

September 29, 2009

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. Mastracco, 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 September 29, 2009

The Board of Visitors Committee on The University of Virginia's College at Wise met, in Open Session, at 11:00 a.m., at the C. Bascom Slemp Student Center at the College at Wise on Tuesday, September 29, 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, and John O. Wynne, Rector.

Present as well were Ms. Susan Y. Dorsey, Vincent J. Mastracco, Jr., and Warren M. Thompson.

A. Macdonald Caputo participated by telephone.

Present, too, were Joseph Smiddy, Leonard W. Sandridge, Ms. Susan G. Harris, David J. Prior, Ms. Pace Lochte, and Justin Thompson.

The Chair opened the meeting by introducing Mr. Joseph Smiddy, first Chancellor of the College at Wise, and the Honorable William Wampler, the State Senator representing much of the Coalfield region. The Chair then made a motion allowing the consideration of addenda not on the published agenda. The motion was seconded and adopted by the Committee.

Overview of the College

The Chair asked the Chancellor, Mr. Prior, to provide an overview of the College. Mr. Prior said the region is struggling to build a culture of education. The College's partners in this effort are the K-12 system and the community colleges.

Mr. Prior remarked that the Coalfields region had a 2007 median household income of \$31,000 a year, whereas the median household income in the Commonwealth was \$54,000. The area is struggling to find strategies to overcome economic needs. The College at Wise's student body is 95% in-state, and 53.5% of the students are from the Coalfields region. Minorities comprise 12% of the student population. A high percentage of the students are eligible for financial aid, 82.4%, and 28% of those students have no family contribution to their financial support.

Notwithstanding the economic status of many students attending the College, *U.S. News and World Report* ranked the College at Wise as one of the top liberal arts colleges with the lowest debt load for graduates. The College continues to grow: in Fall 2008 there were 1964 students, and in Fall 2009 the number increased to 2022. Mr. Prior said the College's "story" resonates with families, both in the Coalfields region and in other areas of the state.

Mr. Prior mentioned some significant programs at the College, including the software engineering and computer science programs which are seeking national accreditation from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). With the assistance of the dean of the University's School of Engineering Mr. Aylor, as well as local corporate and educational leaders, the College launched baccalaureate degree programs in software engineering and computer science in 2005. The software engineering baccalaureate is the only one in the Commonwealth.

In the previous academic year, the College expanded collaborative efforts with public schools in Wise County to

include teachers of French and Spanish. The collaborative efforts are focused on achieving a better transition of students from high school to college in English, Mathematics, and foreign language. Teachers meet together to better understand the high school and college requirements and to adjust their curriculums to maximize student success. This program is expected to positively affect quality in the participating public schools.

Mr. Prior said that the College's Development efforts have yielded \$8.1 million this fiscal year. The College has now raised \$46.5 million towards its *Fulfilling the Dream* Campaign goal of \$50 million. In the near future, it will be necessary to start a conversation with Committee members on what follows the campaign.

Mr. Prior reported briefly on the Appalachian Intermountain Scholars (AIMS) program, which he discussed with the Committee in previous meetings. The College has 19 AIMS scholars who have completed a two year associate degree program at Mountain Empire Community College in good standing. The College covers their tuition to pursue a four-year baccalaureate degree. Also in the area of enrollment management, the College seeks to increase articulation agreements with other states including Kentucky and Tennessee. The College has signed a new articulation agreement with Big Sandy Community and Technical College in Kentucky. This allows students in the Associate in Arts or Sciences in General Studies program to transfer to the College with junior status.

Mr. Prior mentioned a number of capital projects underway at the College including the Convocation Center, which has a \$30 million budget and a 30 month construction period. It is on-time and within budget. He said there is no other event center in the region of this magnitude with approximately 3,000 seats.

The College has implemented a new student information system which went live for students, faculty and staff on June 19. This system allows better data mining and communication. The "back room" financial work by the University remains essential.

A new residence hall has opened which contributes significantly to the goal of housing one-half of the students on campus. A 400-bed apartment complex to be built nearby will also help with student housing.

Mr. Prior said the strong crisis management team is working on swine flu issues currently.

Mr. Prior concluded his remarks by reminding the Committee that the mission of the College is to ensure student success and serve the community and the region. They are moving cautiously on new building projects because they do not want to "outstrip" the student experience.

Outreach to Southwest Virginia Under Restructuring

The Chair provided brief remarks about construction at the College and introduced Ms. Marcia Gilliam, Vice Chair of the College's Board. Following the introduction of Ms. Gilliam he turned the program over to Mr. Prior who introduced Mr. Jim Gott, Chair of the Board, and the speaker, Ms. Pace Lochte, Director of Economic Development in the Office of the Vice President for Research at the University.

