as he has known it over the years from the 1950s. He then described some of the semi-centennial celebrations that have been taking place this fall (the College opened for classes in 1954). He noted that the entering class this fall is the largest in the College's history and he described other things that have taken place recently, including work by Mr. Neuman and his staff on a master plan for the College. Although there have been changes, the sense of mission at the College remains the same.

Mr. Ern also commented briefly on what Mrs. Cauthen, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, and Mr. Smiddy have contributed to the life of the College.

First-Year Student Residence Requirement

Mr. Ern then proposed an Action item, a requirement that first-year students be required to live on the campus of the College, unless they are excused. The requirement would take effect in the fall of 2006 when the new dormitory now under construction will be finished. The proposal has been vetted and approved by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the College and by the College's Board. Mr. Ern said the hope is that the new requirement would improve the retention rate at the College and provide students with a more comprehensive college experience.

The Committee approved the following resolution and recommended it to the full Board for approval:

APPROVAL OF THE FIRST-YEAR STUDENT RESIDENT REQUIREMENT

WHEREAS, The University of Virginia's College at Wise continues to strive to achieve enrollment growth and to enhance its standing as a first-rate liberal arts college; and

WHEREAS, the residential experience plays a critical role in the educational process of the College's students; and

WHEREAS, students who are given the opportunity of residential living benefit through campus involvement, which ultimately enhances the quality of their residential experience, and has a positive impact on retention;

RESOLVED that effective Fall 2006, first-year students will be required to reside in on-campus residential facilities. Students may be exempted from this requirement provided that they fall outside the guidelines of the on-campus housing requirement.

Remarks by Mr. Smiddy

The Chair then invited Mr. Smiddy to address the Committee.

Mr. Smiddy thanked the Committee for its continued interest and support. He praised Mr. and Mrs. Ern for the work they are doing at the College and thanked Mrs. Cauthen and Mr. and Mrs. Smith for their contributions to the life of the College. And he thanked the Chair for what he has done not only as Chair of the Committee, but as a businessman and interested citizen. He also expressed appreciation for what the President has done for the College over the years, both as President and twenty years ago, as Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth.

He then reminisced about the early days of the College, and about some of the first students and what they have accomplished.

Semi-Centennial Resolution

The Chair then introduced the addendum to the Agenda, a "walk-on" resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the College.

The Committee, on motion, approved the following resolution and recommended it to the full Board for approval:

COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CLINCH VALLEY COLLEGE,
NOW THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA'S COLLEGE AT WISE

WHEREAS, Clinch Valley College, now The University of Virginia's College at Wise, was founded in 1954 and began classes on September 20th of that year with 109 full-time and 116 part-time students; and

WHEREAS, the College was established through the efforts of the "Three Wise Men" of Wise County and President Darden of the University of Virginia and thus from its founding was a collaboration between the University and the people of Southwest Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the College has grown and prospered and can now count 7,200 alumni and 1,700 students; and

WHEREAS, the College is, as it has been during the entire fifty years of its existence, a significant force in the life of Southwest Virginia;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors salutes The University of Virginia's College at Wise on the College's fiftieth anniversary, expresses admiration for the College's successes in carrying out its mission, and offers its unqualified and continuing support.

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Mr. Pippin praised Mr. and Mrs. Ern and thanked the President for sending them to Wise. He referred to Mr. Smiddy and all that he has done and meant to the College, and he thanked the Board of Visitors for its strong and unwavering support.

The Rector reaffirmed the Board's continuing support and interest in the College.

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On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.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>