MEMORANDUM

TO: The Student Affairs and Athletics Committee:

Susan Y. Dorsey, Chair
Daniel R. Abramson
A. Macdonald Caputo
Georgia Willis Fauber
G. Slaughter Fitz-Hugh, Jr.
Glynn D. Key
Anne Elizabeth Mullen
Don R. Pippin
Warren M. Thompson
Thomas F. Farrell, II, Ex Officio

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

Alan A. Diamonstein Lewis F. Payne
W. Heywood Fralin Gordon F. Rainey, Jr.
Vincent J. Mastracco, Jr. 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 13, 2007

The Student Affairs and Athletics Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 11:25 a.m., Tuesday, March 13, 2007, in the Lower East Oval Room of the Rotunda; Ms. Susan Y. Dorsey, Chair, presided. Daniel R. Abramson, A. Macdonald Caputo, Ms. Georgia Willis Fauber, Ms. Glynn D. Key, Ms. Anne Elizabeth Mullen, Don R. Pippin, Warren M. Thompson, and Thomas F. Farrell, II, were present.

Present as well were W. Heywood Fralin, Lewis F. Payne, and Gordon F. Rainey, Jr.
Also present were Leonard W. Sandridge, Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr., Paul J. Forch, Ms. Patricia M. Lampkin, William B. Harvey, James L. Hilton, Ms. Yoke San L. Reynolds, David J. Prior, Craig K. Littlepage, Ms. Alison Tramba, and Ms. Jeanne Flippo Bailes.

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

The Chair opened the meeting and asked Ms. Lampkin, Vice President and Chief Student Affairs Officer, to present the Agenda.

VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Ms. Lampkin reminded the Committee that the Spring Break has just ended, and she mentioned the impressive number of “alternative” Spring Break programs – programs in which students are engaged in social help projects – that were organized this year by students.

Student elections took place from February 21st through February 28th; it was the fourth set of elections managed by the University Board of Elections, a student organization, since the Board was established in 2003. The elections ran smoothly and 36% of the total student body voted. The largest turnout was in the Law School with 54%; next was the College, at 42%. By class, the largest turnout was in the first-year class with 53% participation.

Four referenda appeared on the ballot. Of these, three concerned constitutional amendments for the Student Council, the Honor Committee, and the Arts and Sciences Council – all passed. The fourth, an Honor Committee sanction proposal, did not pass.

Lauren Tilton, a rising fourth-year student from Metairie, Louisiana, was elected President of the Student Council. The Chairs of the Honor Committee and the University Judiciary Committee will be selected later this spring from their respective numbers by the elected members of the two Committees.

Ms. Lampkin told the Committee that this is the thirtieth year of the Office of African-American Affairs. An anniversary
dinner will be held on March 28th, at which the keynote speaker will be The Honorable Leroy Hassell, a 1977 alumnus of the College and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

Ms. Lampkin reminded the Committee of the continuing efforts of Student Affairs in the general area of parent communication and programming. These efforts have been recognized with awards from the district competition of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, known as CASE. Two programs – the Student and Parent Orientation Program and the 2006 Handbook for Parents – have received awards of "excellence" in the district competition.

Modifications to the summer Orientation Program will be made this year to better serve the needs of transfer students, international students, and parents.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE HONOR COMMITTEE

Ms. Lampkin introduced Ms. Alison Tramba, a fourth year student in the School of Engineering and Applied Science, and Chair of the Honor Committee. Ms. Tramba gave a report on the activities of the Honor Committee over the past year.

The Committee, she said, revitalized and expanded the Diversity Advisory Board, which has developed an outreach program working through peer advising groups. The position of Vice Chair for Services has been replaced by a Vice Chair for Community Relations, who serves on the Executive Committee of the Honor Committee, and a Community Relations subcommittee has been created.

As part of its efforts to raise visibility, the Committee also has created an Academic Integrity subcommittee; the subcommittee is charged with redeveloping the "message" about Honor to students. The Committee held two town hall-style meetings with the possibility of more in the future. The Committee also will organize an Honor Week, which among other events will have an open house, a faculty lunch and an education campaign. The Committee, too, ran a Conscientious Retraction campaign and it increased its presentations to athletic teams through the Honor Educator pool.
This year, the Committee worked to transform its investigation process. Efficiency and thoroughness of investigations were improved; the Investigation Panels were restructured to emphasize their role as a fact finding mechanism and to remove components with the potential of appearing as adversarial. Students under investigation for violations of the Honor Code have been given more time to review the evidence against them and to respond in writing and the training of investigators has been recast in a more professional manner.

The Committee has made various technological improvements related to its work: the Honor website has been renovated, an academic integrity tutorial has been developed to assist students in research, and the case process has been digitized to improve further the confidentiality, efficiency and consistency of investigations and trial procedures.

