

March 21, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Student Affairs and Athletics Committee:

Thomas F. Farrell, II, Chair
Susan Y. Dorsey
G. Slaughter Fitz-Hugh, Jr.
W. Heywood Fralin
James W. Head
Glynn D. Key
Don R. Pippin
Warren M. Thompson
Georgia M. Willis
Gordon F. Rainey, Jr., Ex Officio

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

A. Macdonald Caputo	Vincent J. Mastracco, Jr.
Alan A. Diamonstein	Lewis F. Payne
Mark J. Kington	E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., M.D.
John O. Wynne	

FROM: Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr.

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee Meeting on March 21, 2005

The Student Affairs and Athletics Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 9:40 a.m., Monday, March 21, 2005 in the offices of Mr. Farrell at Dominion Power, 120 Tredegar Street in Richmond; Thomas F. Farrell, II, Chair, presided. G. Slaughter Fitz-Hugh, Jr., W. Heywood Fralin, James W. Head, Ms. Glynn D. Key, Warren M. Thompson, Ms. Georgia M. Willis, and Gordon F. Rainey, Jr., Rector, were present

Ms. Susan Y. Dorsey and Don R. Pippin participated by telephone.

Present as well were Leonard W. Sandridge, Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr., Alton Martin, Ms. Patricia M. Lampkin, Ms. Yoke San L. Reynolds, Craig K. Littlepage, J. Milton Adams, Ms. Christina Morrell, Richard Kovatch, James Booz, Noah Sullivan, Ms. Rebecca Keyworth, Ms. Meghan Sullivan, David Hobbs, and Ms. Amy D. Cronin.

After opening the meeting, the Chair recognized the Secretary, who announced that Catherine Neale, the Student Member-elect, won a Truman Scholarship over the weekend.

UNIVERSITY HOUSING

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

Ms. Lampkin reminded Members that information about University housing had been presented to them at the Committee meeting last April. At the meeting today, she said, there would be a three-part report which would be an update on work that has been taking place in Student Affairs, in the Office of the Provost, and in the Office of the Vice President for Finance.

She then asked Mr. Adams, Vice Provost for Academic Programs, to discuss the residential plan. The residential plan, Mr. Adams said, is connected to the educational mission of the University. The best of similar practices at other universities have influenced it and the plan tries to account for differences based on student needs. Consideration of student housing policies thus includes consideration of the University's educational mission; and the University's educational mission, as expressed in the residential plan, provides a framework for making decisions about future types of residential communities.

The plan, in other words, is an indication of the academic component of the University's housing policy.

Ms. Christina Morrell, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, continued with an explanation of programmatic objectives and housing options. These objectives include - particularly in first-year housing - instilling a sense of community, encouraging diversity and a sense of involvement, and developing leadership.

Mr. Richard Kovatch, Associate Vice President for Business Operations, followed with a summary of the Alderman Road Housing Replacement Project, which would replace 11 of the 13 existing dormitories in the area; the 11 are more than 35 years old (the other two, Cauthen and Woody Houses, were built in the last ten

years). The Project would replace 1,440 beds with 1,600 to 1,800 beds, and construction should begin in 2006. The present dormitories will be taken down a few at a time in order to take as few beds as possible out of use; the first phase of the Project, in fact, will replace two residence halls - 220 to 250 beds.

Turning to upperclass housing in his presentation, Mr. Kovatch said the University of Virginia Foundation has acquired several apartment complexes adjacent to the Grounds, for a total of 261 beds. These apartments, he said, are a manifestation of a "public/private partnership," a new concept in the management of student housing for the University. He said, too, that the University has plans to construct dormitories with an additional 250 beds, but not before 2010-2011.

Mr. Kovatch then described changes in the housing assignment process, changes which reflect the University's recent guarantees that University housing will be available to all second-year students who want it. Rising second-year students had to apply by October 1st this past fall; they received priority over other upperclass applicants and they received offers of housing by November 5th. He said 1,865 offers were made this year - as opposed to 1,665 last year - and 1,288 of these were accepted (1,332 offers were accepted last year). As for upperclass students beyond those who would be in their second year in the University next fall, 768 offers were made and 652 acceptances were received (the figures for last year were 935 and 801, respectively). The low acceptance figure for rising second-year students was not surprising, he said, and he thought that the early date for signing contracts was probably a factor.

Ms. Morrell reported briefly on new efforts in off-Grounds housing. Three fora have been held since the current academic session began, and some 300 parents and 18 landlords participated. She described new mechanisms that have been put in place to assist students interested in living off the Grounds of the University. A new Student-Tenant Bill of Rights should be in place by May and a new student publication on off-Grounds housing will be off the press in August.

