April 1, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Educational Policy Committee:

Don R. Pippin Chair
Susan Y. Dorsey
James W. Head
The Hon. Lewis F. Payne
E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr.
John O. Wynne
Gordon F. Rainey, Jr., Ex Officio

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

A. Macdonald Caputo
The Hon. Alan A. Diamonstein
Thomas F. Farrell, II
G. Slaughter Fitz-Hugh, Jr.
W. Heywood Fralin
Glynn D. Key
Mark J. Kington
Vincent J. Mastracco, Jr.
Warren M. Thompson
Georgia M. Willis

FROM: Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr.

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Educational Policy Committee on April 1, 2005

The Educational Policy Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 8:25 a.m., Friday, April 1, 2005, in the Board Room of the Rotunda; Don R. Pippin, Chair, presided.

Ms. Susan Y. Dorsey, Lewis F. Payne, E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., M.D., John O. Wynne, James W. Head, and Gordon F. Rainey, Jr., Rector, were present.

Present as well were Thomas F. Farrell, II, A. Macdonald Caputo, Alan A. Diamonstein, G. Slaughter Fitz-Hugh, Jr., W. Heywood Fralin, Ms. Glynn D. Key, Mark J. Kington, Vincent J. Mastracco, Jr., Warren M. Thompson, and Ms. Georgia M. Willis.

Also present was Ms. Catherine S. Neale, the Student Member-elect.

The Chair asked Mr. Block, Vice President and Provost, to present the Agenda.

Darden MBA for Executives

Mr. Block introduced members of the faculty of the Darden Graduate School of Business Administration who gave a presentation on a proposed new program, the MBA for Executives. They explained that the first such program was established in 1943 and that there are now over 280 degree programs of this kind. Executive MBA programs differ from traditional MBA programs in that they are designed for students who do not interrupt their careers to pursue a career but continue to work full time. Students in these programs generally are more experienced than part-time MBA students, and participants meet for fewer but longer and more intense sessions.

Executive MBA students remain employed while pursuing their degrees and often rely on their employers to finance their education.

It is estimated that over 9,000 students worldwide are enrolled in programs of this sort; in contrast, there has been a decline in applications to traditional MBA programs.

The concept of the Executive MBA has received careful study at the Darden School. The program, if implemented there, would be taught by existing Darden faculty and instruction would take place mostly at the School. The first class would start in June 2006 with a group of 45 executives who would pursue a 21-month program.

For this first class, tuition would be $90,000 for the full program and would include all instruction, required fees, required software, course materials, lodging and meals during class sessions. Tuition is somewhat below benchmark schools in urban areas, but comparable to or above other competitors.

The Darden faculty has approved this proposal, as has the Faculty Senate.
Department Name Change, School of Medicine: Department of Health Evaluation Sciences to Department of Public Health Sciences

Mr. Block introduced Dr. Garson, Vice President and Dean of the School of Medicine, who reported on the change of a departmental name at the Medical School: the Department of Health Evaluation Sciences is now the Department of Public Health Sciences. The change, he said, reflects a number of new developments in the Department, including the launching of the new Masters of Public Health degree that will be under review for national accreditation during the next two years.

The name change was approved by the Provost and the Dean, and is being reported to the Board for information.

Report on the University’s Accreditation

Mr. Block introduced Ms. E. Clorisa Phillips, a member of his staff and the Associate Provost for Institutional Advancement. Ms. Phillips outlined for the Committee the decennial process for the reaccreditation of the University by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, known as SACS.

The process of collecting the necessary information and organizing the local committees who will deal with this has begun. The “on-site peer review” will be conducted in March and April of 2007 and the vote by the SACS Commission on Colleges – the culmination of the process – will be taken in December of that year.

International Programs

The Provost introduced Dr. Leigh B. Grossman, Vice Provost for International Affairs and Professor of Pediatrics and Chief of Pediatric Infectious Disease in the School of Medicine. Dr. Grossman gave the Committee a report on international programs at the University: she included figures on the number of University students, undergraduate and graduate, studying abroad; the number of foreign students – again, undergraduate and graduate – enrolled in the University; and statistics on international faculty. She listed the University’s semester abroad and summer programs, as well as the new J-Term programs conducted overseas, and a miscellany of international exchange programs.

She concluded by listing some goals for international programs at the University.
Report by the Chair of the Faculty Senate

Finally, Mr. Block introduced Ms. Marcia Childress, Associate Professor of Medical Education and Chair of the Faculty Senate, who reported on activities of the Senate.

Ms. Childress, in her report, emphasized partnerships in which the faculty are involved - partnerships with students, with the administration, and with the Board.

She described the Harrison Undergraduate Research Awards, a success by anyone’s estimation. There are 42 students this year, selected from across the undergraduate schools, and 42 faculty mentors.

The Senate is sponsoring dissertation-year fellowships for doctoral candidates in their final year. For 2005-2006, there will be six fellowships of $20,000 each; a selection committee, she said, is now reviewing 71 applications.

The Senate will be involved in the University’s reaccreditation, as well as in the Capital Campaign. Touching on the recent “charter” discussions, she reaffirmed the faculty’s commitment to making the University a top national institution, and to the University “as an accessible, affordable, public institution.”

On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

AGG:lah
These minutes have been posted to the University of Virginia’s Board of Visitors website.
http://www.virginia.edu/bov/educationalminutes.html