January 20, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Educational Policy Committee:

Glynn D. Key, Chair
The Honorable Alan A. Diamonstein
Susan Y. Dorsey
Vincent J. Mastracco, Jr.
Catherine S. Neale
The Honorable Lewis F. Payne
E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., M.D.
John O. Wynne
Thomas F. Farrell, II, Ex Officio

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

A. Macdonald Caputo        Mark J. Kington
Georgia Willis Fauber       Don R. Pippin
G. Slaughter Fitz-Hugh, Jr. Gordon F. Rainey, Jr.
W. Heywood Fralin           Warren M. Thompson

FROM: Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr.

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Educational Policy
Committee on January 20, 2006

The Educational Policy Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 9:20am, Friday, January 20, 2006, in the Board Room of the Rotunda; Ms. Glynn D. Key, Chair, presided.

Present were The Hon. Alan A. Diamonstein, Ms. Susan Y. Dorsey, Vincent J. Mastracco, Jr., The Hon. Lewis F. Payne, Ms. Catherine S. Neale, and Thomas F. Farrell, II, Rector.

Also present were W. Heywood Fralin, A. Macdonald Caputo, Mrs. Georgia Willis Fauber, G. Slaughter Fitz-Hugh, Jr., Mark J. Kington, and Don R. Pippin,

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

**ACTION ITEM: Approval of New Degree Program – B.S. in Software Engineering, The University of Virginia’s College at Wise**

Mr. Block introduced Mr. Prior, Chancellor of The University of Virginia’s College at Wise, who proposed a new degree program at the College, the B.S. in Software Engineering.

Mr. Prior reminded the Committee that following the recommendations of the Commission on Science and Engineering, the College introduced a Management Information Systems major in the fall and has designated the former Computer Information Systems major as Computer Science. With private gifts and an Appalachian Regional Commission grant, a 64-node Beowulf cluster instructional laboratory has been completed.

The proposed major in Software Engineering has been approved by the Faculty Senate at Wise, and by the Wise Board. Following approval by the Board of Visitors, the new degree must be approved by the State Council for Higher Education for Virginia.

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

WHEREAS, the faculty and administration of The University of Virginia’s College at Wise have proposed and approved the inclusion of a Software Engineering major in the curriculum; and

WHEREAS, the Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering will attract students from Southwest Virginia and throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Software Engineering major will produce graduates in a high-demand field needed by business in Southwest Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Software Engineering major will assist Wise County, the City of Norton, and the entire Southwest Virginia region in attracting new businesses and industries;
RESOLVED that, subject to approval by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the Bachelor of Science Degree in Software Engineering be established at The University of Virginia's College at Wise.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS:

Semester at Sea

Mr. Block reported on the Institute for Shipboard Education and the Semester at Sea program, in partnership with the University. On June 16th, the University will officially assume the academic responsibility for the program. As such, it will come under the Office of Summer and Special Academic Programs, and under the directorship of Mr. Dudley Doane.

The 2006 J-Term

The J-Term, properly the January Term, consists of short courses - given at the University and elsewhere, in this country and abroad - offered between Christmas the start of the second semester. Mr. Block gave a brief report on this year’s J-Term: the number of students enrolled, the number of classes offered, and the study abroad opportunities essentially have doubled over last year. Mr. Block said he would have student evaluations, a financial report, and more accurate final enrollment numbers in a few weeks.

REPORT OF THE VICE PROVOST FOR FACULTY ADVANCEMENT

Mr. Block introduced Ms. Gertrude Fraser, Vice Provost for Faculty Advancement, and asked her to give an analysis of faculty demographics and the consequent implications for faculty advancement initiatives and ten-year planning. Ms. Fraser entitled her presentation, “Tenure Track Faculty – Challenges over the Next Decade,” and she was assisted in her presentation by Dr. Sharon Hostler, Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Development in the School of Medicine, and Ms. Marva Barnett, Director of the Teaching Resource Center.

REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE FACULTY SENATE

Mr. Block invited Mr. Houston Wood, Chair of the Faculty Senate, to give his customary report on the activities of the Senate.

On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

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