MEMORANDUM

TO: The Committee on The University of Virginia's College at Wise:

Don R. Pippin, Chair
Daniel R. Abramson
The Hon. Alan A. Diamonstein
Helen E. Dragas
W. Heywood Fralin
Robert D. Hardie
Austin Ligon
John O. Wynne, Ex Officio

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

A. Macdonald Caputo Vincent J. Mastracchio, Jr.
Susan Y. Dorsey The Hon. Lewis F. Payne
Glynn D. Key Warren M. Thompson
Randal J. Kirk E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., M.D.

Rahul Gorawara

FROM: Susan G. Harris

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Committee on The University of Virginia’s College at Wise Meeting on November 17, 2009

The Board of Visitors Committee on The University of Virginia’s College at Wise met, in Open Session in the Board Room of the Rotunda, at 11:55 a.m., on Tuesday, November 17, 2009. Don R. Pippin, Chair, presided.

Present were Daniel R. Abramson, The Honorable Alan A. Diamonstein, Ms. Helen E. Dragas, W. Heywood Fralin, Robert D. Hardie, Austin Ligon, and John O. Wynne, Rector.

Present as well were A. Macdonald Caputo, Ms. Susan Y. Dorsey, Ms. Glynn D. Key, The Honorable Lewis F. Payne, Warren M. Thompson, E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., M.D., and Rahul Gorawara.

The Chair opened the meeting by reporting on the College at Wise Advisory Board Retreat which was held at the Chancellor's house and included Thomas Farrell, Ernest Ern, and Alexander Gilliam, who facilitated the discussion.

Mr. Pippin also mentioned the College at Wise committee meeting on September 29. He said Warren Thompson met with a number of students. He asked Mr. Thompson to comment on his sessions with the students. Mr. Thompson said he was impressed with the student athletes, none of whom expected to go into the professional leagues. He said it was a great, rewarding experience, he received more out of the conversations than they did, and he would love to do it again.

The Chair asked the Rector to speak about the presidential forum held on September 29. Mr. Wynne said it was the best attended forum of all of them. The sincerity at Wise is palpable. He said 17 different people spoke, and probably as impressive as anyone was the president of the student body. The comments were wide-ranging and not just about Wise. Around 70 to 80 people attended the forum. He said it is clear that since Mr. Pippin has been on the Board the emotional connection with the University is apparent and we want it to continue.

The Chair spoke about the passage of the “Smiddy Resolution” at the Wise Committee meeting. He said a new resolution was in the books of all the Board members for consideration by the Wise Committee and the full Board.

The Rector made a motion for adoption of the new “Smiddy Resolution” which was seconded and approved by the Committee and recommended for consideration by the full Board.

REAFFIRMING THE BOARD’S COMMITMENT TO SUSTAIN AND STRENGTHEN THE COLLEGE AT WISE AND ENCOURAGING REPRESENTATION OF THE COLLEGE’S INTERESTS ON THE BOARD OF VISITORS (THE “SMIDDY RESOLUTION”)

WHEREAS, The College at Wise is an important component and the only branch of the University of Virginia, providing vital educational services to the Commonwealth of Virginia and particularly the Southwest Virginia region; and
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WHEREAS, The University supports the College at Wise and its students through programs and administrative services, as envisioned by Colgate W. Darden, Jr., Samuel R. Crockett III, and Joseph C. Smiddy, when the College was established in 1954; and

WHEREAS, The College at Wise assists the University in delivering programs designed to support economic development, regional healthcare, and K-12 improvement; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Visitors wishes to assure that the issues, efforts and interests of the College at Wise are properly presented to, recognized, and acted on by the University administration and the Board of Visitors;

RESOLVED, the University of Virginia’s Board of Visitors reaffirms its long-standing commitment to sustain and strengthen the College at Wise; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, following every gubernatorial election the Rector shall formally contact the newly elected Governor to emphasize that The University of Virginia’s College at Wise is a vital component of the University, and to encourage the Governor to assure that the interests of The University of Virginia’s College at Wise are represented fully in the selection of members to the University’s Board of Visitors; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, in recognition of “Papa Joe” Smiddy’s long and fruitful efforts to build The University of Virginia’s College at Wise and his tireless work to promote close relationships between Wise and Charlottesville, this resolution shall be known as the Smiddy Resolution.

Report by the Chancellor

The Chair asked the Chancellor, Mr. Prior, to report on the areas of Nursing; Teacher Education; and Computer Science, Management Information Systems, and Software Engineering.

The Nursing program includes both a Bachelor of Nursing, and an RN to BSN program. The students are increasing every year; 35% are male in the third year class. The College at Wise graduated 17 nurses last year and the graduates had a 100% pass rate on the Boards.

The teacher education program has expanded, with an emphasis on growing the number of teachers of math in middle
schools. Also, there is an increase of students gaining certification in special education. There are 236 education majors; 62 graduated last year. This is down 9% from the year before, but the decrease may be due to the larger size of the graduating class.

In 2002, a Commission on Science and Engineering analyzed the feasibility of growing science and engineering at the College. In 2005, the College launched computer science and MIS degrees, and in 2006 the College gained approval for the only software engineering bachelor's degree in the Commonwealth. The Engineering Advisory Committee is a new addition made up of local people in the industry to advise on the College curriculum. The first three graduates in software engineering graduated last Spring.

Mr. Prior touched on the status of the Capital Campaign. As of October 31, there are commitments equaling $47.4 million toward the $50 million Capital Campaign goal. Mr. Prior is confident they will reach the $50 million goal, and so they are starting "Envision 2020" for ideas for the future. He invited the Board to offer ideas.

The Chair ended the meeting by commenting on what a pleasure it was to have Thomas Farrell on the College at Wise Advisory Board. The Chair said he would like to see a current member of the Board of Visitors on this Board and he was considering asking Mr. Kirk.

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

SGH:lah
These minutes have been posted to the University of Virginia’s Board of Visitors website.
http://www.virginia.edu/bov/uvawiseminutes.html