MEMORANDUM

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

Marvin W. Gilliam Jr., Chair
Allison Cryor DiNardo
Helen E. Dragas
William H. Goodwin Jr.
John A. Griffin
Stephen P. Long, M.D.
Edward D. Miller, M.D.
Timothy B. Robertson
Bryan H. Hoyt, Faculty Consulting Member
George Keith Martin, Ex-Officio

TO: The Remaining Members of the Board and Senior Advisors:

Frank B. Atkinson
Hunter E. Craig
Kevin J. Fay
Frank E. Genovese
Victoria D. Harker

Bobbie G. Kilberg
John L. Nau III
Linwood H. Rose
Blake E. Blaze
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 15, 2013

The Board of Visitors Committee on The University of Virginia’s College at Wise met, in Open Session, in the Board Room of the Rotunda, at 9:58 a.m., on Friday, November 15, 2013; Marvin W. Gilliam Jr., Chair, presided.

Allison Cryor DiNardo, Helen E. Dragas, William H. Goodwin Jr., John A. Griffin, Stephen P. Long, M.D., Edward D. Miller, M.D., Timothy B. Robertson, and George Keith Martin, Rector, were present.

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

Present, too, were Donna Price Henry, Richard C. Kast, C. McGregor McCance, Debra D. Rinker, and J. Patrick Walsh.
Action Item: Military Policy Regarding Priority and Transfer Information

Mr. Gilliam introduced the military policy regarding priority and transfer information. The College at Wise already has such policies in place, however they have been updated and reworded to more closely align with two recent Virginia legislative mandates (Virginia Code § 23-9.2:3.7 B and § 23-9.2:3.7 C).

On motion, the committee approved the following resolution and recommended it for full Board approval:

APPROVAL OF POLICIES REGARDING PRIORITY REGISTRATION AND TRANSFER EVALUATION FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL

WHEREAS, in 2012 the General Assembly passed legislation requiring colleges to have military friendly priority registration and course transfer policies; and

WHEREAS, The University of Virginia’s College at Wise has maintained such policies in its published catalog and has updated and reworded these policies to more closely align with the mandates; and

WHEREAS, the College’s provost, academic dean, and registrar have reviewed existing policies and confirmed that the College’s policies are in compliance with legislation;

RESOLVED, the priority registration and transfer evaluation policies for military personnel are approved as presented.

Action Item: Envisioning 2020 Strategic Plan

Mr. Gilliam introduced the Envisioning 2020 Strategic Plan and Chancellor Henry.

Chancellor Henry gave the report on the College at Wise. She spoke about the development of the E2020 Strategic Plan. The E2020 plan will be revised on a two year basis and a clear system of responsibilities and metrics will be established to monitor progress. Four main goals are established in the plan: to establish a well-qualified, academically motivated, diverse student body, to engage in community service and outreach, to promote academic excellence, and to create and maintain the College’s resources. The four goals have been designed to integrate with the five pillars established in the University’s Strategic Plan, the Cornerstone Plan. The College at Wise is focusing on its STEM-H (science, technology, engineering, math, and health) programs by providing outreach to K-12 students and teachers and by establishing an online RN to BSN program.
Ms. Henry is working with the faculty to ensure that standards are met with regard to the rigor of academic programs across the degree programs at The College at Wise and with Student Affairs members in addressing behavioral standards. The E2020 plan includes the continued recruitment of a diverse teaching faculty, with a secondary focus on working with area business leaders to ensure a systematic method for assisting trailing spouses of faculty to find work in the region.

Additionally, Ms. Henry noted that the College at Wise’s retention rate for students is above average for institutions across the Commonwealth. It is hoped that with an increase in academic advising opportunities and a new tutoring center that this rate will increase with time. A faculty early alert program has been set up to identify at-risk students four weeks into the semester, rather than the standard nine week review. A summer bridge program for incoming students struggling with writing skills and math skills is being implemented next summer, as well.

In regard to the committee goals, Ms. Henry said they are also planning to focus on maintaining a low debt load for students, to increase enrollment by 20% to 2,600 students, and to increase graduation rates. In fiscal year 2012, the graduation rate was 42%, the goal is to raise this rate to 50% by fiscal year 2020.

Ms. Henry described the strategy to position The College at Wise and the Town of Wise as a regional hub. The Prior Center (for performing arts) and the health and wellness center (under construction) will aid in this effort. The College at Wise is focusing on entrepreneurship initiatives with local community members to generate new business in the region.

Ms. Henry presented new printed promotional materials for The College at Wise which use the slogan “Are you UVa Wise?” Student test groups have responded positively to the materials, and the material will be transferred to the newly redesigned website which is currently under development. Additional discussion continued on ways to reach out and market to make The College at Wise more appealing in recruiting both students and faculty.

On motion, the committee approved the following resolution and recommended it for full Board approval:

**APPROVAL OF THE ENVISIONING 2020 (E2020) STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA'S COLLEGE AT WISE**

RESOLVED, the E2020 Strategic Plan is approved as presented.
Remarks by the Chair of the Committee

Mr. Gilliam gave brief remarks regarding student life at the College including his experience at a College at Wise football match.

Remarks by Faculty Consulting Member

Mr. Hoyt highlighted online courses available through The College at Wise. Online classes are most popular during the summer when students are at home and balancing jobs with a class load. Of key importance is ensuring that the academic rigor of an online class matches or exceeds the rigor of the physical classroom activity. The College at Wise and its faculty are using Moodle, a piece of open source software for collaborative learning, which includes test generation and grading features.

Mr. Hoyt noted that because of the need for increased one-on-one time between instructors and students in an online environment, the class cannot function properly when more than 25 students are enrolled. The College intends to measure student satisfaction with the online courses by setting and assessing learning objectives, monitoring outcomes, and making improvements periodically.

---

On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

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