

April 11, 1997

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Student Affairs and Athletics Committee:

C. Wilson McNeely, III, Chair
Franklin K. Birckhead
Charles M. Caravati, Jr., M.D.
Champ Clark
Elsie Goodwyn Holland
Charles F. Irons
Walter F. Walker
Hovey S. Dabney, Ex Officio

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

John P. Ackerly, III	Terence P. Ross
William G. Crutchfield, Jr.	Albert H. Small
William H. Goodwin, Jr.	Elizabeth A. Twohy
T. Keister Greer	Henry L. Valentine, II
James C. Wheat, III	

FROM: Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr.

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Student Affairs and
Athletics Committee on April 11, 1997

The Student Affairs and Athletics Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 3:25 p.m., Friday, April 11, 1997, in the East Oval Room of the Rotunda; C. Wilson McNeely, III, Chair, presided. Franklin K. Birckhead, Charles M. Caravati, Jr., Champ Clark, Mrs. Elsie Goodwyn Holland, Charles F. Irons, Walter F. Walker, and Hovey S. Dabney, Rector, were present. Also present were John P. Ackerly, III, William G. Crutchfield, Jr., William H. Goodwin, Jr., T. Keister Greer, Terence P. Ross, Albert H. Small, Ms. Elizabeth A. Twohy, Henry L. Valentine, II, and James C. Wheat, III; as well as John T. Casteen, III, Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr., William W. Harmon, Paul J. Forch, Leonard W. Sandridge, Jr., Peter W. Low, Ernest H. Ern, Robert D. Sweeney, Don E. Detmer, Ms. Polley Ann McClure, Ms. Shamim Sisson, Ms. Yvonne Hubbard, Thomas Johnston,

Ms. Elizabeth Semancik, James Tybur, Nathan Vitan, Cabell Vest, Ms. Jennifer Erickson, Dave Johnson, Ms. Vesna Ivancic, Gene Kowel, Ms. Sajeena Geevarghese and Ms. Jeanne Flipppo Bailes.

The Chair asked Mr. Harmon, Vice President for Student Affairs, to present the Agenda.

Changing the order of the Agenda somewhat, Mr. Harmon asked Mr. Holland, Director of Athletics, to report.

Mr. Holland gave a brief resume of women's and men's spring sports. He then introduced Mr. Thomas Johnston, the men's tennis coach, who described his program.

Mr. Harmon noted that Sherry Fohr and Syed Ali, graduate students in Arts & Sciences, have received Fulbright Scholarships for study in India. Minming Wu of Richmond has been named a Truman Scholar. Mr. Harmon next introduced the newly elected heads of several student organizations: Jennifer Erickson, Chair of the Honor Committee; Dave Johnson, Chair of the Judiciary Committee; Vesna Ivancic and Gene Kowel, Co-Chairs of the Resident Staff; and Sajeena Geevarghese, President of Student Council.

Next, Mr. Harmon introduced Ms. Yvonne Hubbard, Director of Financial Aid, who gave a short report on financial assistance available to students. Ms. Hubbard told the Committee that 52% of the students who were offered admission to the undergraduate schools of the University earlier this spring, had applied for financial aid. About half of them have been offered need-based financial assistance by her office.

Ms. Hubbard then told the Committee something of the process by which students are offered financial aid. The process is based primarily on federal regulations, which change constantly. About 30% of undergraduate students receive need-based aid and 11% receive Pell Grants.

In reply to a question, Ms. Hubbard said the University is able to meet about 86% of the financial aid needs of its undergraduate students.

Mr. Harmon introduced Mr. James Tybur, Chair of the Honor Committee, who reported on matters relating to the Honor System over the past year. His comments took the form of a review of the Honor System in the year since the new By-Laws were adopted. Trial times, he said, have been cut in half as a result of the

Honor Committee's emphasis on what he termed "pursuit of truth," rather than the adversarial nature of trials in the past. In addition to cases not completed in the previous year, the Honor Committee initiated 60 new cases this year; 22 of these resulted in trials and the accused persons in nine of the cases were found guilty. In comparison, last year there were 14 new cases and the year before that there were 10 to 12.

Mr. Tybur also told the Committee about two recent straw votes held at the Darden School and in the Law School. The votes, which were unofficial, called for secession of the two schools from the Honor System and the substitution of separate systems permitting multiple sanctions. The proposals were defeated resoundingly. Nonetheless, Mr. Tybur said, the fact that the straw votes were initiated - they were organized as "referenda" by the Darden and Law Honor Committee representatives; but because they were set without reference to the Honor Committee or in accordance with the Honor Committee's rules, they had no legal validity - indicates problems with the Honor System on the North Grounds, problems that the Honor Committee intends to address.

Mr. Tybur introduced Mr. Nathan Vitan, the Graduate Arts & Sciences representative on the Honor Committee, who reported on a recent revision of the Constitution of the Committee. The revision was approved by 71% of the students voting in a referendum. The revision requires two votings to determine whether or not a charge in an honor accusation meets the criteria for an honor offense.

Mr. Tybur then introduced Mr. Cabell Vest, the School of Architecture representative on the Honor Committee. Mr. Vest told the Committee that the Honor System has been extended to students taking courses through the Division of Continuing Education.

Mr. Harmon introduced Ms. Elizabeth Semancik, a fourth year student in the College, and Dean Sisson from the Office of the Dean of Students. Ms. Semancik gave a report on University Mediation Services, which began in 1995 as a subcommittee of the University Judiciary Committee. It was intended from the beginning as an alternative way of dealing with cases normally handled by the Judiciary Committee.

Ms. Semancik described in some detail the concept of "mediation" in the sense used by University Mediation Services. She said that a year ago, University Mediation Services, with the

full support of the Judiciary Committee, took its first steps toward becoming an "agency," which is to say a status akin to that enjoyed by the Honor Committee and the Judiciary Committee. These efforts had the full approval of the Judiciary Committee. The Co-Chairs of the Mediation Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee became the Co-Coordinator of the University Mediation Services. Members of the organization elected three Directors to assist in the governance of the group. The Office of the Dean of Students has overseen University Mediation Services temporarily - at least until it can attain agency status - and the Vice President for Student Affairs has provided financial support.

In a recent referendum, a large majority of the students voting approved the constitution of the University Mediation Services, who propose to make a formal appeal to the Board of Visitors in June for agency status.

Ms. Semancik said there are similar organizations in over 100 colleges in the country. University Mediation Services has 21 specially trained and certified mediators and a dozen or so cases have been referred to it in the past year.

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On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

AGG:jb

Copies to: Mr. John T. Casteen, III
Mr. Paul J. Forch
Dr. Robert W. Cantrell
Mr. Peter W. Low
Mr. Leonard W. Sandridge
Mr. Robert D. Sweeney
Mr. Ernest H. Ern
Mr. William W. Harmon
Ms. Colette Capone
Ms. Polley Ann McClure
Mr. Terry Holland
Mr. L. Jay Lemons
Dr. Don E. Detmer
Ms. Louise Dudley