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.
George Keith Martin, Ex-Officio
Mark W. Clark, Faculty Consulting Member

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

Frank B. Atkinson  Frank E. Genovese
L.D. Britt, M.D.   William H. Goodwin Jr.
Frank M. Conner III  John A. Griffin
Allison Cryor DiNardo  Bobbie G. Kilberg
Kevin J. Fay  John L. Nau III
Barbara J. Fried  Margaret N. Gould

FROM: Susan G. Harris

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Committee on The University of Virginia’s College at Wise Meeting on May 6, 2015

The Board of Visitors Committee on The University of Virginia’s College at Wise met, in Open Session, in the Rhododendron Room of the C. Bascom Slemp Student Center, at 1:26 p.m., on Wednesday, May 6, 2015; John G. Macfarlane III, Chair, presided.

Committee members present were Mark W. Clark, Stephen P. Long, M.D., and George Keith Martin. Victoria D. Harker participated by telephone.

Frank B. Atkinson participated by telephone. Also present were former Board of Visitors members Don R. Pippin and Marvin W. Gilliam Jr.
Committee on The University of Virginia’s College at Wise

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Present, as well, were Teresa A. Sullivan, Donna P. Henry, Susan G. Harris, Patrick D. Hogan, Debra D. Rinker, and David A. Wolcott. Richard C. Kast participated by telephone.

Thomas M. Costa and Donna P. Henry were the presenters.

Mr. Macfarlane welcomed Mr. Pippin and Mr. Gilliam and noted that they are former members of the Board of Visitors and former chairs of the Committee. Mr. Macfarlane asked if they wished to make any comments. Mr. Pippin recounted the founding and early development of the College and its ties to the University. He noted that the College traditionally has had a large number of first generation students. Following Mr. Pippin’s comments, Mr. Macfarlane reviewed the agenda and asked Ms. Henry to begin.

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Action Item: Quality Enhancement Plan

Ms. Henry introduced Mr. Costa, chair of the Department of History and Philosophy and chair of the College’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Committee. Mr. Costa explained that a QEP is a component of the decennial re-accreditation process of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). While most of the process documents an institution’s accomplishments, the QEP is to focus on a new high-impact initiative that will improve instruction or augment instructional support. The College chose improving student writing for its QEP, which it has titled "Wise Writes." This topic has been approved by the College Board and by the Board of Visitors.

"Wise Writes" will focus on writing-intensive classes primarily for upper level students. The College is concerned about the writing skills of these students. There is research indicating that writing in upper level major courses enhances student learning. In addition, the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) showed that the College’s seniors write less than seniors at peer institutions.

The program’s core elements will include an enhanced writing center moved to a prominent location, supplemental instruction for students at all levels provided by workshops and tutoring, evaluations of students to identify weaknesses and students in need of assistance, faculty workshops and training, a leadership team consisting of a center director and a faculty committee, and a formal assessment of its effectiveness. It is expected that departmental writing standards will be developed, existing courses will be modified, and writing-intensive courses will be added. While the QEP only requires a five year plan, “Wise Writes” is intended to be a permanent program.

The program’s assessment will be based on evaluations of student papers; indirect evaluations of student and faculty attitudes towards writing; the number of faculty participants, new courses, and modified courses; and comparison with NSSE data. The expected results include
the development of departmental writing guides; the participation by more than 50 faculty in teaching writing workshops; 12 to 18 new or modified writing-intensive courses; students writing more and longer papers; overall improvement in the scoring rubric; and the establishment of a permanent writing program.

"Wise Writes" is to be implemented over a five-year period beginning in the 2015-2016 academic year. The first year's cost is estimated to be $169,000. The five-year cost is projected to be approximately $791,000.

In response to questions, Mr. Costa said the College had looked at writing QEPs at other institutions and the departmental writing guides will include the STEM-H disciplines. Ms. Henry explained that the program's budget has been factored into the six-year plan and that its cost will be built into the College's annual budget during the program's initial five-year period.

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

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN

RESOLVED the Quality Enhancement Plan, as required by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges as part of the accreditation plan, be approved as presented.

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Ms. Henry introduced three students who have been accepted to the University of Virginia's School of Medicine and noted that a fourth student had been accepted, but could not be present due to an exam.

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Action Item: Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014

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

VETERANS ACCESS, CHOICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2014

WHEREAS, The University of Virginia's College at Wise has the authority to set tuition and fee charges; and

WHEREAS, 38 U.S.C. 3679(c), the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 ("the Act") requires the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to disapprove programs of education for payment of benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill and Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty at public institutions of higher education if such institutions charge qualifying veterans and other qualified individuals ("covered
individuals") tuition and fees in excess of the rate for in-state students for terms beginning after July 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, "covered individuals" under the Act include:

- A veteran who lives in Virginia, regardless of formal state of residence or domicile, and enrolls in this institution within three years of discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more using benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill and Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty.
- Anyone using transferred benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill and Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty who lives in Virginia, regardless of formal state of residence or domicile, and enrolls in this institution within three years of the transferor's discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.
- Anyone using benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship who lives in Virginia, regardless of formal state of residence or domicile, and enrolls in this institution within three years of the Service member's death in the line of duty following a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.
- Anyone described above while he or she remains continuously enrolled (other than during regularly scheduled breaks between courses, semesters, or terms) at the same school. The person so described must have enrolled in the school prior to the expiration of the three year period following discharge, release, or death described above and must be using educational benefits under either chapter 30 or chapter 33, of title 38, United States Code.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Virginia Code § 23-7.4:2 (H), all veterans residing within the Commonwealth shall be eligible for in-state tuition charges.