Ms. Willis complimented Ms. Lampkin and the presenters on their work. She remarked that some parents are concerned about firearms in off-Grounds housing. Ms. Lampkin replied regulation of firearms beyond the Grounds of the University was properly a matter of concern to the City and County authorities. She commented that the Housing Office does have the means to store properly registered hunting rifles belonging to students living in University housing.

Mr. Head asked if, with the additional beds to be constructed in Alderman Road, first-year students will be moved out of Hereford College. Mr. Kovatch replied that during the construction of the replacement dormitories, two of the existing buildings at Hereford will be assigned to first-year students. Perhaps in the future, he speculated, all of Hereford College will be assigned to first-year students. Part of the Alderman Road Replacement Project is to create stronger physical connections with Hereford College.

Mr. Head also commented on the possibility of changing the dormitory assignment process for first-year students, i.e., doing away with the present policy under which students can indicate a preference for assignment to McCormick Rd. as opposed to Alderman Rd. He said doing away with the preference might encourage more diversity in the dormitories. Mr. Kovatch replied that there are arguments on both sides of the question.

Ms. Lampkin summarized the presentations and proposed a resolution reaffirming the University's policy of 50-odd years' standing that all first-year students be required to live together in University housing, and endorsing the replacement of the Alderman Road dormitories and the use of the replacement residence halls as first-year housing.

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

APPROVAL OF HOUSING REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS AND
PLANNING FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF ALDERMAN ROAD RESIDENCES

WHEREAS, the University of Virginia's educational mission extends to the University residences where undergraduate students live and the related residential programming in which they engage; and

WHEREAS, an undergraduate student's first year is a critical time for assimilation into the University community; and

WHEREAS, having all first-year students live together is central to this process; and

WHEREAS, the Architect of the University has endorsed the continued use of the Alderman Road area as the principal location for first-year student housing and its expansion; and

WHEREAS, most of the residence halls on Alderman Road must be replaced;

RESOLVED the Board of Visitors endorses and reaffirms the requirement that all first-year students live together in University housing for the purpose of creating community and a comprehensive first-year experience; and

RESOLVED FURTHER the Board of Visitors endorses and supports planning to proceed with the replacement of the Alderman Road residences as housing for first-year students.

- - - - -

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Lampkin reported on several matters.

She said a sexual assault policy has been finalized and was adopted last week. It has been publicized widely within the University community and in the local press and reactions and feedback have been quite positive.

Student safety remains a concern. There has been a spate, recently, of armed robberies and assaults on students and several arrests have been made. The University has sent mass e-mail notices to students with reminders about personal safety. The University Police and students have been working together on these issues. Additional lighting has been installed on the Grounds and Student Affairs staff have been working with local landlords, who have expressed concern.

Ms. Lampkin commented on the recent student elections, which came one year after the University Board of Elections began its work. There were across the board increases in voter turnout, with 53% of all undergraduates voting and a 116% increase in the turnout of graduate and professional students. Citing more figures, she said 61% of the first-year class voted (up 17%), 57% of McIntire students (up 43%) and 52% of students in the College (up 33%).

In comparison with other ACC schools, only Duke University was ahead of the University in terms of undergraduate voter participation.

There was also a significant increase in the number of candidates - from 92 to 143 - and in the number of contested races.

THE CHAIR OF THE HONOR COMMITTEE

Ms. Lampkin then introduced Ms. Meghan Sullivan, the Chair of the Honor Committee, who commented on the recent Honor referenda and introduced her successor (elected the day before), Mr. David Hobbs, a third-year student in the McIntire School from Jackson, Mississippi.

The Chair thanked Ms. Sullivan for her outstanding work as Chair of the Honor Committee during the past year.

REPORT FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL

Ms. Lampkin introduced Mr. Noah Sullivan, President of the Student Council, and Ms. Rebecca Keyworth, Vice President for Organizations.

Mr. Sullivan gave a brief report on Student Council's activities this year. He said the most ambitious project was the reform of the appropriations process - i.e., the appropriation of the funds collected as part of the Student Activities Fee. He described this in outline and then asked Ms. Keyworth to give a more detailed account.

The Chair thanked Mr. Sullivan for his work as President of the Student Council.

RECERTIFICATION PROCESS

The Chair asked Mr. Littlepage, Director of Athletics, to present the remainder of the Agenda.

Mr. Littlepage introduced Mr. James Booz, Associate Athletics Director for Compliance, and together they reported on the required (by the NCAA) "verified and evaluated institutional self-study" to affirm the fundamental integrity of the University's athletics programs. The NCAA requires a self-study of this sort once every ten years, and the principles to be studied (in the words of the NCAA Bylaws) include "Governance and Commitment to Rules Compliance," "Academic Integrity," and "Equity and Student-Athlete Welfare." Work on the self-study will begin this spring.

On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

AGG:lah

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

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