Ms. Lochte said that as part of the restructuring management agreement with the Commonwealth, the University was required to partner with an economically distressed region of the state and "work meaningfully and visibly" to stimulate economic development in the region. The University chose the Coalfield region, which is comprised of the city of Norton and the counties of Lee, Scott, Wise, Dickenson, Russell, Tazewell, and Buchanan. She described the University's action plan for this partnership as falling into three main categories: access to health care, support for K-12 education, and business support. The partnership includes the College at Wise and the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority (VCEDA). Together, they formed the Southwest Virginia Economic Development Partnership.

Ms. Lochte said the population of the Coalfield region is 207,000. She then turned the program over to David Cattell-Gordon, Director of Rural Network Development with the University's Office of Telemedicine and Cancer Center, to explain their work in advancing access to healthcare in the region.

Mr. Cattell-Gordon said the health status of people in the region is poor. The area leads the state in the number of health risk categories. There is a 26% higher risk of early death than in the rest of the Commonwealth.

The Remote Area Medical (RAM) clinic is now in its tenth year in Wise. In 2008, the RAM clinic provided medical, dental and vision care to over 3,000 people in two and a half days. In 2009, this number increased to 7,000 people. Although approximately 50% of those seeking care had health insurance, they did not have access to care. Telemedicine provides access

to specialty care through the work of Dr. Karen Rheuban at the University. One of the areas successfully utilizing telemedicine is mammogram reading.

The RAM clinic helps many people, but it is not a long-term solution to the access issues in the region. It is necessary to create a new model for healthcare. Two efforts to accomplish this are the Southwest Virginia Health Authority and the Healthy Appalachia Institute. The Southwest Virginia Health Authority, a governmental entity, has created and adopted the *Blueprint for Health Improvement and Health Enabled Prosperity*, which provides goals and objectives for improving health over the next ten years. The University was involved in developing the final plan.

The Healthy Appalachia Institute at the College at Wise is a collaboration of scholars and governmental, healthcare and business leaders. The Institute's goals are to create an integrated strategic health care plan and to conceive initiatives that ensure a healthier future for the residents of the region. The Institute has partnered with Healthy Appalachia Works, which is directed by Dr. Michael Weber at the University's Cancer Center and funded by the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission. Healthy Appalachia Works provides cancer screening, education, and effective diagnosis and treatment of cancer to residents, particularly women. This project is also working to advance training of healthcare employees and creating new healthcare jobs in the region.

The Chair introduced Dr. Joseph Smiddy, the son of Chancellor Smiddy, to say a few words about his experiences as a physician in the region. Dr. Smiddy said the Coalfields region is a healthcare nightmare, with high rates of heart disease, lung disease, et cetera. Out-of-state hospitals cherry-pick patients and do not provide services to many Southwest Virginians, although he can get patients into the University of Virginia. Healthy Appalachia is real and important. Dr. Smiddy mentioned the X-ray trailer that provides vital mobile services.

Ms. Lochte returned to the podium to talk about the other components of partnership with Southwest Virginia, K-12 education and business support. In the area of K-12 education, she said many teachers of special education are teaching with provisional licenses. The University, specifically the Curry School of Education and the School of Continuing and Professional Studies, is working with the College at Wise and local school districts to provide a new degree and licensure program in special education, including a Graduate Record Exam (GRE) test program that is designed to prepare teachers for taking the GRE.

Ms. Lochte mentioned a number of other initiatives in the K-12 area including the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) which is a professional development tool for improving teaching quality; foreign language instruction workshops; and the grants for improving the teaching of American history. This program provides history teachers with courses, materials, and other support to allow better teaching of the Colonial, Civil War and Cold War periods. An aspect of the program involves pairing teachers with University doctoral students who serve as research assistants to the teachers. The Miller Center for Public Service, the Curry School of Education, and the School of Continuing and Professional Studies all are involved.

Ms. Lochte also mentioned the Southwest Early Language and Literacy project (SWELL). This project involves working with parents of at-risk children very early in their development. The project combines education and health components.

Ms. Lochte then turned to the third component of the Southwest Virginia partnership, business support. She mentioned the Southwest Virginia Technology Development Center in Lebanon which, in partnership with SCPS, offers nonprofit management training to meet the needs of the nonprofit sector.

PRODUCED in Virginia is a program of the University's School of Engineering and Applied Science that partners with community colleges to educate engineers, providing a bachelors degree in engineering science from the University.

Other areas of business support include an entrepreneurship program; Darden executive education; and the development of two energy research centers in the region, focusing on coal energy research and nanotechnology. The centers (there are a total of five in the state) are intended to stimulate the expansion of energy-related jobs and economic development across the Commonwealth.

Following Ms. Lochte's presentation, the Chair asked the Honorable William Wampler to comment. Senator Wampler extolled the advantages of telemedicine, and said that there is better saturation in Southwest Virginia than anywhere in the state or maybe in the nation.

