

September 11, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Special Committee on Diversity:

Warren M. Thompson, Chair
Daniel R. Abramson
Helen E. Dragas
Rahul Gorawara
Robert D. Hardie
Glynn D. Key
The Hon. Lewis F. Payne
John O. Wynne, Ex Officio
Edmund W. Kitch, Consulting Member

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

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

FROM: Susan G. Harris

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Special Committee on Diversity on
September 11, 2009

The Special Committee on Diversity of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 11:30 a.m., on Friday, September 11, 2009, in the Board Room of the Rotunda; Warren M. Thompson, Chair, presided.

Daniel R. Abramson, Ms. Helen E. Dragas, Rahul Gorawara, Robert D. Hardie, Ms. Glynn D. Key, The Hon. Lewis F. Payne, and John O. Wynne, Rector, were present.

Mr. Edmund Kitch was present as the Faculty Consulting Member.

Also present were A. Macdonald Caputo, The Honorable Alan A. Diamonstein, Ms. Susan Y. Dorsey, W. Heywood Fralin, Austin Ligon, The Honorable Lewis F. Payne, and E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., M.D.

Present, too, were John T. Casteen III, Leonard W. Sandridge, Paul J. Forch, Ms. Susan G. Harris, Arthur Garson, Jr., M.D., Marcus L. Martin, M.D., Ms. Susan A. Carkeek, James L. Hilton, Ms. Patricia M. Lampkin, David J. Prior, Ms. Yoke San L. Reynolds, Ms. Colette Sheehy, Thomas C. Skalak, and Ms. Jeanne Flippo Bailes.

At the Chair's request, Dr. Martin, Interim Vice President and Chief Officer for Diversity and Equity, provided Vice President's remarks. He said he was comforted by having an outstanding Board and administrators devoted to diversity and equity. He provided a brief sketch of his own background at the University and he said diversity must be a part of excellence and not apart from it.

Dr. Martin said the Diversity office collaborates regularly with the Office of Admissions and he introduced Greg Roberts, Dean of Admissions.

Mr. Roberts provided some numbers on the entering class of 2009. This year there were more applications than in the past, which might be attributed to the economy and the use of the Common Application. The offer rate for both in-state and out-of-state students declined this year, but the yield was up slightly for in-state students and dropped slightly for out-of-state students. The overall offer rate was 31% and the overall offer yield was 48%.

This year the Admissions office saw an increase of 24% in African-American applicants. All minority groups increased in the applicant pool. A small number were counted more than once because an applicant could indicate more than one race. Of the incoming class, 35% self-identified as minority or international and 6.2% are low income. Students have enrolled from 46 states and 73 countries. The academic performance is even higher than 2008, with median SAT scores of 1340 and 88.5% in the top decile of their high school class.

Transfer applications also increased this year, with a total of 2,492 applicants. The offer rate was 35% and the yield 71%. The transfer pool was more diverse than the previous year, and the incoming transfer group is also more diverse with 34.3% self-identifying as minority or international, and 16.3% qualifying as low income.

Mr. Roberts answered questions from the Committee on recruitment efforts followed by some closing remarks by Dr. Martin about outreach efforts to alumni and efforts to attract Native American applicants.

The Chair said there has been success in recruiting minority students; it is important to analyze the success and to continue working on improvement.

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Upon motion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

SGH:jb

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

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