

November 7, 1997

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Special Committee on Clinch Valley College:

Champ Clark, Chair  
William G. Crutchfield, Jr.  
T. Keister Greer  
James C. Wheat, III  
Hovey S. Dabney, Ex Officio

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

John P. Ackerly, III	C. Wilson McNeely, III
Franklin K. Birckhead	Terence P. Ross
Charles M. Caravati, Jr., M.D.	Albert H. Small
William H. Goodwin, Jr.	Elizabeth A. Twohy
Elsie Goodwyn Holland	Henry L. Valentine, II
Kristine L. LaLonde	Walter F. Walker

FROM: Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr.

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Committee on  
Clinch Valley College on November 7, 1997

The Special Committee on Clinch Valley College of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, in the Development Office at the Rotunda at 10:20 a.m., Friday, November 7, 1997; Champ Clark, Chair, presided. William G. Crutchfield, Jr., T. Keister Greer and Hovey S. Dabney, Rector, were present. Ms. Kristine L. LaLonde was also present, as were Leonard W. Sandridge, Jr., L. Jay Lemons, George Culbertson, Gary Juhan, Simeon Ewing, Ms. Polly Ewell, Scott Pippin, Ben Sharp, Hassan Majed, and Ms. Jeanne F. Bailes.

The Chair noted that if the proposed revisions to the Manual are approved by the Board (see Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Visitors, November 8, 1997), this will be the last meeting of the Committee as the Special Committee on Clinch Valley College. Henceforth, pending the Board's approval, the Committee will be simply the Committee on Clinch Valley College, which he said is a symbol of the Board's permanent commitment to the College.

The Chair then asked Mr. Lemons, Chancellor of Clinch Valley College, to present the Agenda.

Mr. Lemons told the Committee that the College needs at this point to develop a "forward looking" plan for its future. Groups within and without the College have been discussing this for the last several years and over the last six months, a framework upon which such a plan can be developed has been set down. The Faculty Senate of the College approved the framework at its meeting of September 17<sup>th</sup> and approval now must be given by the Board of Visitors and the Clinch Valley College Advisory Council.

Mr. Lemons proposed a resolution setting forth the principles of the plan. On motion, the Committee approved the resolution and recommended it to the full Board for approval (see Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Visitors, November 8, 1997).

Mr. Lemons next reported on the new peer institution rankings for Clinch Valley College which have been negotiated with the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia. The last such rankings were done in 1989 and the new rankings show dramatic improvement.

Commenting on statements made by Mr. Goodwin and other Members earlier in the day at the Finance Committee meeting, Mr. Lemons said that while he appreciates the generous feelings of Members who want to rectify the faculty salary inequities at the College with University funds, he considers faculty salaries a fundamental obligation of the Commonwealth. Anything the Board or the University does unilaterally to provide relief weakens the fiduciary responsibility of the

University. On the other hand, a resolution from the Board deploring the present inequities and asking the Governor and the General Assembly to rectify them, might be very helpful. The Chair commented that while he is sympathetic to Mr. Lemons' position, it is frustrating to know that the University has a large Endowment and that something like \$400,000 would bring Clinch Valley salaries up to par.

Mr. Sandridge and Mr. Lemons said the signs are favorable that the General Assembly will authorize the 12% rise in salaries which will be requested at the next Session. An increase at this level will resolve the problem.

Mr. Lemons continued with reports on a variety of subjects. The retention of students is of great concern and there has been a significant improvement in the retention rate over the last few years. Mr. Lemons said the goal of the College is to have a retention rate in the 75% range (presently, it stands at about 68%), which would be comparable to that at the University of Tennessee or at Ohio State University. Enrollment is up to 1,515 from 1,403 last year. Mr. Lemons commented that there are two ways to increase enrollment at the College: expand the recruitment base and improve retention. Too, the College has changed its previous policy of virtual open enrollment to a more selective admissions policy. The College's Campaign Kickoff was held on October 10<sup>th</sup>. As of September 15<sup>th</sup> the Campaign for Clinch Valley College has raised \$9.1m toward a goal of \$13m.

Departing from the Agenda, Mr. Lemons began a discussion of housing at the College. Student housing at Clinch Valley is a "young" housing system with very few units paid for. There is a shortage of dormitory space, which will be exacerbated when Crockett Hall is taken out of the system for renovation. In order to provide the necessary new housing, each student at the College would have to be assessed at least \$565 per annum, which would be insupportable.

If, however, the Clinch Valley housing system were to be made part of the University's housing system, it could be paid for with a surcharge of about \$39 per annum per student, at the University as well as at Clinch Valley.

Mr. Lemons emphasized that he was not asking for a decision and that he merely wanted to introduce the subject for discussion. In reply to a question from Mr. Crutchfield, Ms. LaLonde said she thought the \$39 surcharge would not be a problem for students at the University.

Mr. Sandridge said the proposal was worthy of consideration. He commented that housing and food costs at the University are below the average for state institutions so that the present rates charged students for dormitories are relatively low.

The Chair urged Mr. Lemons to pursue the proposal with vigor.

Mr. Sandridge suggested that a proposal could be presented to the Board for consideration at the January Board meeting or perhaps at the April meeting. If approved, he thought the proposal could be implemented in the fall of 1999.

On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

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AGG:lh

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