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Smiddy Resolution

The Chair said that we had a "can do" Rector, and asked the Rector to make a motion. The Rector read the following resolution, which was not included in the meeting materials:

RESOLVED, that this Committee recommends University support for legislation providing at least one member of the Board of Visitors shall be from the alumni of The University of Virginia's College at Wise; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that in recognition of Papa Joe Smiddy's long and fruitful efforts to build this College and his tireless efforts to promote close relationships between Wise and Charlottesville, this resolution shall be known as the "Smiddy Resolution".

The Chair asked Mr. Smiddy to stand and say a few words. Mr. Smiddy thanked David and Merry Lu Prior and said that "it is perfectly okay to take a quick look backward, but if you look too long we'll end up in the dismal swamp". He said we have go the way David and Merry Lu are, taking the College at Wise into the future, and that is what we all need to be thinking about as we think about the change in the great University of Virginia. He ended by thanking the Chair and the Rector.

The Chair reminded the Committee that a motion was before them and then asked Mr. Diamonstein for a comment.

Mr. Diamonstein said "Papa Joe" Smiddy was the soul of Southwest, the heart of Southwest, the conscience of Southwest. He said his love for education knows no limits and it was because of him, more than any other reason that many across the state came to Mr. Smiddy's aid when he asked for it. He pointed out Judge Ford Quillen in the audience and asked him to stand up. He said the Judge was in the legislature and when things were slowing down and weren't going the way they thought it should go for Southwest Virginia, he would come over and say, "Remember Papa Joe is going to be as mad as hell if we don't get this through". And because of Ford's nagging and because of Papa Joe's popularity, many from the Peninsula did as much as they could to help make Mr. Smiddy's dream come true. He closed by saying that Virginia was in Papa Joe's debt, and this is just one way to say thanks.

The Chair then asked Mr. Abramson, the Vice Rector, to comment. Mr. Abramson said that from his perspective in northern

Virginia he has over the last three years come to know Joe Smiddy and to appreciate him on a very personal level as a warm, inclusive, serious, brilliant person. He said the only thing missing today was Papa Joe's and his son Joe Frank's instruments. He said he appreciated everything Mr. Smiddy has done and he looks forward to visiting and being with Mr. Smiddy in the future.

The Chair then turned to Mr. Sandridge for a comment. Mr. Sandridge said that Mr. Smiddy "is the College at Wise". He said he has laughed with him on many occasions when he talks about the early days of the place; that there were tough times and if it had not been for a leader that was willing to take some risks, was willing to think outside the box, and to care about the people of the region, we would not be where we are today. He closed by stating that Papa Joe knows how much he admires him.

The Chair recognized Mr. Prior. Mr. Prior said, "whenever Joe Smiddy walks in the room, we say "the" chancellor is in the house, "the" chancellor".

The Chair asked for a second to the motion, and Mr. Diamonstein seconded it. Ms. Dragas then asked to make a comment. She said she wished that she had been a longer term part of all of the "love" in the room and she looked forward to supporting the motion. She hoped the Board could craft support legislation that distinguishes the unique mission of Wise from all the other constituent groups with an interest in a similar resolution. She indicated concern about setting a precedent. In closing, Ms. Dragas asked that as the language is developed, the Board take good care to highlight the very special nature of what is being done.

The Chair then called on Ms. Dorsey to comment. She said that she loved coming to the College at Wise, and the warmth of watching everything grow. She added that she loved the story of the College's admission of the minority student in the 1950s "ahead of big UVA", and she appreciated everything Mr. Smiddy has done.

The Rector said he would like to make one more comment. He said he had a chance one day to be on a bus with Mr. Smiddy and to hear some of the stories about the past. And the past, prior to Mr. Sandridge and the current administration, was not always wonderful. College officials would drive to Charlottesville and they would wait all day to see someone and they might have to stay over until the next day. He said when you look back at the history of perseverance and what has come of it, there is a lot there. The Rector said he has worked with the Chair for seven

years and he has seen what happens when someone who is living the dream and part of an institution can explain it to you in a way that is not just intellectual, it has got emotion with it also. This campus is part of the University of Virginia. He said he wanted the people assembled to know he really believes that it is very important to continue the close association and the development of what the College has become, not just for the Southwest, but for this part of the country.

The Chair then called Dr. Joe Smiddy to come to the front of the room. Mr. Smiddy commented that while his son was on his way up, he wanted to say that they were blessed with Dr. Smiddy's late mother, who was a wonderful teacher. Mr. Smiddy then spoke of his son Dr. Smiddy, and said he was thankful for his work in India picking the dying off the streets and taking them to hospitals, and for his mission work in Belize.

The Chair asked for a vote on the motion, and the motion was adopted unanimously.

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On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

SGH:jb

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

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