

October 15, 1999

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Student Affairs and Athletics Committee:

Henry L. Valentine, II, Chair
Walter F. Walker, Vice-Chair/Athletics
Charles M. Caravati, Jr.
Champ Clark
Elsie Goodwyn Holland
Robert G. Schoenvogel
Benjamin P.A. Warthen
John P. Ackerly, III, Ex Officio

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

William G. Crutchfield, Jr.	Terence P. Ross
William H. Goodwin, Jr.	Albert H. Small
T. Keister Greer	Elizabeth A. Twohy
Timothy B. Robertson	James C. Wheat, III
Joseph E. Wolfe	

FROM: Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr.

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee on October 15, 1999

The Student Affairs and Athletics Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 9:10 a.m., Friday, October 15, 1999, in the East Oval Room of the Rotunda; Henry L. Valentine, II, Chair, presided. Walter F. Walker, Vice Chair, Charles M. Caravati, Jr., M.D., Champ Clark, Mrs. Elsie Goodwyn Holland, Robert G. Schoenvogel, Benjamin P.A. Warthen, and John P. Ackerly, III, Rector, were present. Also present were William G. Crutchfield, Jr., Timothy B. Robertson, Albert H. Small, Ms.

Elizabeth A. Twohy, James C. Wheat, III, and Joseph E. Wolfe; as well as John T. Casteen, III, Leonard W. Sandridge, Jr., Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr., William W. Harmon, Paul J. Forch, Peter W. Low, Robert W. Cantrell, M.D., Ernest H. Ern, Robert E. Reynolds, M.D., Gene D. Block, L. Jay Lemons, Ms. Penny Rue, Hunter Ferguson, Ms. Eleanor Sparagana, and Ms. Jeanne F. Bailes.

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

The first Agenda item, a consent item, was the approval of the Annual Report of WTJU, the radio station. One of the terms of the station's license is that the Board of Visitors is obliged to do this every year.

On motion the Committee adopted a resolution approving the Annual Report and recommended it to the full Board for approval (see Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Visitors, October 16, 1999).

Mr. Harmon introduced Ms. Eleanor Sparagana, Director of Orientation, and asked her to report on the University's first summer orientation program for new students, which was conducted last summer.

Ms. Sparagana told the Committee that 94% of the students who matriculated in the undergraduate schools of the University at the beginning of the semester attended summer orientation and that about 3300 family members accompanied them. She said the orientation gave new students a chance to discuss their proposed curricula with faculty advisers and students and their parents to resolve such issues as financial aid. Faculty who were involved with it were enthusiastic. In response to questions about fall orientation being to some extent a duplication of summer orientation, Ms. Sparagana said that some of it was a repetition. Nonetheless, she said she would prefer to keep the same fall schedule for another year before suggesting possible changes.

Mr. Harmon then introduced Ms. Penny Rue, who has been Dean of Students since July.

Next, Mr. Harmon asked Mr. Hunter Ferguson, Chairman of the Honor Committee to report on recent activities of the Committee. In so doing, he noted that this past summer, for the second summer in a row, money had been provided to enable the Honor Committee to function over the summer.

Mr. Ferguson outlined the work of his committee over the last five months, particularly in the area of constitutional reform. Eleven key issues in this regard were identified and four constitutional review subcommittees were organized to consider them. The findings of the subcommittees have been summarized in a report which Mr. Ferguson distributed to the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee (see attachment).

Mr. Ferguson referred to a recent article on the Honor System which appeared in *The Washington Post*. The article alleged at least a perception of racial bias in the System. Mr. Ferguson outlined steps being taken by the Committee to counteract this perception and to make certain there is no bias.

The Chair assured Mr. Ferguson and the Honor Committee of the Board's support and, indeed, the support of the vast majority of the alumni of the University.

Mr. Harmon introduced Mr. Terry Holland, Director of Athletics.

Mr. Holland discussed the deficit in the Athletic Department, a phenomenon that is common to a good many athletic departments in the country. Projections last year showed a potential deficit of \$500,000 for the 1998-99 fiscal year, but prudent management reduced the operating loss to \$210,000. For the current fiscal year, there is a freeze on team operational budgets (which means that all sports will be held to their 1998-99 levels), and expenditures are being monitored very carefully. Mr. Holland mentioned a deficit of \$2m at the University of Michigan and severe budgetary constraints at Syracuse University and at the University of North Carolina.

Mr. Holland concluded his remarks with a brief report on fall sports at the University.

The Rector introduced two special guests among the spectators, Senator Emily Couric and Delegate Mitchell van Yahres. Ms. Couric and Mr. van Yahres represent Charlottesville, among other constituencies, in the General Assembly.

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On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

AGG:lah

- Copies to: Mr. John T. Casteen, III
Mr. Gene D. Block
Dr. Robert W. Cantrell
Ms. Colette Sheehy
Ms. Louise Dudley
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, Jr.
Mr. Robert D. Sweeney