MEMORANDUM

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

John G. Macfarlane III, Chair
Helen E. Dragas
Victoria D. Harker
Stephen P. Long, M.D.
Edward D. Miller, M.D.
Mark W. Clark, Faculty Consulting Member
George Keith Martin, Ex-Officio

and

The Remaining Members of the Board and Senior Advisor:

Frank B. Atkinson
L.D. Britt, M.D.
Frank M. Conner III
Allison Cryor DiNardo
Kevin J. Fay
Barbara J. Fried

Frank E. Genovese
William H. Goodwin Jr.
John A. Griffin
Bobbie G. Kilberg
John L. Nau III
Margaret N. Gould
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 14, 2014

The Board of Visitors Committee on The University of Virginia’s College at Wise met, in Open Session, in the Byrd Room of the Harrison Institute, at 8:37 a.m., on Friday, November 14, 2014; John G. Macfarlane III, Chair, presided.

Committee members present were Stephen P. Long, M.D. and Edward D. Miller, M.D.

Board member Frank B. Atkinson was also present.

Mark W. Clark, Faculty Consulting Member, was present.
Present, as well, were Teresa A. Sullivan, Donna P. Henry, and Richard C. Kast.

Mr. Macfarlane opened the meeting and introduced the two action items.

Action Item: Appointment to the College at Wise Board

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

APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA’S COLLEGE AT WISE

RESOLVED, Mr. Marvin W. Gilliam Jr. is appointed to The University of Virginia's College at Wise Board for a term ending June 30, 2019.

Action Item: Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges Quality Enhancement Plan

Chancellor Henry introduced Mark W. Clark, the Committee’s new Faculty Consulting Member. Mr. Clark explained that after surveys of faculty and students and a review of existing research and literature the College decided to make improving student writing the focus of its Quality Enhancement Plan for the South Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges re-accreditation process. Given that becoming an effective writer is a long term process, it is proposed that the writing program cover all four years beginning with freshman composition and continuing with advanced composition in upper level courses. The plan, which will take five years to implement, has a number of elements: 1) hiring of a director; 2) enhancing the writing center; 3) establishing a committee to advise and oversee the program; 4) reducing the maximum class size to 17 students; 5) establishing student and faculty workshops; and 5) developing upper level writing intensive courses tailored to each discipline. The effectiveness of the program will be measured by student progress. There will be a first year writing assessment followed by a writing exam during the second year. Students will develop writing portfolios that will be evaluated in the third and fourth years by a committee consisting of faculty from different disciplines. Ms. Henry noted that the plan’s details are still evolving and that a final plan will be presented to the Committee most likely at its June meeting.

On motion, the Committee approved the following resolution and recommended it for full Board approval:
RESOLVED, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges Quality Enhancement Plan for the University of Virginia's College at Wise is approved as presented, with the focus on improving student writing.

Remarks by the Committee Chair

Mr. Macfarlane reported that he and President Sullivan attended the October 17th retreat of the College Board in Wise. He also said he is pursuing the implementation of a pilot project focusing on entrepreneurial and innovative business activities involving the College and the Darden School.

Ms. Sullivan explained that her address to the advisory board focused on maintaining the College’s enrollment given that the K-12 school population in Southwest Virginia is declining. The University is launching a pilot program this year where Virginia residents who apply for admission to the University’s College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences and are put on the waiting list will automatically be offered admission to the College with the understanding that they will be automatically admitted to the University for their third year if they have met certain requirements. Ms. Sullivan also noted that Dean Allan Stam of the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy has visited the College and is discussing the possibility of shared leadership courses. Ms. Sullivan concluded her remarks by noting that the Eastman Chemical Company has indicated it would hire all of the College’s students who graduate with a major in chemistry if the College’s chemistry department was certified by the American Chemical Society. The certification requires several actions, including the acquisition of a mass spectrometer. The University is working on a way to lend-lease a spectrometer to the College. Ms. Henry noted that the company currently employs 35 Wise alumni from a range of disciplines.

Report by the Chancellor

Ms. Henry’s report began with a presentation of the new *Welcome to Wise* video that will be sent to students when they are offered admission. The Chancellor noted that the College is 60 years old this year and a number of celebration events are being held. The College is making progress on the strategic goals in its Envisioning 2020 plan and highlighted several items. Working with the firm of Noel-Levitz, the College has implemented a new predictive model for enrollment management that will help with the student retention goal. The model’s metrics can predict the likelihood of a student completing all four years. The College will use the model to identify and focus
attention on borderline students. An additional advisor has been assigned to assist and track the progress of these students. Ms. Henry also reviewed the new Admissions website, which is also part of the retention effort. The College received a grant from Dominion Power to support establishing a field station in a former house on campus. The College expects to complete the three-year application for NCAA Division II membership by June. She concluded the goals update by noting that the College is working with Micronic Technologies on a $2 million grant from the Tobacco Commission.

Ms. Henry said the College’s state mandated budget cuts for FY 2015 and FY 2015 were 0.9% and not the initially proposed cuts of 5% and 7%. These cuts will be offset through the use of the endowment, which is doing well. During the last fiscal year, the College raised a record $13.2 million, and now has a $75.3 million endowment.

Ms. Henry noted that the College has developed a new sexual misconduct policy, which aligns with best practices and has been approved by the University’s Office of the General Counsel. The College is creating an office for a Title IX Coordinator who will report to the Office of the Chancellor. As with other institutions, the College has experienced an increase in sexual misconduct reports. The College’s prevention efforts focus on student intervention.

On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

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