

November 8, 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  
Kristine L. LaLonde  
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 November 8, 1997

The Student Affairs and Athletics Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 8:15 a.m., Saturday, November 8, 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, Ms. Kristine L. LaLonde, 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., Terence P. Ross,

Ms. Elizabeth A. Twohy, Henry L. Valentine, II, and James C. Wheat, III; as well as John T. Casteen, III, Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr., Paul J. Forch, Leonard W. Sandridge, Jr., William W. Harmon, Robert W. Cantrell, Peter W. Low, Ms. Colette Capone, Ernest H. Ern, Robert D. Sweeney, Ms. Polley Ann McClure, Don E. Detmer, Terry Holland, Ms. Jennifer Erickson, M. Rick Turner, and Ms. Jeanne F. Bailes.

The Chair opened the meeting by praising Mr. Harmon, Vice President for Student Affairs, for his good work. He then asked Mr. Harmon to present the Agenda.

Mr. Harmon presented the Consent Agenda Item, the approval of WTJU's Annual Report. The license for the station is held by the Rector and Visitors and according to its terms, the Board is required to approve the Annual Report.

On motion, the Committee adopted a resolution approving the 1997 Annual Report of WTJU, and recommended it to the full Board for approval (see Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Visitors, November 8, 1997).

Mr. Harmon then introduced Ms. Jennifer Erickson, Chair of the Honor Committee, and asked her to report on the activities of the Committee and the health of the Honor System.

Ms. Erickson said the Honor Committee last spring inherited 70 cases but is now down to about 50. As a result of the unsuccessful separatist movements on the North Grounds last spring, the Committee has recognized the need for more graduate student involvement in the Honor System; there was an Honor System orientation at the opening convocation at the Darden School this fall and a forum at the Medical School which focussed on medical ethics. Organized efforts have been made to involve more graduate students in the System.

Ms. Erickson went on to say that the recent hiring of an administrative assistant in the Honor Committee office and the recruiting of more support officers, have helped resolve some of the delays in bringing cases to trial; and the Committee is working in other ways to increase efficiencies. Nonetheless, the annual summer hiatus, when so many members of the Committee are not in Charlottesville, continues to be a

serious detriment to speedy resolution of cases. This fall, she said, there have been on the average two Honor trials per weekend.

Dr. Caravati commended Ms. Erickson and the Committee for the progress they have made.

Ms. LaLonde and Ms. Erickson described briefly the assistance the Honor Committee has received from the Alumni Association, in particular the fund that has been set up to receive donations for the Committee. This money is to be used to enhance the educational efforts of the Honor Committee.

Mr. Valentine noted that the Alumni Association stands ready to assist in every way possible.

Mr. Wheat asked about the role of the faculty in the Honor System. Ms. Erickson replied that it is important and crucial to the strength of the System. The Vice-Chair for Education has met with faculty and the Committee is working closely with the faculty in general.

The Chair told Ms. Erickson that he wanted to assure her and the Honor Committee of the Board's full and active support.

Mr. Harmon introduced Mr. M. Rick Turner, Dean of African-American Affairs, and asked him to report on the proposed restructuring of the Office of African-American Affairs.

Dean Turner told the Committee that in April, the Task Force on the Realignment of the Office of African-American Affairs submitted a report to Mr. Harmon. The Task Force, which had 45 members who included students, administrators and teaching faculty from all areas of the University community, recommended that the Office be restructured and its mission expanded to provide support for all minority students.

Recounting some of the Office's achievements and activities, Dean Turner said it has been a "voice" for African-American students and has had a real impact on their lives. It has also helped to make the University's student retention rate the highest of any public university. He

pointed out that the African-American student population is now 10.4% of the whole, the Asian population 10.2% and the Hispanic 2.1% - in other words, students of color now constitute 22% of the student population of the University. An Office of African-American Affairs, restructured along the lines proposed by the Task Force, would serve all of this group.

Ms. LaLonde read a letter, signed by a number of students, which supported the recommendations of the Task Force. She commented that her only concern about the proposed changes is that the Office has been so successful she doesn't want to see its efficacy diminished by expansion. Dean Turner said that as long as the expanded Office has adequate resources, this will not happen.

Mr. Harmon commented that the University is unusual in that students are talking to each other, to Dean Turner, to the Student Member of the Board, to his staff, and so on. He said it is important that in these matters the University become a model for society, not just a reflection of society.

The President commented that there is a rapidly growing subgroup at the University, international students, and that perhaps their needs should be taken into account in the restructuring.

Mr. Ross asked if "rank and file" students had been given a chance to participate in the deliberations of the Task Force. Dean Turner replied that a number of public fora had been held, at which the Task Force had solicited ideas and opinions. Parents and alumni were also involved in the process.

Mr. Goodwin commended the work of the Task Force.

Mr. Wheat asked if the staffing of the restructured Office would reflect the makeup of the clientele it will serve; Dean Turner said he hoped it will. Mr. Wheat observed that if 22% of the student body is made up of minorities then eventually the alumni population will mirror this make up. He said it will be important for the Alumni Association to take this into account. The President said efforts are already being made in this regard. He has attended meetings of

African-American alumni in several cities and the participation has been large and enthusiastic.

Finally, Mr. Harmon introduced a number of interested students who had attended the Committee meeting.

By way of reporting, Mr. Harmon mentioned three items: a task force has been appointed to study first year orientation, with the idea of putting more emphasis on academics in the orientation given entering students; an administrative audit of Student Legal Services is being conducted to find ways of increasing efficiencies; the remodeled Newcomb Hall has been reopened and Mr. Harmon invited Members to visit it.

Mr. Harmon then asked Mr. Holland, Director of Athletics, to report.

Mr. Holland referred to a written report on fall sports which he had prepared and distributed to the Committee. He took particular note of the fact that the Women's Field Hockey team currently is ranked first in the country.

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On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

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