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
Susan Y. Dorsey
Glynn D. Key
Randal J. Kirk
Vincent J. Mastraccco Jr.
The Hon. Lewis F. Payne
Warren M. Thompson
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 February 26, 2010

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 11:40 a.m., on Friday, February 26, 2010.

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.

Committee on The University of Virginia’s College at Wise

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Also present was Stewart Ackerly, the Student Member-Elect of the Board of Visitors.

Report by the Chancellor

The Rector introduced Mr. David J. Prior, the Chancellor of the College at Wise.

Mr. Prior reported on the budget cutting and revenue enhancing strategies that the College has undertaken.

He said 93% of the students are from Virginia, and 56% from the Coalfield region. 12.7% are minority, and 83% of students are eligible for financial aid. Much of the development work focuses on scholarships for students. It will become more prominent as a part of development in the future.

Wise was number one in the nation according to US News and World Report for the lowest debt load of students. Now that Annapolis and West Point have been added to the statistics, Wise is no longer in first place.

State support has decreased by $3.688 million since fiscal year 2008, a 34% reduction in the base budget. Internal cuts have included not filling faculty and staff positions and eliminating some programs for staff. The College has replaced E&G funding in the Library with endowed funds. 17.4 FTE positions are now unfilled.

Revenue enhancement strategies include distance education and dual enrollment programs. Last year there was a profitability of zero for distance education, but those in charge of these programs have been challenged to make a profit of $50,000 for this year.

Completed construction projects include the Gilliam Center for the Arts, which is 39,000 square feet. The dedication is April 12. The Science Center renovation is complete and occupied. The Dining Commons is 20,000 square feet of new construction. Dedication will be in late summer or early fall, and will be named the Hunter J. Smith Dinning Commons in honor of Mrs. Smith’s gift of $4 million toward the project.
Renovation of Smiddy Hall is underway, which is one of the original classroom buildings. A part of the bond package, the Convocation Center, a 75,000 square foot event center, is moving along on-time and within budget. It will include athletics, concert, College and community events. It is the only facility of this kind in the region. In the preplanning stage is a new library. Site selection had been done. The next phase could be a $3-5 million package.

In closing, Mr. Prior thanked the Board for their support and understanding that the scope of projects and programming at the College is very different from what the Board hears otherwise, however, the College is becoming very much a part of the landscape of higher education in Virginia.

On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.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