

**UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF VISITORS  
MEETING OF THE  
EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE  
September 18, 2004**

**REVISED  
9/14/04**

EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE

Saturday, September 18, 2004  
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
East Oval Room, The Rotunda

Committee Members:

Don R. Pippin, Chair	Terence P. Ross
Susan Y. Dorsey	E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., M.D.
James W. Head	John O. Wynne
Lewis F. Payne	Gordon F. Rainey, Jr., Ex Officio

AGENDA

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- I. REPORTS BY THE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST  
(Mr. Block)
- A. Course Evaluation Access by Students 1  
(Mr. Block to introduce Mr. J. Milton Adams;  
Mr. Adams to report)
  - B. January Term Proposal (Mr. Block and Mr. Adams to report) 3
  - C. The School of Medicine Decade Plan (Mr. Block to introduce Dr. Arthur Garson, Jr.;  
Dr. Garson to report) 4
  - D. Faculty Senate (Mr. Block to introduce Ms. Marcia D. Childress; Ms. Childress to report) 5
- II. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- Discussion of personnel matters pertaining to the appointment, assignment, reappointment, promotion, performance, compensation, discipline, separation and resignation of specific employees of the University of Virginia; as provided for in Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) of the Code of Virginia.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF VISITORS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BOARD MEETING: September 18, 2004

COMMITTEE: Educational Policy

AGENDA ITEM: I.A. Course Evaluation Access by Students

ACTION REQUIRED: None

DISCUSSION: The Vice President and Provost will introduce Mr. J. Milton Adams, Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Professor of Biomedical Engineering, who will report on course evaluation access by students.

BACKGROUND: The past several years have seen increasing discussions and momentum surrounding several aspects of UVA's course evaluation environment. These include the desire for data that is more stable, readily available, and consistent for faculty actions involving promotion, tenure, and merit pay; the desire of many schools and departments to move to an online evaluation system which can bring benefits in accuracy and reduced costs; and, the desire of students, in particular Student Council, to resurrect the idea of an online course selection guide based on course evaluation data. During the last several years, Student Council has lobbied various members of the University's administration as well as faculty groups such as the Faculty Senate to create a University-wide course evaluations environment that can serve these multiple needs. The Provost appointed a joint Faculty/Student committee; its summarized recommendations appear below:

Recommendations:

- All schools and departments should include a set of seven University-wide questions on the course evaluation for all evaluated courses. Instructors will have access to the results from these questions for their own professional development. The results will also be available to the Provost, the schools, and the departments for decisions involving promotion, tenure, and merit awards. In addition, the results from the first six questions will be available to Student Council for publication of a course selection guide whose access should be restricted to authenticated UVA users.

- In order to reduce redundancy, schools and departments should be encouraged to re-examine their existing course evaluation questions in light of the inclusion of the University-wide questions. During this process, they should keep in mind that the research in this area shows that overly long evaluations (e.g., greater than a maximum of 20 or so questions) often have adverse effects on student response rates.
- Because of the importance of acquiring usable response rates, it is recommended that a response rate threshold of 65% be adopted for inclusion in the course selection guide; that is, evaluation results for courses with a response rate below 65% would not be included in the course selection guide. Response rates are of considerable concern, especially when using an online system where the students fill out the evaluations on their own time.

The Provost will enact these recommendations in a three-year pilot program, beginning with courses this fall.

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COMMITTEE: Educational Policy

AGENDA ITEM: I.B. January Term Proposal

ACTION REQUIRED: None

DISCUSSION: The Vice President and Provost will introduce Mr. J. Milton Adams, Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Professor of Biomedical Engineering, who will report on the January Term proposal.

BACKGROUND: The January Term is a new initiative, resulting from the University's curriculum review process, to create an additional term in the calendar to be held for two weeks each January, prior to the start of the spring semester. The winter term has long been used at small liberal arts colleges as a way of providing additional flexibility for students and professors to engage in new and unique curricular offerings together. By offering a January Term at a major research university, undergraduates are provided with more access to take advantage of the wide variety of experiences available at the University.

The January Term, to be first implemented in 2005, will offer unique opportunities, which are otherwise difficult or impossible for students. For example, students may accompany faculty to study outside the United States, to study art, architecture, history or international business; this is not possible during the regular semester when other classes are scheduled, and some students must work or have internships during the summer. Others may begin research projects here, take new classes offered by Law, Darden, McIntire or Medical faculty; they may take a two-week intensive spoken language course prior to a semester of study abroad, or take a class that did not fit in their fall or spring schedule.

The shorter, intensive January Term offerings will be structured in a similar manner as Summer Session offerings. An operational committee has made progress on arrangements for housing, study abroad, residential life, and connections with other offices which must support January Term.

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COMMITTEE: Educational Policy

AGENDA ITEM: I.C. The School of Medicine Decade Plan

ACTION REQUIRED: None

DISCUSSION: The Vice President and Provost will introduce Dr. Arthur Garson, Jr., Vice President and Dean of the School of Medicine and James Carroll Flippin Professor of Medical Science, who will report to the Committee on the School of Medicine's Decade Plan and strategic planning initiatives.

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BOARD MEETING: September 18, 2004

COMMITTEE: Educational Policy

AGENDA ITEM: I.D. Faculty Senate

ACTION REQUIRED: None

DISCUSSION: The Vice President and Provost will introduce the Chair of the Faculty Senate, Ms. Marcia D. Childress, Associate Professor of Medical Education, who will report on the Faculty Senate's plans for the 2004-05 academic year.