

Present as well were The Hon. Alan A. Diamonstein, Austin Ligon, Vincent J. Mastracco, Jr., The Hon. Lewis F. Payne, Gordon F. Rainey, Jr., and John O. Wynne.

Also present was Michael Turner, Consulting Member.

Ms. Adom Getachew, the Student Member-elect, was present, as was Ricardo Padron, the Chair of the Faculty Senate.

Present, too, were John T. Casteen, III, Leonard W. Sandridge, Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr., Paul J. Forch, Ms. Patricia M. Lampkin, Craig K. Littlepage, Arthur Garson, Jr., M.D., Ms. Susan A. Carkeek, William B. Harvey, James L. Hilton, Sharon L. Hostler, M.D., R. Edward Howell, Ms. Yoke San L. Reynolds, Ms. Colette Sheehy, Robert D. Sweeney, David J. Prior, Somdev Devvarman, Allen Grove, Ms. Susan Davis, Ms. Beth C. Hodsdon, Leonard J. Carter, and Ms. Jeanne Flippo Bailes.

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

Report by the Director of Athletics

Mr. Littlepage introduced Mr. Somdev Devvarman, a student in the College from India and a member of the Men's Tennis Team, who is the top-ranked collegiate tennis player in the country, in addition to holding other titles.

Before Mr. Devvarman spoke to the Committee, Mr. Littlepage showed a video which described Mr. Devvarman's achievements on the tennis court and included comments from him about his tennis and about the University.

At the conclusion of the video, Mr. Littlepage again introduced Mr. Devvarman, who made brief remarks and answered questions put to him by several Members.

Report by the Vice President and Chief Student Affairs Officer

The Chair asked Ms. Lampkin to give her customary report.

Ms. Lampkin told the Committee that in lieu of a report, she and her colleagues in Student Affairs would focus on new mental health legislation passed by the General Assembly in the current Session, legislation that she said has a direct impact on all public universities in Virginia.

Some of this discussion, she noted, would take place in Executive Session, as permitted by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. At the conclusion of the Executive Session, she said, the Board would be asked to approve two resolutions, as required in the legislation adopted by the General Assembly.

She then introduced Mr. Allen Groves, Interim Dean of Students, who presented an overview of the legislation, as well as the law at issue.

Mr. Grove also told the Committee about University procedures in place for dealing with students who have mental health problems.

Executive Session

After adopting the following motion, the Committee went into Executive Session at 1:30 p.m.:

That the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee of the Board of Visitors convene in Closed Session to review and discuss the withdrawal of a specific student from the University and to consult legal counsel as needed on the applicable laws and procedures, as provided for in Section 2.2-3711 (A) (2),(4) and (7) of the Code of Virginia.

The Committee resumed its meeting in Open Session at 2:20 p.m., and adopted a resolution certifying that its discussions in Executive Session had been conducted in accordance with the exemptions permitted by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act:

That we vote on and record our certification that, to the best of each Board member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and which were identified in the motion(s) authorizing the closed session, were heard, discussed or considered in closed session.

The Committee then approved two resolutions:

APPROVAL OF NEW POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO NOTIFY PARENTS OF
TAX-DEPENDENT STUDENTS IN INSTANCES OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, House Bill 1005, passed during the 2008 General Assembly Session, provides notice under certain circumstances to the parents of a dependent student receiving mental health treatment at a state college or university student health or counseling center; and

WHEREAS, the bill specifically requires a parent of a dependent student to be notified when there exists a substantial likelihood that, as a result of mental illness the student will, in the near future, (i) cause serious physical harm to himself or others as evidenced by recent behavior or any other relevant information or (ii) suffer serious harm due to his lack of capacity to protect himself from harm or to provide for his basic human needs; and

WHEREAS, the bill allows such notification to be withheld if the student's treating physician or treating clinical psychologist has made a part of the student's record a written statement that, in the exercise of his professional judgment, the notification would be reasonably likely to cause substantial harm to the student or another person; and

WHEREAS, the bill requires that the governing boards of each institution shall establish the policies and procedures necessary to comply with the legislation;

RESOLVED, in accordance with HB 1005 and commencing the effective date thereof on July 1, 2008, the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia hereby affirms as University policy the aforesaid parental notification requirement which shall be implemented as follows:

1. The University's Department of Student Health shall notify promptly the Dean of Students or his/her designee whenever the Department treats a student who meets the criteria for parental notification under this legislation; and

2. The Dean of Students or his/her designee shall be primarily responsible for contacting the parent of any such dependent student as required by state law, and documenting such notification as appropriate under the circumstances.

The foregoing general procedure is subject at all times to the authority and direction of the University's Vice President and Chief Student Affairs Officer to approve notification by such other University office or personnel as may be necessary or appropriate under the circumstances.

IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF POTENTIALLY SUICIDAL STUDENTS

WHEREAS, Virginia Code § 23-9.2:8 requires the governing boards of each public institution of higher education to develop and implement policies that advise students, faculty, and staff, including residence hall staff, of the proper procedures for identifying and addressing the needs of students exhibiting suicidal tendencies or behavior; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Code § 23-9.2:8 prohibits each institution from establishing policies that penalize or expel any student solely for attempting to commit suicide or seeking mental health treatment for suicidal thoughts or behaviors; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Code § 23-9.2:8 permits each institution to establish policies and procedures for appropriately dealing with students who are a danger to themselves, or to others, and whose behavior is disruptive to the academic community;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia approves the continuation of the University's Suicide Prevention Program, established in 1996, and outlined in the Attachment, to comply with Virginia Code § 23-9.2:8; specifically:

1. The University's Department of Student Health shall continue to educate the University community, including Residence Life staff, regarding the manifestations of depression and risk of suicide; and
2. The University's Department of Student Health shall continue its comprehensive clinical assessment and treatment of students at risk of suicide; and
3. The University's Department of Student Health shall continue its professional education of its own staff and mental health trainees regarding the assessment and treatment of students at high risk of suicide; and
4. The foregoing being subject at all times to the ongoing authority and responsibility of the University's Vice President and Chief Student Affairs Officer to authorize any such improvements or revisions as may be desirable or necessary and in the best interests of the University and to report any material improvements or revisions to the Board of Visitors at its next scheduled meeting.

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Board approves and reaffirms the continuation of the University's longstanding policy of holding all students to the same behavioral Standards of Conduct. This includes the University's continued use of its published procedure of interim suspension, whereby the University may, as needed, immediately and temporarily suspend any student whose behavior poses a threat to himself or herself, to the health or safety of other members of the University, to University property, or to the educational process, pending a hearing on an underlying offense charged under the Standards of Conduct.

- - - - -

On further motion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

AGG:lah

These minutes have been posted to the University of Virginia's Board of Visitors website.

<http://www.virginia.edu/bov/studentminutes.html>