Ms. Tramba told the Committee that the Honor Committee completed and released to the public the results of a faculty survey on the Honor System – the survey was conducted in the spring of 2006 and the published survey (a joint endeavor of the Center for Survey Research and the Honor Committee) was released late last fall. In response to comments from the faculty as published in the survey, the Honor Committee has formulated new policies, particularly in the areas of investigation reform and direct contact between the faculty and the Committee. Last month, the Honor Committee released its formal response to the survey, in which it outlined changes made and policies anticipated to improve relations between the faculty and the Committee (the published Survey and the Honor Committee Response to it can be found as an Attachment to these Minutes on the Board of Visitors website: http://www.virginia.edu/bov/studentminutes.html).

Finally, Ms. Tramba reported on the results – as they pertained to the Honor System – of the elections just completed. Honor Representatives from the various schools of the University were elected and referenda were held on two Honor System matters: voters approved a change to the Constitution of the Honor Committee which will add two members from the College of Arts and Sciences, but rejected – by only 62 votes – a non-binding alternative to the single sanction.
Mr. Rainey commented that increasing the number of Representatives from the College would, he thought, strengthen the System. Mr. Pippin asked Ms. Tramba if she could comment on the effectiveness of the System; she replied that the close vote on the single sanction referendum and some of the comments in the Faculty Survey were evidence of concern about the System. Mr. Thompson asked if the Honor Pledge is posted in classrooms. Ms. Tramba replied that it is in some classrooms but not in all, and that the Committee is trying to encourage faculty to at least mention the Pledge on the first day of their respective classes. Mr. Thompson observed that he does not see the Pledge posted in classrooms at the Darden School and he suggested that the Board could help the Honor Committee in seeing to it that it is posted; when he was a student, he said that seeing the Pledge posted was a reinforcement of the principles of the System.

The Rector reminded Members of the incredible commitment of time on the part of members of the Honor Committee, particularly the Chair, and he asked the Board Members present to recognize Ms. Tramba for her hard work and dedication to the well-being of the Honor System. The Chair seconded the Rector’s comments and the Committee gave Ms. Tramba a round of applause.

Mr. Pippin asked Ms. Tramba to describe the orientation of newly appointed faculty members on the principles and workings of the Honor System. Ms. Tramba commented on that and on the ongoing reminders to faculty about the System. The orientation, Ms. Tramba said, is mostly voluntary.

Ms. Fauber wondered what the Board could do to strengthen faculty orientation and make it obligatory. The Chair noted the cooperation of Mr. Schwartz and the Faculty Senate this year in encouraging conversations between faculty and the Honor Committee. Mr. Pippin and the Rector added comments. The Chair wondered what the Law School vote on the single sanction had been; Ms. Lampkin said that was not possible to determine. Mr. Prior commented that there have been discussions among the faculty at Wise this year on the Honor System there: a point that has emerged from these discussions is what are the rights and responsibilities of the faculty in Honor matters? The Chair noted that Mr. Mignerey, the Student Member-elect, is a former Chair of the Honor Committee and that his input over the next year should be very helpful in Board discussions of the Honor System.
The Rector asked that the Chair and Ms. Key, Chair of the Educational Policy Committee, talk about how best to coordinate the Honor orientation of new faculty.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

The Chair asked Mr. Littlepage, Director of Athletics, to give his customary report.

Mr. Littlepage thanked the Chair for delivering remarks at his recent staff meeting. He then gave the Committee a progress report on meeting the goals of the Athletics Department. He highlighted the benefits of the new John Paul Jones Arena to the Athletics program. Emphasis in Athletics in the last few years, he noted, has been on raising money for facilities; henceforth, there will be emphasis placed on increasing endowment.

Nonetheless, he listed some capital projects that are under discussion.

Mr. Littlepage concluded his report with comments on the University’s compliance with Title IX questions.

Noting the 93% student athlete graduation rate in 2006, Mr. Thompson asked how that compares with the graduation rate in 2002. Mr. Littlepage replied that the rate has varied from year to year, but it has always been above 90%. Commenting on Mr. Littlepage’s comments about working to raise the endowment, Mr. Fralin asked about Athletics’ goals in this regard. Mr. Littlepage said the goal would be to raise the endowment, currently at about $100m, to $300m, which would fund about 320 full scholarships. In reply to a further question from Mr. Fralin, he said the University of North Carolina’s endowment for athletics scholarships is larger than ours, but Duke’s is even larger. Stanford University’s endowment, however, he said is the best.

Mr. Caputo raised the possibility of tuition waivers by legislative action - by which he meant the possibility of the University being able to levy in-state tuition on athletes from out of state. Mr. Sandridge explained that this is not the practice in Virginia, though it is a very pressing need in the University’s ability to provide inducements to out-of-state graduate students.
Ms. Fauber congratulated Mr. Littlepage on the 22 ACC championships won by University teams this past year. The Chair seconded those comments and asked Mr. Littlepage to convey the Committee’s congratulations to Mr. Leitao on being named the ACC men’s basketball coach of the year, and to the team for their invitation to participate in the NCAA championships.

On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.