SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH

Friday, November 11, 2011
11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Board Room, The Rotunda

Committee Members:
Randal J. Kirk, Chair
Hunter E. Craig
Marvin W. Gilliam Jr.
Robert D. Hardie
Glynn D. Key
Stephen P. Long, M.D.
Edward D. Miller, M.D.
John L. Nau III
Jonathan B. Overdevest
Helen Dragas, Ex-officio

AGENDA

• REPORTS BY THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH (Mr. Skalak)
  A. Goal and Initial Framing Questions for the Special Committee on Research  1
  B. Innovation Partnerships and Commercialization Status (Mr. Skalak to introduce Mr. Michael Straightiff; Mr. Straightiff to report)  3
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF VISITORS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BOARD MEETING: November 11, 2011

COMMITTEE: Research

AGENDA ITEM: A. Goal and Initial Framing Questions for Special Committee on Research

ACTION REQUIRED: None

DISCUSSION: Mr. Skalak will report on the main goal of this new committee, and introduce the initial framing questions that will guide the committee’s work. The report will focus on the process of developing strategies that leap-frog existing competitor university programs and employ the advantages of innovation that may not be accessible or implementable at established and/or larger institutions.

Central Goal

Strategic development of growth-oriented, differentiated, and high impact research at U.Va.

Framing Questions

1. What can research do for a university and at what cost?

2. What are the financial models for research and what model do we currently employ?

3. What models are theoretically possible?

4. Where are the research opportunities today - by subject, by type of funding source?

5. What areas of research are growing, and are forecasted to grow, most rapidly?

6. Under various strategic assumptions, what can research do for the University?
7. What is the relationship of the current U.Va. scholarship portfolio/reputation to value and prospects in contemporary society?

8. What are the impediments and problems of other larger research universities today?

Committee Objectives

- Identify means for U.Va. to get ahead competitively at this time, including peer rankings.
- Identify the ways in which UVa can aspire to and work towards a leadership position.
- Renew (by making more relevant) the intellectual quality of our faculty.
- Provide better education for our students.
- Diversify our revenue mix.
- Move our university into the front and center of our Commonwealth’s economic development strategies and funding.

Specific Topics for Consideration

As Related to Central Goal and Objectives

1. Making U.Va. research and scholarship more visible to the world.

2. Fund-raising for research initiatives and graduate students.

3. Supporting our faculty/staff and infrastructure in research: mid-career investments and shared resources.

4. Proof-of-concept funds and innovation linkages to commercialization partners.

5. Immersive research and external internship opportunities for all U.Va. undergraduates – setting culture and delivering opportunities.

6. Pan-university programs – addressing complex social challenges via collaboration.

7. Linking arts/humanities/social science programs with science/engineering/professional schools in creative ways.
BOARD MEETING:  November 11, 2011

COMMITTEE:  Research

AGENDA ITEM:  B. Innovation Partnerships and Commercialization Status

ACTION REQUIRED:  None

DISCUSSION:  Mr. Skalak will introduce Mr. Michael Straightiff, Executive Director of the UVa Patent Foundation. Mr. Straightiff will report on the status of technology transfer operations and commercialization at U.Va. The report will include a summary of recent performance in new corporate partnerships, and goals for a proposed U.Va. Innovation Accelerator and associated venture fund for developing U.Va.-derived technologies.