MEMORANDUM

TO: The Student Affairs and Athletics Committee:

Allison Cryor DiNardo, Chair  Marvin W. Gilliam Jr., Vice Chair
Hunter E. Craig                  John L. Nau III
Helen E. Dragas                  Timothy B. Robertson
William H. Goodwin Jr.          Blake E. Blaze
John A. Griffin                 George Keith Martin, Ex-officio

Consulting Members:

Allison S. Linney                Dennis R. Proffitt

and

The Remaining Members of the Board of Visitors and Senior Advisor:

Frank B. Atkinson                Bobbie G. Kilberg
Kevin J. Fay                    Stephen P. Long, M.D.
Frank E. Genovese               Edward D. Miller, M.D.
Victoria D. Harker              Linwood H. Rose

Leonard W. Sandridge Jr.

FROM: Susan G. Harris

RE: Minutes of the Meeting of the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee on September 19, 2013

The Student Affairs and Athletics Committee met, in Open Session, at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, September 19, 2013, in the President’s Reception Room; Allison Cryor DiNardo, Chair, presided.
Marvin W. Gilliam Jr., Hunter E. Craig, Helen E. Dragas, William H. Goodwin Jr., John A. Griffin, John L. Nau III, Timothy B. Robertson, Blake E. Blaze, Allison S. Linney, and Dennis R. Proffitt were present.

Also present were Patricia M. Lampkin, Craig K. Littlepage, Julie I. Carrucio, Chris Holstege, M.D., Barry Meek, and Debra D. Rinker.

The chair welcomed the committee members to the meeting. She said this academic year, the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee has looked at the breadth of the student experience, focusing on the developmental issues staff consider as they design the programs, systems, and services that support students' growth while they are enrolled. She asked Ms. Lampkin to provide her report.

Report by the Vice President and Chief Student Affairs Officer

Ms. Lampkin said the academic year is off to a good start: on August 23 and 24, close to 4,000 new students moved into the dorms in the Alderman and McCormick Road areas, as well as into three residential colleges. She said it was one of the mildest opening weekends she could remember. President Sullivan addressed parents in Old Cabell Hall on both days, and they had good questions for her as they officially joined the University family and said goodbye to their children.

Ms. Lampkin outlined several safety initiatives including the recent communication and videos created for students and parents that talk about the dangers of drugs like "Molly," or Ecstasy. She expressed her appreciation to the family of Shelley Goldsmith, the second-year student who died over the Labor Day weekend, apparently as a result of taking the drug Molly. Their willingness to speak publicly about this extremely difficult issue has allowed the University to be very direct in educating students.

Ms. Lampkin said we are always looking to enhance our safety messages to students, and the start of school is a prime time to get their attention. This year as part of Fall Orientation, Dorothy Edwards, a national expert on bystander intervention and prevention of sexual misconduct, spoke to students about how to be an "active bystander." She encouraged them to commit to being a part of this community by taking action when they sense something around them may not be right. Ms. Lampkin said by focusing on the majority of students who recognize when something doesn't feel right and giving them the tools to improve safety in their community, we hope to change the conversation from a focus on the negative to "turn the statistics on their head," so to speak.

Ms. Lampkin said messages about individual safety and strategies for good decision-making remain integral to our safety efforts, but we
are hoping that this new approach will engage a wider cross-section of students and thus have a broader effect. She said they plan to continue the dialogue through two targeted events planned for the fall.

In October, they have invited national hazing prevention expert Kim Novak, of the Novak Institute, to Grounds to speak to representatives from the student membership, national headquarters, and alumni leadership of our 32 Inter-Fraternity Council chapters. She will work with them to develop specific strategies to prevent hazing and build strong positive traditions within those organizations as they prepare for recruitment in the spring.

In February, the University will host a national conference on preventing sexual misconduct. She said this event is still in its early stages, but it too is part of their effort to change the conversation from adjudication of student misconduct to prevention.

Ms. Lampkin reminded the committee that last September she had outlined the intentional ways they build leadership opportunities into the undergraduate student experience. At this meeting, she asked Julie Caruccio, Director of Student Affairs Community Engagement and Associate Dean of Students working with the School of Engineering, to speak to the public service piece of the student experience. Ms. Caruccio has led this effort for the last two years.

Before turning it over to Ms. Caruccio, Ms. Lampkin told the committee that recent data from two national surveys - the National Survey on Student Engagement or NSSE, and the Student Experience in the Research University or SERU - tell us around 80% of University of Virginia students do some form of public service while they are enrolled. She said this compares to around 60% for both those institutions in our Carnegie class and our southeast public peers. She said it was clear that public service is a value our students take very seriously.

Ms. Lampkin said over the past five years, Student Affairs has focused on making sure the opportunities our students have to engage with their local, national, and global communities are widely available and of the highest quality. She cited Madison House as an excellent local volunteering experience. What they have heard from students, however, is that they want to know about the full range of ways they could work with communities. This range forms a continuum of activity, from volunteering to class-based service-learning to extended research as part of theses and capstone projects.

Ms. Lampkin said both best practices in the field and our own experience has shown us that, often, public service projects need faculty involvement to be in-depth enough to have an impact on students and on the communities in which they work. Thus, building
partnerships with faculty across the University has been one of their primary goals.

