

March 13, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Educational Policy Committee:

Glynn D. Key, Chair  
Alan A. Diamonstein  
Susan Y. Dorsey  
Vincent J. Mastracco, Jr.  
Anne Elizabeth Mullen  
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:

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

FROM: Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr.

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Educational Policy Committee on March 13, 2007

The Educational Policy Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 10:15 a.m., Tuesday, March 13, 2007, in the Lower East Oval Room of the Rotunda; Ms. Glynn D. Key, Chair, presided. Ms. Susan Y. Dorsey, Ms. Anne Elizabeth Mullen, Lewis F. Payne, John O. Wynne, and Thomas F. Farrell, II, Rector, were present.

Alan A. Diamonstein and E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., M.D., participated by telephone.

Ms. Georgia Willis Fauber, A. Macdonald Caputo, Don R. Pippin, and Gordon F. Rainey, Jr. also were present.

Present as well were John T. Casteen, III, Leonard W. Sandridge, Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr., Paul J. Forch, Gene D. Block, Arthur Garson, Jr., M.D., R. Ariel Gomez, M.D., William B. Harvey, James L. Hilton, R. Edward Howell, Ms. Patricia M. Lampkin, Ms. Yoke San L. Reynolds, Ms. Colette Sheehy, David J. Prior, Ricardo Padron, and Ms. Jeanne Flippo Bailes.

Carey J. Mignerey, the Student Member-elect, was present as an observer.

Ms. Key, the Chair, opened the meeting and called on Ms. Fauber, as an alumna of the McIntire School of Commerce, to make an announcement.

#### MCINTIRE SCHOOL RANKING

Ms. Fauber told the Committee that the McIntire School has just been rated by *BusinessWeek* as the second best undergraduate business school in the country. This is the second year in a row that McIntire has been so ranked.

#### VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Chair asked Mr. Block, Vice President and Provost, to present the Agenda. Mr. Block first gave his customary report.

He outlined progress on the Committee's goals and work plan for the year, progress made since his previous report on the subject which was given to the Committee at its January meeting. The goals, he reminded the Committee, are centered on graduate education, technology transfer, the governing boards of other institutions, and undergraduate advising.

The Provost's Office, he said, is engaged on a year-long analysis of graduate education. As for technology transfer, his office will conduct site visits to at least three institutions with strong programs: Wake Forest University, Columbia University, and New York University. The visit to Wake Forest, the first scheduled, was to have

taken place on February 2<sup>nd</sup> but was cancelled because of bad weather.

The Provost's Office is surveying the academic affairs and educational policy committees of several other institutions: Princeton University, the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Michigan, Harvard University, Duke University, the University of Chicago, Stanford University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Maryland, and the University of Washington in Seattle.

And finally, an analysis, by the College of Arts & Sciences, of undergraduate advising is in progress; the Dean will report to the Committee in the spring.

Mr. Wynne raised several points about undergraduate advising in the context of the work of the Special Committee on Planning. The Chair explained the work that is being done in this regard.

#### REACCREDITATION OF THE UNIVERSITY

Mr. Block concluded his report with comments on the reaccreditation of the University by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), a process which is in progress. In February, he said, the University - as part of this process - submitted the Quality Enhancement Plan, which is one of the two main elements required by SACS. The Quality Enhancement Plan is "to demonstrate university-wide commitment to student learning, with the objective of enhancing institutional quality and effectiveness." The University selected "enhancing student-faculty engagement" as the topic for the Plan. Later this month, Mr. Block said, a group from SACS will visit the University to review the University's Quality Enhancement Plan.

The work on reaccreditation will not be completed until the end of this year when SACS votes formally on the University's re-accreditation.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE BOARD OF VISITORS RESEARCH  
ENHANCEMENT PLAN

Mr. Block asked Dr. Gomez, the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, to give a progress report on the Board of Visitors Research Enhancement Plan. He reminded the Committee that the Plan was adopted by the Board in 2004. It is a commitment by the University to become a research institution of international importance in select scientific and technological fields. It was set up, initially, to focus on three to five interdisciplinary fields where there is existing strong faculty talent. The plan for implementing this strategy is two-fold: 1) The recruitment of a cadre of the very best new faculty members to complete these interdisciplinary research groups; and 2) accelerated construction of new research space to accommodate the targeted activities, as well as attract or retain prominent faculty members.

Dr. Gomez reported that construction is proceeding on the Advanced Research and Technology Building at the Fontaine Research Park. The project is several months ahead of schedule and should be done by the spring of 2008. It will provide laboratory space. The other building project that is part of the Research Enhancement Plan is the Carter-Harrison Building (MR-6). Although it is to be a research facility of the School of Medicine, it will house research that links clinical and basic research. The building will have over 100,000 square feet, and it will accommodate 60 research teams.

Dr. Gomez then gave the Committee a brief report on faculty recruiting. Some 45 persons have been identified as top recruits, of whom 20 were contacted. Ten offers were made; six of these were accepted and another offer is in negotiation. He described several of the outstanding scientists who accepted offers and told the Committee something of their work.

REPORT BY THE CHAIR-ELECT OF THE FACULTY SENATE

In the absence of Mr. Schwartz, the Chair of the Faculty Senate, who was out of town on University business, Mr. Ricardo Padron, Associate Professor of Spanish and Chair-elect of the Faculty Senate, gave the customary

report on activities of the Senate since the last meeting of the Committee.

Mr. Padron said he wanted to report on one of the main issues on which the Senate is engaged at the moment, which is the President's major planning initiative and the Ten Year Academic Plan. The Senate, he told the Committee, has been an active participant in the process, and he described some of its efforts.

These efforts have centered on the work of the Senate's Committee on Planning and Development, which was formed three years ago to, as he said, "help broker and bring together conversations about both academic planning for the University as a whole and fundraising for academic initiatives." The Committee works closely with both the Provost and with Mr. Sweeney, the Senior Vice President for Development and Public Affairs.

During this academic year, the Committee, whose membership is drawn from all schools of the University, has organized working dinners at the Provost's house with diverse groups of faculty. Three "big ideas" have emerged from these gatherings: a College of Global Studies, a Center for Advanced Studies modeled as a rejuvenated version of the Shannon Center, and a yearly all-University theme.

The most recent of these dinners involved the whole Committee and the Executive Council of the Senate, together with the Provost, Mr. Sweeney, and Dr. Garson and Mr. Sandridge - the latter as co-chairs of the Commission on the Future of the University.

The Committee will hold two more dinners this spring.

The Chair thanked Mr. Padron for his report; the Rector seconded her thanks and commended the Senate for its work.

On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 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>