November 11, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO:  The Educational Policy Committee:

Glynn D. Key, Chair  
A. Macdonald Caputo  
Allison Cryor DiNardo  
Mark J. Kington  
Randal J. Kirk  
Stephen P. Long, M.D.  
George Keith Martin  
Jonathan B. Overdevest  
Edward D. Miller, M.D., Ex Officio  
Helen E. Dragas, Ex Officio  
Gweneth L. West, Consulting Member

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

Hunter E. Craig  
The Hon. Alan A. Diamonstein  
W. Heywood Fralin  
Marvin W. Gilliam Jr.  
Robert D. Hardie  
Vincent J. Mastracco Jr.  
John L. Nau III  
Timothy B. Robertson

FROM:  Susan G. Harris

SUBJECT:  Minutes of the Meeting of the Educational Policy Committee on November 11, 2011

The Educational Policy Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 10:05 a.m., on Friday, November 11, 2011, in the Board Room of the Rotunda; Ms. Glynn D. Key, Chair, presided.

A. Macdonald Caputo, Ms. Allison Cryor DiNardo, Mark J. Kington, Stephen P. Long, M.D., George Keith Martin, Edward D. Miller, M.D., Jonathan B. Overdevest, and Ms. Helen E. Dragas, Rector, were present.

The Consulting Member from the Faculty Senate, Ms. Gweneth L. West, was also present.


Ms. Key introduced Mr. John D. Simon, Executive Vice President and Provost, to begin the meeting. Mr. Simon said that the meeting would be interrupted at 11:00 a.m. for a moment of silence to commemorate Veteran's Day. He announced the passing of Raymond J. Nelson on August 19, 2011. Mr. Nelson was the former Dean of the College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences from 1995 to 1997, and was the recipient of the Thomas Jefferson Award in October, 1999. He joined the University's faculty in 1969 in the English department and in 1989 began leading the College of Arts & Sciences as dean of the faculty. After his deanship, he returned to teaching in the Department of English. He was elected the William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of English in 1996, and in 1997 moved to a newly created chair, the Arts & Sciences Professorship, which he held until his death. That professorship will now become the Raymond J. Nelson Professorship, in accordance with the wishes of an anonymous donor.

Mr. Simon introduced Mr. Eric M. Patashnik, Acting Dean of the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy. Mr. Patashnik said the Batten School offers two degree programs, the five-year B.A./M.P.P. and the post-graduate M.P.P. Also, the Batten School recently signed memoranda of understanding to offer dual degree programs with the following University schools: Architecture, Curry, Darden, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and Law. The University proposes to establish a new degree program, a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Public Policy and Leadership, a selective, two-year undergraduate public policy degree program in the Batten School. This program will prepare students to be enlightened and ethical leaders in civic life. It is an expression of the University's founding mission. It has a target enrollment of 50 the first year, and ultimately 75 per class, with a total enrollment of 150.

Mr. Patashnik said the B.A. program was approved by the Faculty Senate in October, 2011. Pending approvals by the Board of Visitors and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, it is anticipated that the program will be initiated formally in the Fall of 2012.

On motion, the committee approved the following resolution and recommended it for approval by the full Board:
APPROVAL OF A NEW DEGREE PROGRAM: BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PUBLIC POLICY AND LEADERSHIP IN THE FRANK BATTEN SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC POLICY

RESOLVED, subject to approval by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy and Leadership is established at the Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy.

Report by the Chair of the Faculty Senate

Mr. Simon introduced Mr. Robert S. Kemp, Chair of the Faculty Senate, to talk about the Senate’s plans for the remainder of the academic year. Mr. Kemp said John Simon understands the business of a world-class university. With the senior leadership team in place, the faculty are excited about the future—they are a team with a common vision of greatness.

The faculty must embrace and lead the charge in ensuring the University’s place as a leading academic institution. The faculty are working with the administration to lead in the areas of teaching, research, and service. He cited the Connections Initiative and a recent business meeting on the need for change. He said if done right, the primary change agent should not be money. The faculty should focus on how to achieve excellence in all of the academic programs.

A faculty survey will be conducted this winter. Dr. Holstege is the chair of the committee developing the survey. Mr. Kemp will share the results of the survey with the Board at a future meeting.

Mr. Kemp said the faculty are here to help the Board to direct the University’s future.

COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY (COFU)
THEMES IN PRACTICE:

Advancing Education and Pedagogy: Strategic Perspectives on Distinguishing U.Va. in STEM Teaching and Learning

Mr. Simon said the Association of American Universities (AAU) announced a 5-year initiative to improve Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education. He read some excerpts from the AAU report. He said many students leave the STEM fields, particularly between the first and second years. Many cited poor teaching as a concern. A recent article in The New York Times made this point: we are losing potential researchers and scientists because they lose interest in college. Mr. Simon said he aspires to
have a larger percentage of students succeed in the STEM fields without watering down the requirements. He introduced Ms. Karen K. Inkelas, Associate Professor and Director of the Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) in Higher Education. CASTL-HE is an initiative of the University’s Commission on the Future. CASTL-HE addresses the American Association of Universities (AAU) initiative to improve the quality of undergraduate teaching and learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, as well as the Commonwealth of Virginia’s 2011 Top Jobs legislation, which emphasizes an increased number of degrees in the STEM fields. CASTL-HE focuses on teaching across Grounds.

