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
Bryan H. Hoyt, Faculty Consulting Member
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
William H. Goodwin Jr.
Victoria D. Harker

Bobbie G. Kilberg
Vincent J. Mastracco Jr.
Edward D. Miller, M.D.
Hillary A. Hurd
Leonard W. Sandridge Jr.

FROM: Susan G. Harris

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Committee on The University of Virginia’s College at Wise Meeting on February 22, 2013

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 1:50 p.m., on Friday, February 22, 2013; Marvin W. Gilliam Jr., Chair, presided.

A. Macdonald Caputo, Hunter E. Craig, Stephen P. Long, M.D., John L. Nau III, Timothy B. Robertson, Linwood H. Rose, and Ms. Helen E. Dragas, Rector were present.
Present as well were Frank B. Atkinson, the Honorable Alan A. Diamonstein, Ms. Allison Cryor DiNardo, William H. Goodwin Jr., George Keith Martin, Edward D. Miller, M.D., and Ms. Hillary A. Hurd.

Bryan H. Hoyt, Faculty Consulting Member, was also present.


Remarks by the Chair of the Committee

Mr. Gilliam thanked Mr. Rose for agreeing to be the vice chair of the committee, and he introduced the new Faculty Consulting Member, Bryan Hoyt. He talked about the search process for the Chancellor and how humbled he was to hear the perceptions of the College at Wise from the applicants. Some of the perceptions included “a unique opportunity”, “a hidden jewel”, and praise for the College at Wise for carrying on Jefferson’s ideals of education being available to all. Mr. Gilliam said they were very happy with the outcome and delighted to have Donna Price Henry as their 8th Chancellor – she has also become known to them as Henry VIII.

Mr. Gilliam stated that he thought it was important to mention that while mourning the loss of Chancellor Prior and searching for a new Chancellor, the school still continue to operate and care for the student population. From February 2012 until this past January when Chancellor Henry officially started her duties, the College has run smoothly under the direction of a coordinated staff headed by Sim Ewing and Sandy Huguenin. The naming of Leonard Sandridge as liaison to the College and the very active involvement of President Sullivan throughout the period, including numerous campus visits, was an enormous calming influence on the College and community.

Mr. Gilliam said the College at Wise is now poised to move forward under the new direction of Ms. Henry, and he is looking forward to being a part of that. He then called on President Sullivan to make a few comments.

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Introduction of New Chancellor

President Sullivan stated she was really looking forward to having Ms. Henry on her team and that Ms. Henry has already started working very well with some of our vice presidents and offices in Charlottesville. President Sullivan stated that the College at Wise will benefit greatly from the wide range of experience that Ms. Henry
brings with her; she has experience in just about every aspect of University administration.

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Chancellor’s Preliminary Vision for UVa-Wise

Ms. Henry said over the past several weeks, she has spent time touring the campus, meeting with faculty, staff, and students, and has found everyone to be welcoming and forthcoming with their dreams and aspirations for the College at Wise. She spoke briefly about the construction taking place at the College and how she sees it coming along nicely to fit with Thomas Jefferson’s dream of a campus in the mountains.

Strategic Planning Process

Ms. Henry spoke about the strategic planning process in Wise. She said the College had started working on their new strategic plan in the fall of 2010, which was entitled “Envisioning 2020,” and spoke of all of the work that has gone into the plan since that time. She stated that the plan has been sitting for about a year awaiting a new chancellor to arrive. She has reconvened the E-2020 committee and asked that they start to work on aspirational goals as well as the strategic goals that are in the document. She is also working with her senior staff and the cabinet at the College to begin to help shape that vision. She hopes to have a strategic plan to present to the local advisory board in March, and then to align with the University of Virginia’s goal to present a strategic plan to the Board of Visitors at their September meeting.

NCAA Division II

Ms. Henry said she was pleased to report that the College at Wise will be a part of the NCAA Division II in the fall of 2013. She said the College at Wise will also be chartered members of the NCAA Mountain East Conference as of September 1, 2013. This is a new conference that was just formed.

Fundraising and Support of the Wise Community

Ms. Henry said she was very proud of the fundraising and support of the community for the College at Wise and for the number of scholarships they have for their students.

Retention and Graduation Rates

Ms. Henry stated that in fall of 2007, the retention rates were about 83% and hovered around that number until fall 2011. The fall to spring retention for 2012 has now bumped up to 90%. She spoke about some of the efforts of the staff at the College to improve retention
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rates. New admissions standards were implemented, and an early alert system was put into place where faculty track those students who are having problems. The College also engaged Noel Levitz, a higher education consulting firm that helps campuses achieve their goals in enrollment management and student success. The report from Noel Levitz will be available this summer and will help shape and influence the strategic planning process. Ms. Henry also said Provost Huguenin is working on a student advising program that will help with retention and graduation rates.

On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

SGH:dr

These minutes have been posted to the University of Virginia's Board of Visitors website. http://www.virginia.edu/bov/uvawiseminutes.html