

October 15, 1999

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Educational Policy Committee:

T. Keister Greer, Chair
Champ Clark
Elsie Goodwyn Holland
Robert G. Schoenvogel
Elizabeth A. Twohy
Walter F. Walker
Joseph E. Wolfe
John P. Ackerly, III, Ex Officio

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

Charles M. Caravati, Jr., M.D. Terence P. Ross
William G. Crutchfield, Jr. Albert H. Small
William H. Goodwin, Jr. Henry L. Valentine, II
Timothy B. Robertson Benjamin P.A. Warthen
James C. Wheat, III

FROM: Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr.

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Educational Policy
Committee on October 15, 1999

The Educational Policy Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 9:50 a.m., Friday, October 15, 1999, in the East Oval Room of the Rotunda; Champ Clark, Acting Chair, presided. Mrs. Elsie Goodwyn Holland, Robert G. Schoenvogel, Ms. Elizabeth A. Twohy, Walter F. Walker, Joseph E. Wolfe, and John P. Ackerly, III, Rector, were present. Charles M. Caravati, Jr., M.D., William G. Crutchfield, Jr., Timothy B. Robertson, Albert H.

Small, Henry L. Valentine, II, Benjamin P.A. Warthen, and James C. Wheat, III also were present; as were John T. Casteen, III, Leonard W. Sandridge, Jr., Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr., Paul J. Forch, Peter W. Low, Robert W. Cantrell, M.D., Ernest H. Ern, Robert D. Sweeney, William W. Harmon, Robert E. Reynolds, M.D., Gene D. Block, L. Jay Lemons, David T. Gies, Robert Chapel, Brantly Womack, Ms. Anita Jones, Ms. Rebecca Kneedler, and Ms. Jeanne Flippo Bailes.

Mr. Clark, the Acting Chair, asked Mr. Low, Vice President and Provost, to present the Agenda.

The Action Items were all Consent Items: consideration of a new degree program in the School of Engineering, and two conflict of interest exemptions. The new degree program is a B.S. in Computer Engineering, which would be offered by the Departments of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. The two requested exemptions to the Virginia Conflict of Interests Act involve research programs, also in the School of Engineering.

On motion, the Committee adopted resolutions approving all three of the Consent Agenda Items and recommended them to the full Board for approval (see Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Visitors, October 16, 1999).

Mr. Low then introduced Mr. David Gies, Commonwealth Professor of Spanish and Chair of the Faculty Senate, and asked him to give the Chair's customary report to the Committee.

Mr. Gies said the Senate met in retreat on September 10th to discuss its plans for this Session. The Senate decided on three themes: Teaching, Research, and the Creation of Knowledge. Other initiatives include the creation of a Faculty Senate Speakers Bureau which 60 members of the faculty already have joined; the Bureau will place speakers in the Charlottesville community. The Senate will continue the Forum for Contemporary Thought and the oversight of the Garden Room at the Colonnade Hotel on West Range. Also, the Senate will administer the Harrison Undergraduate Research Awards, which will mean the distribution of \$100,000 in grants to undergraduates doing approved research.

Mr. Low then asked the Chairs of the four Virginia 2020 Planning Commissions to give reports on the work of their groups.

Mr. Robert Chapel, Chair of the Fine and Performing Arts Commission, as well as Chair of the Drama Department, told the Committee the needs of fine and performing arts at the University could be summed up in one word: buildings. He said his Commission had looked into successful programs at other institutions and found that all had the necessary facilities and financial support, as well as the full support of the faculty and administration at their schools. He pointed out that the spatial needs of fine arts are inherently different from the spatial needs of other disciplines and that unless these needs are met, the University will never have a great fine arts program.

Mr. Brantly Womack, Chair of the International Activities Commission, as well as Chair of the Division of Asian and Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, and Professor of Government and Foreign Affairs, told the Committee that the mission of his Commission is to encourage the University to return to the original international quality of its mission, but in the context of the 21st century. His Commission, he said, is considering five general areas: how to encourage more faculty and students to teach and study abroad; how to internationalize the curriculum at the University; how the University treats students and faculty from abroad who are studying here; and how to encourage international institutional relationships. The fifth area of inquiry is what kind of organization to devise at the University to encourage and manage the first four areas. The overall aim of these initiatives, he pointed out, is to make international activities part of the identity of the University.

Ms. Rebecca Kneeder, Chair of the Public Service and Outreach Commission, as well as a member of the faculty of the Curry School of Education and Associate Dean of the School, told the Committee her Commission had established five areas of inquiry: inventory and web site of current UVa public service and outreach activities; identification and measurement of benchmark institutions; definition of terms and scope; gap analysis "between us and benchmarks;" and strategies for improvement.

The Commission has created a searchable data base and in its inventory has discovered over 300 service and outreach programs and projects at the University. There is a UVA physical presence in every county in the state. The Commission has created a web gateway, organized by geographic regions for public use.

Ms. Kneedler said the Commission is working on six recommendations: devising strategic communication plans - which means publicizing what the University offers and does; improving local partnerships - which is to say partnerships in the Charlottesville-Albemarle community; studying the possibility of requiring students to fulfill an academically based service component; devising a system of rewards and recognition, for service, within the faculty; evaluating the quality and impact of public service; and devising strategies for improvement - Ms. Kneedler here observed that the University can do a better job of listening to its constituents.

Ms. Anita Jones, Chair of the Science and Technology Commission as well as University Professor of Computer Science in the School of Engineering, posed the question, "Why Science and Technology?" She answered this by making three general points: Science is the greatest force of change in American life; basic research for the nation is done in the universities; wherever there is change there is opportunity.

Too many American students, Ms. Jones said, including students who take degrees from the University, finish university as technological illiterates. University research programs nowadays are increasingly multidisciplinary and programs at the University of Virginia need to adapt to these changes. While there is a solid base at the University on which to build, UVA has not been known for its science programs.

The University, therefore, must make choices. The Commission hopes to assist in this by identifying choices that are appropriate for the University of Virginia.

Mr. Low noted that the work of the Commissions had been helped greatly by three outside consultants, and he introduced two of them to the Committee.

Mr. Wheat asked if the condition of physical facilities is a factor in attracting and retaining faculty. Mr. Low replied that he could not answer with figures but that it is a very real factor and that the condition of the University's physical facilities is critical in this regard. Technology, too, he said is another major area that must be considered in evaluating the condition of buildings.

The Rector introduced three members of the Provost's Planning Council who were present at the meeting by invitation.

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On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

AGG:lah

- Copies to: Mr. John T. Casteen, III
Mr. Gene D. Block
Dr. Robert W. Cantrell
Ms. Colette Sheehy
Mr. Ernest H. Ern
Mr. Paul J. Forch
Mr. William W. Harmon
Mr. Terry Holland
Mr. L. Jay Lemons
Mr. Peter W. Low
Dr. Robert E. Reynolds
Mr. Leonard W. Sandridge
Mr. Robert D. Sweeney
Ms. Louise Dudley