RESOLVED, the tuition and fee rate for a course of education pursued by the following categories of students shall be equal to the tuition and fee rate for that course of education charged to in-state students:

- Anyone using transferred benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill and Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty who lives in Virginia, regardless of formal state of residence or domicile, and enrolls in this institution within three years of the transferor's discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more;
- Anyone using benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship who lives in Virginia, regardless of formal state of residence, and enrolls in this institution within three years of the Service member's death in the line of duty following a period of active duty service of 90 days or more;
- Anyone described above while he or she remains continuously enrolled (other than during regularly scheduled breaks between courses, semesters, or terms) at the same school. The person so described
must have enrolled in the school prior to the expiration of the three year period following discharge, release, or death described above and must be using educational benefits under either chapter 30 or chapter 33, of title 38, United States Code; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Chancellor is delegated the authority to attest to (1) this action by the Board of Visitors; and (2) that this institution charges tuition and fees to uniformed services veterans and other qualified individuals covered under 38 U.S.C. 3679(c) at a rate equal to in-state tuition and fees for that course of education.

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Action Item: Reappointments to the College at Wise Board

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

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

RESOLVED, Ms. Karen S. Mullins, Ms. Ruby W. Rogers, and Mr. Roger C. Viers are reappointed to The University of Virginia's College at Wise Board for a four-year term ending June 30, 2019.

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Report of the Chancellor

Chancellor Henry reviewed the College’s Six-Year Plan, Envisioning 2020. Institutional plans are required by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2011 and are to include programs and strategies that address the legislation’s priorities. Plans are reevaluated in even years, updated in odd years, and submitted annually to the State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV). Envisioning 2020 has six performance targets which include increasing enrollment, improving the freshman profile, increasing graduation and retention, increasing high need degrees, increasing experiential learning, and improving outreach engagement. The plan also has seven priorities.

The first is enrollment. For the last three years, there has been a decline in full-time freshman enrollments. Headcount has been maintained by increases in part-time enrollment. Recruitment efforts include a new website, new admissions materials, and the deferred admissions program for students wait-listed at the University. The College is restarting its billboard campaign. Freshman deposits for this fall are up.

Fall 2014 enrollment statistics show that 48% of students were from Southwest Virginia, 47% were from other regions in Virginia, 4% were from other states, and 1% was from foreign countries. The number of students from outside of Southwest Virginia is increasing. With forecasts predicting a continuing decline in the population of Southwest Virginia for
at least the next five years, the College's focus will continue to be on the branding for a state-wide mission, geographic prioritization, and a continual re-examination of financial aid. Near-term activities include expanding the scope of recruitment, hiring geographically based recruiters, expanding the network of high school counselors, and enhancing the use of technology including social media. Long-term activities include building name recognition, strategic use of the endowment and scholarships, maximizing the opportunity of students wait-listed at the University, and exploring international markets.

Retention and graduation comprise the second priority. As background, Ms. Henry noted that 59.2% of the College's students are eligible for Pell Grants. Of these, 34.4% have no family contributions. The College has implemented a number of programs to support the success of its students. Given that many students need to work during the summers, the College provides paid summer research internships in a number of different disciplines to enable students to earn money while expanding their academic experiences.

The College has instituted a Summer Bridge Program for students it determined needed additional assistance in the areas of English and math before enrolling; the retention rate for these students was 86%. In 2014, the College engaged a consultant for an analysis of retention. This led to a revamping of the Residence Life Program; as a result the number of students returning this fall is up by 18%. The College also launched a Success Modeling and Coaching initiative that analyzes six retention risk factors and follows up with coaching; spring retention increased by 4.3%.

In response to questions, Ms. Henry noted that distance from the College is not a strong risk factor and that risk factors change from year to year depending on the student cohort. Future activities will focus on an earlier scoring of the freshman class using a predictive model, beginning the Success Coaching model at Freshman Orientation, retooling Freshman Orientation into a student life experience, and retooling the three day Expedition orientation program to focus more on academic life.

The third priority, which is not in the 2020 strategic plan, is to ensure federal compliance with Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act, the Clery Act, and SACSCOC. This year the College established an Office of Compliance and Conduct to address this priority.

Enhanced community outreach is the fourth priority. The College is entering the second year of a pilot program that allows Wise County high school seniors to take College classes and receive college credit for them. Other efforts include the Appalachian Prosperity Project, the Center for Teaching Excellence, and working with the Southwest Virginia Public Education Consortium to improve K-12 teaching and learning. Efforts to support STEM-H degrees include a summer program for high school students.

Meeting the demand for high need degrees in the STEM-H fields is the fifth priority. The College is completing an American Chemical Society
application, which President Sullivan noted open up job opportunities for College graduates with Eastman Chemical, which is located near Wise.

The sixth and seventh priorities focus on expansion of the summer programs and enhancement of undergraduate research.

Remarks by the Faculty Consulting Member

Mr. Clark reported on research. Student research has been a College focus for more than a decade. Students have presented papers at regional, national, and international conferences. Students have co-authored faculty papers that have been published in peer-reviewed journals. Approximately 30 students are going to professional and graduate schools. The faculty conducts significant peer-reviewed research. The College Administration supports this research, which is crucial for faculty retention, faculty recruitment, and the institution’s academic profile.

In response to a question about the extent student-faculty interactions outside of the classroom and if funding was available to support it, Mr. Clark replied that there was interaction, but that it varied from person to person. Ms. Henry was not aware of a formal mechanism to support student-faculty interactions.

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Prior to adjourning the meeting at 3:01 p.m. the Chair noted the commitment that Marvin Gilliam and his family have made to the College.

SGH:wtl

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