Ms. Lampkin provided a little background on Ms. Caruccio. She said she had previously served as her assistant, as Special Assistant to the Honor Committee, and as Director of the Jefferson Fellowship Program at the Jefferson Scholars Foundation. She is a double 'Hoo, having earned both her BA and PhD from the College and the Curry School of Education, respectively, with a stop off at the University of Vermont for her master’s in education.

Ms. Caruccio outlined efforts to promote and enhance public service as part of the student experience, with a particular focus on developing academic partnerships. She estimated that students complete over 315,000 hours of service each year, worth almost $7 million to the communities in which they serve, which clearly has a significant impact both on their lives and on the host communities. She said among the 80% of students doing public service, they are almost five times as likely to do service through their student organizations than through a class or university department.

Ms. Caruccio said while students can and do learn by volunteering and getting involved on their own or through their organizations, it is faculty involvement that takes that experience to deeper levels, allowing students to connect what they are learning in class to real-world problems, and make the kinds of connections that lead to jobs. She said this is where Student Affairs has focused much of their time and energy in the last few years. They have worked closely with the Provost’s Office in these efforts, from supporting the Jefferson Public Citizens program to providing training and preparation for students conducting research locally and abroad.

Ms. Caruccio said Student Affairs professionals have what amounts to a complimentary skill set with faculty. The faculty have the discipline and content knowledge, and student affairs has the student development, training, and logistics expertise. This is where the Office of Student Affairs has worked to build both partnerships and sustainable programs that can significantly grow the number of academic community engagement opportunities available to students.

Ms. Caruccio explained why students engaging in public service is such a good thing. She said studies show that community engagement improves students’ content knowledge, critical thinking, career choice, cultural competency, leadership, teamwork, communication, and commitment to social change - all important outcomes they work to facilitate both inside and outside of the classroom.

The students cite their top reason for becoming involved in public service is “to become a better citizen and community participant.” Ms. Caruccio said public service is increasingly being
seen as a best practice approach to leadership development, as it puts students in real world situations and asks them to problem-solve and communicate with a wide variety of constituents in an environment that can get messy and complicated.

Ms. Caruccio said on the Undergraduate Alumni Survey this year alumni indicated that they see their public service experience as having been particularly helpful in developing their leadership skills and advancing their understanding of different cultures within the community.

Ms. Caruccio talked about some of the strategies they are using to ensure that every student who wants to participate in a high quality public service experience can do so, and to track and assess those experiences with a little more precision. A major strategy employs an online tool called Learning in Action, the University’s public service website. It is designed to be both the “front door” to service opportunities and a road map for students interested in getting involved for the first time or deepening their involvement. She said the entire site, from the name to the logo to the layout, was designed by students. Her staff does the updating and keeps everything current, but the Public Service Committee of Student Council serves as the advisory board. They make sure the information is relevant, interesting, and useful to students. The site debuted in January of 2012, and by May 2012, had attracted over 3,000 site visits and almost 500 unique visitors. She said this has grown to approximately 15,000 site visits and almost 3,000 unique visitors as of this month. With pages targeted at students, faculty, and community partners, it has become a virtual meeting place and bulletin board of sorts.

Ms. Caruccio spoke about a program they are hoping can serve as a model for what’s possible when faculty and Student Affairs combine expertise. She said three years ago, her colleague Bonnie Gordon, an associate professor of music in the College, won a grant from the Mead Foundation for student-faculty interaction. With it she designed a program called the Arts Mentors program, which pairs students with underserved children from the local community to develop mentoring relationships and provide both groups of students exposure to different styles of fine and performing arts available in Charlottesville and the surrounding area.

She said the program engages at-risk children with the arts, the University, and the college experience. At the same time, the Arts Mentors program engages students with their community. After several events, Ms. Gordon realized that directing a program of this size and complexity required time and coordination that she, as a teaching faculty member, didn’t have. She reached out to others for ideas, and they were able to build a partnership where Ms. Gordon develops and directs the artistic, curricular components of the program, and Ms.
Caruccio oversees the selection, training, and supervision of the student mentors. Ms. Caruccio said that partnership has worked pretty well, and they have been able to expand the program considerably. It has now served over 100 mentor-mentee pairs and this year they are expanding from one school to three. She said the Vice Provost for the Arts is now the primary funder of the program. They also added an assessment component to be sure the program is accomplishing its goals.

Report by the Athletics Director – Department of Athletics 10-Year Goals

Mr. Craig Littlepage reviewed outcomes of the Department of Athletics 10-year goals, which featured 52 ACC championships, seven national championships, a 25-sport GPA of 3.0 in the spring of 2013, and 293 ACC Honor Roll recipients. There was much discussion centered around current efforts to raise the overall graduation rate of student-athletes, significant progress has been made in the last several years.

Mr. Littlepaige said the most recent data from 2002-2006 shows the University trailing Duke, Boston College, and Wake Forest, with a 76% graduation rate. He noted the University ranked fourth of 12 students in the ACC and that there is always room for improvement. He said with the entering fall 2005 class, UVa held a 74% graduation rate. He also noted that men’s and women’s basketball, football, and baseball see the lowest graduation rates, often due to transferring, redshirting, and deferred eligibility.

Upon motion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

SGH:dr
These minutes have been posted to the University of Virginia’s Board of Visitors website.
http://www.virginia.edu/bov/studentminutes.html