

May 8, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Educational Policy Committee:

Glynn D. Key, Chair
Alan A. Diamonstein
Susan Y. Dorsey
Vincent J. Mastracco, Jr.
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	Austin Ligon
A. Macdonald Caputo	Don R. Pippin
G. Slaughter Fitz-Hugh, Jr.	Gordon F. Rainey, Jr.
W. Heywood Fralin	Warren M. Thompson
Carey J. Mignerey	

FROM: Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr.

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Educational Policy Committee on May 8, 2007

The Educational Policy Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 4:20 p.m., Tuesday, May 8, 2007, in the Lower East Oval Room of the Rotunda; Ms. Glynn D. Key, Chair, presided. The Hon. Alan A. Diamonstein, Ms. Susan Y. Dorsey, and Vincent J. Mastracco, Jr., were present.

Present as well were G. Slaughter Fitz-Hugh, Jr., and Carey J. Mignerey.

Also present were John T. Casteen, III, Leonard W. Sandridge, Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr., Gene D. Block, Arthur Garson, Jr., M.D., James L. Hilton, Ms. Patricia M. Lampkin, Ms. Yoke San L. Reynolds, Ms. Colette Sheehy, Joe C. Campbell, Archie L. Holmes, Jr., Mitchell S. Green, Ricardo Padron, and Ms. Jeanne Flippo Bailes.

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

Vice President's Remarks

Referring to the recruitment of outstanding senior faculty made possible by the Board of Visitors Research Enhancement Plan, Mr. Block introduced Mr. Joe C. Campbell, Lucien Carr, III, Professor of Engineering and Applied Science, and Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Mr. Campbell was the first person recruited under the Board's Plan. Mr. Campbell introduced his colleague, Mr. Archie L. Holmes, Jr., Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Messrs. Campbell and Holmes came to the University from the University of Texas at Austin.

Mr. Campbell then described some of the work he and Mr. Holmes are doing.

Mr. Block next introduced Mr. Mitchell S. Green of the Philosophy Department; Mr. Green is the new Cavaliers' Distinguished Teaching Associate Professor and, Mr. Block said, is well known as a scholar and as a master teacher.

Mr. Green discussed some of his research interests: the pragmatics of communication, in which he studies how meaning is conveyed beyond what is literally said - this would include "body language," facial expression, intonation and the lie. Also empathy, by which he meant "how we understand one another in a way that involves 'feeling with' them." He is interested, too, in the educative power of art (by art he meant literature, music, dance, and painting), and in "speech acts:" "Language can be used to do other than describe the world in spite of the fact that this function has been the paradigm since Plato and Aristotle. These other functions include promising, commanding, imploring and requesting."

He described the undergraduate course he teaches and gave Members copies of his book, *Engaging Philosophy: A Brief Introduction*.

Mr. Block commented that the competition for the designation "Cavaliers' Distinguished Teaching Professor" is fierce and that Mr. Green's designation as such is a measure of the respect he enjoys as a teacher.

The Chair added that Mr. Green represents something that is sometimes forgotten at the University - the importance of teaching excellence.

Report by the Chair of the Faculty Senate

Mr. Block introduced Mr. Ricardo Padron, Associate Professor of Spanish and Chair-elect of the Faculty Senate.

Mr. Padron, explaining that Mr. Schwartz, the Chair of the Faculty Senate, had to be in Richmond for a meeting, read a report of the Senate's activities and involvements that he and Mr. Schwartz had composed together.

The Senate this year awarded Harrison Undergraduate Research Awards to forty-two undergraduates - and Mr. Padron distributed as a handout a listing of the students and their research topics. The Senate also awarded Dissertation Year Fellowships to six doctoral candidates - the listing of the candidates and their dissertation topics was on the handout as well.

The Senate assembled a committee charged with exploring issues related to the recruitment and retention of faculty. In collaboration with the Office of Institutional Assessment, the committee devised a survey of the faculty, meant to solicit their opinion on a variety of aspects of faculty life. There has been a high response rate to the survey, which should provide information that will be useful over the course of the next ten years when as many as 600 new faculty will be hired to replace retiring faculty.

Mr. Padron praised the President for his inclusiveness in involving faculty in the search for the new Dean of Arts & Sciences.

The Senate, through its Planning and Development Committee, has worked with the Development Office in making known the faculty's views on priorities for the Capital Campaign.

Mr. Padron said the Senate is enthusiastic about the role it will play in working with the committee charged with developing the Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy. He commented on the leadership of Mr. Block as Provost and the excellent and close relations the Senate has enjoyed with him.

Remarks by the Vice President and Provost - continued

Mr. Block gave a brief progress report on the Committee's work plan and goals, agreed to at the Board Retreat last July. He commented, too, on the work that is to be done on the student information system that will replace Isis. The Finance Committee, at its next meeting, is to consider the financing of the system; Mr. Block said it is vital that Isis be replaced.

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On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.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>