MEMORANDUM

TO: The Committee on The University of Virginia’s College at Wise:

Marvin W. Gilliam Jr., Chair
A. Macdonald Caputo
Hunter E. Craig
Stephen P. Long, M.D.
John L. Nau III
Timothy B. Robertson
Linwood H. Rose
Helen E. Dragas, Ex Officio

and

The Remaining Members of the Board and Senior Advisors:

George Keith Martin
Frank B. Atkinson
The Hon. Alan A. Diamonstein
Allison Cryor DiNardo
Victoria D. Harker
Bobbie G. Kilberg
Vincent J. Mastracco Jr.
Edward D. Miller, M.D.
Hillary A. Hurd
William H. Goodwin Jr.
Leonard W. Sandridge Jr.

FROM: Susan G. Harris

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Committee on The University of Virginia’s College at Wise Meeting on November 9, 2012

The Board of Visitors Committee on The University of Virginia’s College at Wise met, in Open Session, in the Auditorium of the Harrison Institute/Small Special Collections Library, at 10:00 a.m., on Friday, November 9, 2012; Marvin W. Gilliam Jr., Chair, presided.

A. Macdonald Caputo (via teleconference), Hunter E. Craig, Stephen P. Long, M.D., John L. Nau III, Linwood H. Rose, and Ms. Helen E. Dragas, Rector were present.
Remarks by the Chair of the Committee

Mr. Gilliam thanked Ms. Dragas for sponsoring the October committee meeting in Wise and thanked the other Board members and Ms. Sullivan and members of the administration for making the trip. He said that this annual trip is important for the relationship between the University and the College and would like to see it continue to be an annual event. The College continues to run smoothly under the leadership of the senior staff, led by Simeon Ewing and John Sanders Huguenin. The biggest issue is the naming of the new Chancellor. In anticipation of that happening soon, the staff is preparing for the transition period. He spoke briefly about his experience being on the search committee. The committee bonded well and he learned things about the College and saw first-hand the passion members of the committee had for the College. He then introduced President Sullivan to give a report on the Chancellor’s search.

Chancellor’s Search

President Sullivan said the Search Committee and the Executive Committee of the Board of the College at Wise have provided her with the names of three finalists. She has met with each candidate in their hometown and will reach a decision soon. President Sullivan commended the search committee for providing her with excellent candidates to choose from and said we will soon be moving towards the naming of a new Chancellor.

NCAA Division II Application

Mr. Gilliam introduced Mr. Simeon Ewing, the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, to report on the status of the NCAA Division II application. Mr. Ewing said the NCAA’s consulting firm, Double L Consulting, came to campus for two days in October to go over the first phase of the application. The emphasis for this visit was on the College’s compliance activities, the overall athletic operations, and an initial review of their athletic facilities. The consultants were pleased that the College had hired a Director of Compliance with previous Division II experience and were complimentary of the faculty athletic representative. The College had started operating the year before under Division II regulations, which was
another plus. The consultants said the policies and procedures that the College had put in place were good, as well as the facilities, and they saw no problems. A written report is expected soon. There will be another visit in June where they will need to see that the procedures and policies are continuing to be followed and attendance at all meetings is required. It is a three year process and you can be held back at any time.

### Fall 2012 Enrollment

Mr. Ewing reported they maintain 95% in-state enrollment. Their overall headcount is up 17%, however, those are not all on-campus. A significant portion are part-time students, many are in the Centers for Teaching Excellence. This program works with teachers around the state that have a provisional license and bringing them up to full licensure. They also work with local school districts to help teachers in areas of specialization. FTE’s are up 2.8%. New transfers are up 10.4%, slightly lower than their goal, however, the primary community colleges that feed the college have had a negative enrollment in degree transferring students. So this will remain an area of concern.

Mr. Ewing said their students rely heavily on financial aid: 83% of their students who applied were considered needy, 58% were Pell Grant eligible, and 32% demonstrated zero expected family contribution.

The freshman retention rate for those that entered in the fall of 2011 and returned in fall 2012 is 72.8%, about 10% higher than the year before. With staff working on retention diligently through academic advising, they are striving to maintain the retention rate in the range of 72-77% to accomplish the mission of the institution.

Mr. Gilliam said that with the positive feedback on the NCAA Division II application, the improved retention rate, and staff working well together, this is positive news for the incoming chancellor. Dr. Long said that he was very impressed by the students and staff. Ms. Kilberg asked about their graduation rate, employment rates after graduation, and what percentage of students stay in the area. Mr. Ewing answered that they don’t have the actual numbers at hand, but about 60% of graduates are staying in the community. They believe the institution is changing the community for the better.

Ms. Dragas said during her visits to Wise the authenticity and passion of the community and the dedication and commitment the leaders in the community have provided the College is inspiring. Visiting there annually will improve our governance and she will encourage Mr. Martin to continue the annual visits. She thanked the Search Committee for their time and dedication and also President Sullivan and Leonard Sandridge for their time and commitment to the College this past year.
On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 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