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

John G. Macfarlane III, Chair
Whittington W. Clement
Frank M. Conner III
Helen E. Dragas
Barbara J. Fried
William H. Goodwin Jr., Ex-officio
Joe Garofalo, Faculty Consulting Member
Daniel T. Judge, Student Member
Mark W. Clark, Faculty Consulting Member

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

Frank B. Atkinson                      Victoria D. Harker
Mark T. Bowles                         Bobbie G. Kilberg
L.D. Britt, M.D.                      Tammy S. Murphy
Kevin J. Fay                           James V. Reyes
Frank E. Genovese                      Jeffrey C. Walker
John A. Griffin

FROM: Susan G. Harris

RE: Minutes of the Committee on The University of Virginia’s College at Wise on September 18, 2015

The Committee on The University of Virginia’s College at Wise of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 8:30 a.m., on Friday, September 18, 2015, in the Auditorium of the Albert & Shirley Small Special Collections Library of the Harrison Institute. John G. Macfarlane III, Chair, presided.

Present were Frank M. Conner III, Helen E. Dragas, Barbara J. Fried, William H. Goodwin Jr., Daniel T. Judge, Joe Garofalo, and Mark W. Clark.

Frank B. Atkinson, Mark T. Bowles, L.D. Britt, M.D., Kevin J. Fay, Tammy S. Murphy, and James V. Reyes also attended.
Present as well were Teresa A. Sullivan, Patrick D. Hogan, Thomas Katsouleas, Richard P. Shannon, M.D., Susan G. Harris, Debra D. Rinker, Roscoe C. Roberts, Susan Carkeek, Donna P. Henry, Marcus L. Martin, M.D., Nancy A. Rivers, and Colette Sheehy.

Remarks by the Committee Chair

Mr. Macfarlane opened the meeting and asked Ms. Henry to present the six-year plan.

Action Item: Six-Year Plan

Ms. Henry reviewed the six-year plan timeline. On motion, the Committee approved the following resolution:

THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA’S COLLEGE AT WISE SIX-YEAR PLAN

WHEREAS, all Virginia higher education institutions are required under state law to submit a six-year plan every two years to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the College is committed to continuing strategies and priorities outlined in previous plans that will improve the educational outcomes for students and create jobs in the region; and

WHEREAS, the Six-Year Plan meets the goals outlined in Virginia’s Higher Education Opportunity Act and the College’s Envisioning 2020 strategic plan;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors approves the 2015 Six-Year Plan as presented.

Action Item: UVa-Wise Board Bylaws Revision

Mr. Macfarlane briefly reviewed the major changes to the Bylaws of the College at Wise Board, the local advisory board, and the following resolution was approved:

REVISIONS TO THE BYLAWS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA’S COLLEGE AT WISE BOARD

RESOLVED that the revisions to the Bylaws of The University of Virginia’s College at Wise Board are approved as presented.

Action Item: Appointment to the College at Wise Board

Ms. Henry said Kathy Curtis is a Dominion Power Vice President for Power Generation. She spends quite a bit of time in southwest Virginia because of the nearby power plant.

On motion, the Committee approved the following resolution:
APPOINTMENT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA’S COLLEGE AT WISE BOARD

RESOLVED, Katheryn B. Curtis is appointed to The University of Virginia’s College at Wise Board for a four-year term ending June 30, 2019.

Remarks by the Chair of the Committee

Mr. Macfarlane said the College plays a critical role in the Commonwealth. He looks forward to working with others to be sure the College is properly resourced and supported. He said that Ms. Henry and he would draft a committee work plan for the year.

Report of the Chancellor

Ms. Henry said 2016 was the reaccreditation year for the College with the SACSCOC team. Two Board members and President Sullivan will attend meetings with the accreditation committee in October. Ms. Henry said SACS has pointed out that the College at Wise is not technically a branch campus – it is a separate state agency and a division of the University of Virginia.

Ms. Henry said the College offered an early retirement incentive opportunity for employees, and six took the offer, with two from the Chancellor’s office. Ms. Henry is using these personnel changes to restructure her staff, including hiring a chief of staff and a senior administrative assistant. In addition, a current part-time administrative assistant will become full-time. The chief of staff will be the liaison with the University. Ms. Henry said Rue Gembach had been in the Office of the Chancellor for 35 years, and so this is a big change.

Ms. Henry said enrollment and retention are the two top priorities of the College. They are looking at marketing the College better and have put up some billboards that are getting attention. Mr. Goodwin said recruiting in northern Virginia might be a good strategy. Ms. Henry said representatives attend recruiting fairs there, but in the future there will be a recruiter based in northern Virginia.

Ms. Fried asked about residential facilities. Ms. Henry said there are 800 rooms for students, plus last year a private entity opened an apartment house adjacent to the campus.

Mr. Judge asked about recruiting rural students. Ms. Henry said one half of the student body comes from outside southwest Virginia, however, they are the same type of student, for instance, first generation and from underrepresented areas.

Ms. Henry explained Complete College America: the provost was asked to join this organization to work on ways of improving retention and graduation of students.
Committee members engaged in a discussion about recruitment and retention. Ms. Henry said University of Virginia applicants put on the wait list last year were offered admission at the College at Wise, and one student chose to accept.

Mr. Macfarlane said it was a good discussion and they will work to incorporate some ideas in the committee work plan.

Remarks by the Faculty Consulting Member

Mr. Clark focused his opening remarks on the work of a faculty member at the College at Wise, which includes teaching, conducting research, and engaging in service for the benefit of the College and the community. He said the College has changed over the years, but its core mission has remained the same: educating students in the region, nation, and world, broadly in the liberal arts.

Mr. Clark said the College is devoted to providing a liberal arts education. Broad skills are as important as technical skills in preparing students for the 21st century. If students are learning to be better, more thoughtful, and ethical citizens, and learning to confront the big problems the world faces, they are not at the same time sacrificing professional opportunities. He gave examples of successful graduates who embraced a liberal arts education.

Mr. Clark said at each meeting this year he would like to talk about examples of the commitment of faculty to promoting a liberal arts education at the College at Wise.

Mr. Macfarlane announced that he planned to hold a committee meeting at Wise on May 6, with final exercises on May 7, 2016.

On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

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