

February 5, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Special Committee on Diversity:

Warren M. Thompson, Chair
Daniel R. Abramson
Helen E. Dragas
Adom Getachew
Robert D. Hardie
Glynn D. Key
John O. Wynne
W. Heywood Fralin, Ex Officio
Edmund W. Kitch, Consulting Member

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

A. Macdonald Caputo	Austin Ligon
The Hon. Alan A. Diamonstein	Vincent J. Mastracco, Jr.
Susan Y. Dorsey	The Hon. Lewis F. Payne
W. Heywood Fralin	Don R. Pippin
E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., M.D.	

FROM: Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr.

RE: Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Committee on
Diversity on February 5, 2009

The Special Committee on Diversity of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 4:25 p.m., on Thursday, February 5, 2009, in the Board Room at the Rotunda; Warren M. Thompson, Chair, presided.

Present were John O. Wynne, Daniel R. Abramson, Ms. Helen E. Dragas, Robert D. Hardie, Ms. Adom Getachew, and W. Heywood Fralin, Rector.

Present, too, were A. Macdonald Caputo, Ms. Susan Y. Dorsey, Austin Ligon, and The Hon. Lewis F. Payne.

Edmund W. Kitch, Chair of the Faculty Senate and Consulting Member from the Senate, was present.

Also present were John T. Casteen, III, Leonard W. Sandridge, Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr., Paul J. Forch, Arthur Garson, Jr., M.D., William B. Harvey, James L. Hilton, Ms. Patricia M. Lampkin, Ms. Yoke San L. Reynolds, Ms. Valerie Gregory, and Ms. Jeanne Flippo Bailes.

The meeting was given over to a presentation by Ms. Valerie Gregory, Assistant Dean of Admissions, on the admissions season which resulted in the class which matriculated in the University in August, 2008.

Ms. Gregory presented some statistics, covering the years 1998 through 2008. The total number of African American first year matriculants peaked in 2007, but declined last fall; the same is true for Asian Americans and Hispanic Americans. Non-Resident Aliens have risen and White Americans have not changed appreciably since 1998. Between the years 2004 and 2008, the number of African American students offered admission remained about the same while Hispanic Americans rose slightly. In both cases, the number of students who accepted offers of admission declined.

All students who were offered admission in 2008 and who declined, cited "the school I chose has a better academic reputation" as the principal reason for their decision. For Asians and Hispanics, cost was the second most common reason cited; for African Americans it was "financial aid package not adequate," and for Whites it was "did not receive merit scholarship."

Whites who went elsewhere and who responded to the poll, mostly matriculated at Virginia Tech, with the College of William and Mary as the second most popular. More Asians favored Cornell than any other school, more African-Americans went to William and Mary and more Hispanics to Notre Dame.

For the current admissions season, 21,949 applications were received. This breaks down, in part, to 1360 African-Americans, 866 Hispanics/Latinos, 3561 Asian-Americans, and 9848 White Americans.

There was a lively discussion of Ms. Gregory's report.

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

AGG:jb

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

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