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

and

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 February 20, 2014

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 11:50 a.m., on Thursday, February 20, 2014; Marvin W. Gilliam Jr., Chair, presided.

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

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

Present, too, were Teresa A. Sullivan, Susan G. Harris, Donna Price Henry, Richard C. Kast, Pace Lochte, and Debra D. Rinker.
Remarks by the Chair of the Committee

Mr. Gilliam spoke briefly about the upcoming inauguration of Chancellor Donna Price Henry. He said they were delighted to have the Board come to Wise and both he and Marcia looked forward to hosting them at their house for dinner on April 22nd.

Mr. Gilliam said the Advisory Board at The College at Wise met on January 21st and approved two action items, both of which have been forwarded onto the Finance Committee – these items involve the Student Housing rates and the Dining Services rates for next year.

Report of the Chancellor

Committee Goals

Chancellor Henry highlighted the progress and informed the Committee members where they stand in regard to their progress on the Committee goals. She began with improvement of enrollment and retention. She said they continue to work with Noel-Levitz, and they have provided a predictive model so as they are doing recruitment, they can target students who will be more apt to come to the College and be successful there.

In Residence Life, Chancellor Henry said the College is changing the way their programming is done in residence halls. Engaged learning is the model. The College has a new interim director of housing and they are currently recruiting a permanent director. Chancellor Henry said it has become a much more student-friendly environment; there is more engagement with the faculty and academics so students that are in housing see an added benefit to living on campus.

Chancellor Henry spoke briefly about the opening of the new Winston Ely Health and Wellness Center; she said students suggested they develop a new community around wellness. They plan to institute that next fall.

The Chancellor informed committee members about enrollment numbers for the fall. She said freshmen applications are up 23% and offers are up 17%, which means their pool is full of very qualified students. She reported admission deposits were up 21%. The Director of Admission at Wise believes this good news is a result of a new model that was implemented three years ago; they are just now starting to see the benefits. He attributed some of the success to the new materials that were printed and mailed earlier in the process. Chancellor Henry provided each committee member with a new housing brochure developed for Wise.

With the goal of improving faculty salaries and development, Chancellor Henry said they have dedicated limited resources and
reallocated funds. Additional funds were provided for faculty professional development to allow faculty to attend meetings in their disciplines and so they can take students to meetings with them to present their research.

In regard to entrepreneurship opportunities, Chancellor Henry said they are continuing to work within the region to bring new industry into the area. They are also working with their students in the area of entrepreneurship because some students are building new business models.

Chancellor Henry spoke about the partnership her Vice Chancellor for Enrollment and Management, Rusty Necessary, has formed with the University’s Dean of Admission, Greg Roberts, in regard to students that are wait-listed at the University, offering them the opportunity to attend The College at Wise. They continue to work closely together on a model they hope to roll out soon called the Smiddy Scholars. With this model, students would attend the College at Wise for two years and then they would have the opportunity to transfer to the University if they desired to do so.

Red Flag Campaign

Chancellor Henry reported on a program they rolled out in the fall called the Red Flag Campaign. The Center for Student Development counseling staff and the Student Development Advisory Board chose to initiate the Red Flag Campaign to raise awareness of dating violence on college campuses. This campaign was conducted over a two-week span. The first week they flagged the C. Bascom Slemp Student Center Amphitheater and released the red flag teaser video to pique students’ interest and curiosity about the red flags. The committee members were shown the teaser video.

During the second week, they released an informational video discussing the red flags of dating violence, and encouraged bystander intervention. They also set up an informational table and poster exhibit to highlight the red flags in dating relationships. This second video was also shown to the committee members.

Remarks by Faculty Consulting Member

Mr. Hoyt gave a presentation on the Peake Honors Program. He said this program was designed for their top students. It involves some intense interdisciplinary courses, two of which must be taken outside of the student’s major. It includes cultural activities involving travel to major cities, cultural events, concerts, and other enriching out-of-class activities. He said this program has been coordinated by John Adrian, the Associate Professor of English
Literature at Wise. The students also do independent research as part of this program.

The minimum requirement for this program as a freshman is a GPA of 3.5 and a 1200 SAT score. There are currently 32 students in the program.

Mr. Hoyt gave a few examples of the type of research conducted. He said these are all independent research projects that are mentored by faculty members. One example is using gaming technology developed in an educational setting designed to motivate students academically. It involves cutting edge research both in education and computer science.

The second example Mr. Hoyt cited was the investigation of legislative movements called SOPA (Stop On-line Piracy Act) and PIPA (Protect Intellectual Property Act). He said these are two debated legislative movements that have involved economics and political science. The student tried to cut through the passionate rhetoric of bill supporters and opponents to really look at the consequences and economic implications.

Another example: a student wrote a short story blending facts and fictional embellishments and dramatizing the roles of three statesmen: Clay, Webster, and Calhoun, who all played important roles in the Compromise of 1850. The story was entitled, The Great Triumvirate of the US Senate.

The Peake Honors Program is intended to build on success for the benefit of the students. Future plans for the program include expanding from individual work to a learning community, expanding the variety of cultural field trips, and expanding the diversity of the curriculum.

On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.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