April 6, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO:       The Buildings and Grounds Committee:

Thomas F. Farrell, II, Acting Chair
The Honorable Alan A. Diamonstein
Susan Y. Dorsey
W. Heywood Fralin
Vincent J. Mastracco, Jr.
Catherine S. Neale
The Honorable Lewis F. Payne
Don R. Pippin
Gordon F. Rainey, Jr.

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

Daniel R. Abramson       Glynn D. Key
A. MacDonald Caputo       Warren M. Thompson
G. Slaughter Fitz-Hugh, Jr. E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., M.D.
Georgia Willis Fauber     John O. Wynne

FROM:      Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr.

SUBJECT:  Minutes of the Meeting of the Buildings and Grounds Committee on Tuesday, April 6, 2006

The Buildings and Grounds Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session at 4:50 p.m., Thursday, April 6, 2006, in the Abbott Center at the Darden School; the Rector, acting as Chair, presided.

The Honorable Alan A. Diamonstein, Ms. Susan Y. Dorsey, W. Heywood Fralin, Vincent J. Mastracco, Jr., The Honorable Lewis F. Payne, Don R. Pippin, Gordon F. Rainey, Jr., and Ms. Catherine S. Neale were present.

Also present were Daniel R. Abramson, A. Macdonald Caputo, and Mrs. Georgia Willis Fauber.

BECAUSE OF A BREAKDOWN IN THE RECORDING EQUIPMENT, THESE MINUTES ARE A RECONSTRUCTION

The Rector, as Acting Chair, asked Ms. Sheehy, Vice President for Management and Budget, to present the Agenda.

The first items on the Agenda were Consent items.

CONSENT AGENDA: Approval of an Historical Marker at the University Cemetery

The University Cemetery was established in 1828 and many distinguished members of the faculty and their spouses, as well as Presidents Alderman, Newcomb, Shannon, and Hereford, are buried there. Charlottesville was a military hospital centre during the Civil War – several University buildings were used for that purpose – and the large number of soldiers buried in the Cemetery is a commentary on the adequacy of mid-19th century medical treatment. Adjacent to the Cemetery are the graves of two of the University’s most beloved dog mascots, Beta and Seal.

About twenty years ago, partly in response to a growing interest in cremation, and partly because the Cemetery was nearing capacity, a columbarium was established on one side of the Cemetery in a wall built for that purpose.

The City of Charlottesville has approached the University with a suggestion that a state historical marker be place on University property, adjacent to the University Cemetery on Alderman Road. The marker would give a brief description of the Cemetery and its historical importance.

The University concurs with the City’s proposal and recommends that the marker be approved. The specific wording for the marker must be approved by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and then, of course, by the Board of Visitors.

The proposed resolution approves the concept of the marker; the suggested text is still a matter of discussion with the Department of Historic Resources in Richmond. Once a text has been agreed upon, it will be brought to the Committee and then to the full Board.

The Committee approved the following resolution and recommended it to the full Board for approval:
RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors approves the placement of a state historical marker, commemorating the University Cemetery, on University property on Alderman Road, adjacent to the Cemetery.

CONSENT AGENDA: Approval of the Establishment of a Presidents’ Plot at the University Cemetery

Several Presidents of the University – Alderman, Newcomb, Shannon, and Hereford – are buried in family plots in the University Cemetery, but the plots are widely scattered throughout the precincts. With the expansion of the Cemetery, it is proposed that a small section be set aside for future burials of presidents of the University. The “Presidents’ Plot” would have room for twenty-four burials, which would include spouses.

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

WHEREAS, the Cemetery Committee of the University recommends the establishment of a Presidents’ Plot at the University Cemetery;

RESOLVED, a plot of twelve graves, to accommodate a possible twenty-four burials, at the University Cemetery be set aside for the future burials of presidents of the University.

CONSENT AGENDA: Delegation of Authority to Establish Cemetery and Columbarium Policies

Ms. Sheehy told the Committee that from time to time, the University’s Cemetery Committee may propose new policies, regulations, or revisions to existing Cemetery and Columbarium policies – these might include eligibility for burial, financial requirements and administrative procedures. Because these regulations and policies are administrative in nature, it is appropriate that they be approved by the President rather than by the Board of Visitors.

She proposed a resolution devolving the authority to establish Cemetery and Columbarium policies on the President.

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

WHEREAS, the Cemetery Committee of the University from time to time may propose new or revised policies regarding the University Cemetery and the Columbarium; and
WHEREAS, such policies and regulations are administrative in nature;

RESOLVED, the President may approve and establish policies regarding the Cemetery and the Columbarium, and may amend or rescind any previously established policies and regulations.

ACTION ITEMS: Approval of the Schematic Design for the South Lawn Project

Ms. Sheehy then introduced Mr. Ayers, Dean of Arts and Sciences, and Mr. Neuman, Architect for the University. Mr. Ayers spoke to the importance of the South Lawn Project – the proposed extension of Arts and Sciences across Jefferson Park Avenue from New Cabell Hall. Mr. Neuman reminded the Committee of the history of the Project, the revised concept, site and design guidelines of which were approved by the Committee on September 30, 2005. At the same meeting, the Committee also approved the selection of Moore Ruble Yudell of Santa Monica, California, as architects for the Project.

The architects have prepared a schematic design for the Project, and it is this the Committee was asked to approve.

There was considerable discussion about the plans and the scale model of the buildings as designed, with Mr. Ayers, Mr. Neuman and the President commenting in some detail.

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

RESOLVED, the schematic design, dated April 6, 2006, and prepared by Moore Ruble Yudell, of Santa Monica, California, for the South Lawn Project, is approved for further development and construction.

ACTION ITEMS: Approval of the Schematic Design for the Observatory Hill Residence Hall (Alderman Road Residence Area Replacement Housing – Phase 1)

The eleven outmoded residence halls on Alderman Road are to be replaced; they were built in the 1960s and their condition is deteriorating – a feasibility study concluded that replacement would be more cost effective than renovation.

There are to be two swing residence halls for what is called the Alderman Road Residence Area Replacement Housing Project; the first of these is to be built on Observatory Mountain behind Balz House and it will accommodate 144 first-year students. The concept, site and design guidelines for this
building were approved by the Committee on June 10, 2005 and Hanbury Evans Wright Vlattas of Norfolk were approved as the project architects on November 7, 2005. The architect’s schematic design for the project were now being brought to the Committee for approval.

There was considerable discussion about some of the features of the design, most particularly the mullions of the panes in the windows. In the end, the Committee voted to approve the schematic design but with the understanding that the design of the windows be reworked.

With this reservation, the Committee adopted the following resolution and recommended it to the full Board for approval:

RESOLVED, the schematic design, dated April 6, 2006, and prepared by Hanbury Evans Wright Blattas of Norfolk for the Observatory Hill Residence Hall (Alderman Road Residence Area Replacement Housing – Phase I), is approved for further development and construction.

Report by the Vice President

Ms. Sheehy noted the progress being made on fulfilling the Committee’s Goals and Work Plan for 2005-2006 and in the interest of time, referred Members to written reports in material previously distributed to them.

Report by the Architect for the University

As the meeting was nearing its stated time for adjournment, Mr. Neuman abbreviated his customary report and told the Committee briefly about work on the Entry Study and Guidelines, which is a study of the so-called Lee Street Precinct of the Medical Center with the object of designing a proper entry point to the Hospital.

The Rector, as Acting Chair, suggested to Ms. Sheehy that she send to the Committee paper copies of Mr. Neuman’s slides on the Grounds Plan and on the Entry Study and Guidelines.

On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

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