UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF VISITORS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BOARD MEETING: July 15, 2011
COMMITTEE: Full Board
AGENDA ITEM: Legislative Proposal

Amending the Code of Virginia Pertaining to the Membership of the University’s Board of Visitors

The University proposes to amend §§ 23-70 and 23-71 of the Code of Virginia relating to the appointment of members of the Board of Visitors. Current law provides that the Board shall consist of sixteen members appointed by the Governor. Of these members, at least thirteen must be residents of the Commonwealth, at least eleven shall be University alumni, and no more than three shall be nonresident University alumni.

The University seeks to increase the membership to seventeen visitors, at least twelve of whom shall be Virginia residents, at least twelve of whom shall be University alumni, and at least one of whom shall be a physician with administrative and clinical experience in an academic medical center. The proposed legislation will benefit the University in several ways. First, increasing the membership of the Board to seventeen visitors will assure that a majority vote can always be obtained. Second, reducing the minimum number of in-state members to twelve is more reflective of the growing national and international geographic reach of the University’s alumni base. Third, including language in the Code providing that at least one member is a physician with administrative and clinical experience in an academic medical center acknowledges the Board’s governing authority for the Health System and recognizes the increasing complexity of the healthcare environment.

Proposed legislation for the 2012 Session must be submitted to the Governor’s Office before the next regular Board of Visitors meeting in September, and is therefore being brought before the Board for consideration at this time.

ACTION REQUIRED: Approval by the Board of Visitors
APPROVAL OF LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

RESOLVED, that the Board of Visitors approves and endorses amending the Code of Virginia as it pertains to the membership of the Board of Visitors.

The proposed amendments to §§ 23-70 and 23-71 of the Code of Virginia are as follows:

§ 23-70. Appointment of visitors generally; number and terms of office.

A. The board of visitors is to consist of sixteen seventeen visitors appointed by the Governor, of whom at least thirteen twelve shall be appointed from the Commonwealth at large and at least one shall be a physician with administrative and clinical experience in an academic medical center not more than three shall be appointed from the nonresident alumni of the University of Virginia.

B. All appointments on or after July 1, 2008, shall be for terms of four years and commence July 1 of the first year of appointment, except that appointments to fill vacancies shall be made for the unexpired terms. Members shall complete their service on June 30 of the year in which their respective terms expire, including appointments made prior to July 1, 2008. All appointments for full terms, as well as to fill vacancies, shall be made by the Governor subject to confirmation by the Senate and the House of Delegates.

§ 23-71. Appointment of visitors from nominees of alumni association.

(a) The Governor may appoint visitors from a list of qualified persons submitted to him, before or after induction into office, by the alumni association of the University of Virginia, on or before the first day of December of any year next preceding a year in which the terms of any visitors will expire.

(b) Whenever a vacancy occurs otherwise than by expiration of term, the Governor shall certify this fact to the association and nominations may be submitted of qualified persons and the Governor may fill the vacancy, if his discretion so dictates, from among the eligible nominees of the association, whether or not alumni or alumnae.
(c) Every list shall contain at least three names for each vacancy to be filled.

(d) The Governor is not to be limited in his appointments to the persons so nominated.

(e) At no time shall less than eleven twelve of the visitors be alumni or alumnae of the University.