UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF VISITORS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BOARD MEETING: November 11, 2011
COMMITTEE: Full Board
AGENDA ITEM: AccessUVa Discussion
ACTION REQUIRED: None

BACKGROUND: Attracting and retaining a diverse and high quality student body is among the primary strategic objectives of the University. On February 6, 2004, the Board of Visitors authorized the implementation of AccessUVa in order to ensure that access to an undergraduate education at the University of Virginia is available to all students regardless of their financial circumstances. Full implementation of the comprehensive AccessUVa program was completed in the 2008-2009 academic year. Since that time, there has been and will continue to be significant changes affecting financial aid. Leadership change at the Board and highest levels of University administration, proposed cuts to federal support for financial aid, rising need among students and their families, changes in financial aid programs among peers with whom we compete for students and other factors make a systematic review of AccessUVa timely and appropriate.

DISCUSSION: At the June 2011 meeting of the Board of Visitors Finance Committee, the Vice President and Chief Financial Officer presented information about AccessUVa. The Board of Visitors requested that University management engage a consultant to perform a holistic assessment of the program. At the September 2011 meeting, the Vice President and Chief Financial Officer provided an update on the program review, including project governance, timeline and the defined scope of work and process for securing the services of a consultant.

The University issued a request for proposal (RFP) in order to engage a consultant and received proposals from a number of firms. At the November 2011 meeting of the Board of Visitors, the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on AccessUVa will provide an update on the selection of the consultant and the services to be performed by the firm.