Ms. Inkelas described computer aided design (CAD) visualization, used in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, which illustrates an innovation in STEM education: 3-dimensional technology makes visualization come to life. She showed the same part fabricated so that students may manipulate it.

Ms. Inkelas said another study is in teamwork program development: does working in teams improve if the team members are trained in team-building skills? This is ongoing.

The last project she described is the Chesapeake Bay Game, an interactive online game that allows participants to take on the roles of stakeholders. It is an interdisciplinary partnership among several schools, including the College, Architecture, Law, and Engineering.

Ms. Inkelas said the studies by CASTL-HE will improve all teaching and learning, not just in the STEM fields.

The Rector said we should be keeping track of how many of our STEM graduates go into STEM fields. Mr. Strine said before we try to grow STEM majors, we should work on improving the retention of those who start in STEM fields. Mr. Simon said in teaching first-year Chemistry he was focused on weeding out the students who would not go into medicine, without considering that the others might become scientists or go into other related fields. He said CASTL is about determining how students may learn more effectively. We will have to assess what works and doesn’t work, and be willing to abandon experiments that do not work.

Impact of Faculty Research: Examples of Technology Transfer

Mr. Simon introduced Mr. Thomas Skalak, Vice President for Research. Mr. Skalak introduced Mr. Brian Wamhoff, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Mr. Brett Blackman, Associate Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering, Ms. Nicole Hastings, and Mr. Anselmo Canfora, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture.
Mr. Wamhoff described the development of HemoShear, LLC, a University of Virginia start-up company. The company was founded on $50,000 in 2008. A Darden student helped with marketing. Commercial operations are a mile and a half from Grounds. A partnership with AstraZeneca was instrumental in developing the technology. They received a $4.5 million NIH grant in 2010 to assess over 50 FDA-approved compounds, which allowed them to grow. He thanked the University, which provided the opportunity to become entrepreneurs.

HemoShear is a biotechnology research company creating high-value jobs in central Virginia. They have a strong management team and a knowledgeable scientific advisory board from the pharmaceutical industry. He said HemoShear creates meaningful human biology in the laboratory, to make cells act as if they are in the human body. The company is playing at multiple stages in the drug development process. Merck was their first partner, and they are still a partner. He said the company is proud to be comprised of University faculty and University entrepreneurs, and they are proud to be able to translate their research for human good.

Mr. Skalak said Mr. Canfora is a visionary designer of buildings. Mr. Canfora discussed the societal contributions of designing and building safe, healthy, and sustainable communities, locally and globally, through the Initiative reCOVER project, which develops prefabricated, panelized recovery housing systems that can be deployed as a flat-packed unit to be used by nonprofit organizations in assisting disaster victims. The project teaches students sound foundational principles and building skill sets, and provides hands-on experience in problem solving of design/build issues that communities face. The traditional disaster recovery housing, tents and trailers, compromise the health and well-being of these vulnerable populations.

Mr. Canfora brought the Board through the timeline for Initiative reCOVER, beginning in the Spring of 2008 with the development of the early iterations of the transitional housing unit, to the fall of 2011 and the fabrication of the “Breathe House” for a community in St. Marc, Haiti. The process employs on-site construction and the use of local materials to help stimulate the local economy. They won first place in an international design competition. He showed a short video on building the Gita School in Uganda.

Funding for this initiative was from a number of awards and grants, including a $2.44 million Tobacco Commission grant, and Jefferson Public Citizen funds, which support students over the summer.

New Innovations in First-Year Advising

Mr. Simon introduced Ms. Meredith Jung-En Woo, Dean of the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences. Ms. Woo described
"College Advising Seminars" or "COLAs", as a new way of advising first-year students. COLA seminars are one-credit classes that meet for 75 minutes a week and are 80% academic content and 20% advising. The professor teaching the COLA becomes the students' advisor until they declare a major and are assigned a major advisor.

The program began in 2006, and data demonstrates an improvement in the satisfaction with advising. Currently, 24 COLA sections are offered. She said they would like to ramp it up to 50 sections.

Ms. Woo introduced Ms. Lisa Spaar, Professor in the Department of English, and Mr. Paul Freedman, Associate Professor in the Department of Politics, to highlight their experiences in teaching COLA seminars.

Ms. Spaar, a poet, teaches COLA classes. She said it was rewarding as a teacher because she gets to know her COLA students and follows them through their academic careers. She said she thought the classes were beneficial to the students as well. She teaches "Myths and Adolescence". About 15 minutes of every class are devoted to general questions about advising. She said these are courses on personhood—a place where students feel seen, capable, and able to take risks.

Mr. Freedman compared the traditional first-year advising model with the COLA model. Traditionally, the advisor meets his advisees (usually twenty or more first-year students) for about 15 to 20 minutes once at the beginning of the semester and once mid-semester for course selection. This gives extremely limited opportunities to get to know and work with each other, making advising difficult.

Mr. Freedman said the students in a COLA tend to share some interest in the subject matter, which is helpful. The students get to know each other and look to each other for advice and guidance. The class meets with a number of people around the University, including taking a tour of the Library and meeting with a librarian, and a career placement person. He encourages the students to think about their own educational goals. He said it works fairly well with a class size of 18 to 19 students.

Overall, the seminars have led to more effective advising, which can help students avoid mistakes or recognize problems, inspire them, and also help them transition to college life.

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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/educationalminutes.html