

November 21, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Educational Policy Committee:

Don R. Pippin, Chair
Susan Y. Dorsey
Lewis F. Payne
John R.M. Rodney
Terence P. Ross
E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., M.D.
John O. Wynne
Gordon F. Rainey, Jr., Ex Officio

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

Thomas J. Bliley, Jr. William H. Goodwin, Jr.
William G. Crutchfield, Jr. Mark J. Kington
Thomas F. Farrell, II Thomas A. Saunders, III
Charles L. Glazer Warren M. Thompson
 Georgia M. Willis

FROM: Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr.

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Educational Policy Committee on
November 21, 2003

The Educational Policy Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 1:35 p.m. on Friday, November 21, 2003, in the Lower East Oval Room of the Rotunda; Don R. Pippin, Chair, presided. Ms. Susan Y. Dorsey, Lewis F. Payne, Terence P. Ross, John R.M. Rodney and Gordon F. Rainey, Jr., Rector, were present. John O. Wynne participated by telephone.

Charles L. Glazer also was present.

Present as well were John T. Casteen, III, Leonard W. Sandridge, Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr., Paul J. Forch, Gene D. Block, R. Ariel Gomez, M.D., William W. Harmon, Edward L. Ayers, Ms. Rachel Most, John G. Papovich, Robert E. Davis, Chair of the Faculty Senate, and Jeanne Flipppo Bailes.

After opening the meeting, the Chair congratulated Mr. Sandridge for having received the Paul Goodloe McIntire Award earlier in the week. He then asked Mr. Block, Vice President and Provost, to present the Agenda.

Mr. Block first congratulated Mr. Ayers, Dean of Arts & Sciences, for having been named National Professor of the Year by the Carnegie and CASE Foundations; only one professor, he said, is selected from all the doctoral research institutions in the country and it is thus a "tremendous honor."

Mr. Block reported on efforts to increase awareness of Indian issues at the University; this past year there has been a focus on relationships with Virginia Indian tribes. Last month, he was host for a panel discussion with leaders from the Monocan tribe. In fact Mr. Hantman of the Anthropology Department has been working with the Monocan Nation for a decade to help them recover their history, culture and language.

Efforts, too, are being made with the San Carlos tribes in Arizona in conjunction with the Universities of Arizona and Minnesota, the University's partners in the Mt. Graham telescope project. At present, the University of Arizona has taken the lead in developing a summer program for youth from the San Carlos reservation with the University's support and participation.

Mr. Block reported two major searches underway - a replacement for Dean Miksad of the School of Engineering, who will be leaving the deanship at the end of the academic year, and for Mr. John Unsworth as Director of the Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities.

A committee is developing a proposal for a program in public policy; the committee's report will be discussed at the next meeting of the Educational Policy Committee.

Discussions on undergraduate curriculum reform continue and a report is being prepared for the President. Mr. Block said he hoped the report and its recommendations can be considered at the next Educational Policy Committee meeting.

Mr. Block then asked Mr. Ayers, Dean of Arts & Sciences, to report on academic support services offered undergraduates, a subject considered recently by the Transition Program Committee which was formed by the Provost in the spring of this year. The Committee made a number of recommendations, among them: requiring 50 students, selected by the Office of Admission in consultation with the Director of Transition Program and the Director of Academic Advising, to attend a six week summer program; requiring 40 students, selected in the same way, to

attend a five day summer program; and creating a new, mandatory 3 credit course in the fall semester for students who demonstrate the greatest academic need during either of the summer programs.

The Committee also recommended expanded academic support for students who are not native speakers of English, as well as increased support for transfer students.

In response to a question, Ms. Rachel Most, the Chair of the Committee, said computer skills would be taught in the five week summer program. Ms. Dorsey wondered if the five week summer program wouldn't take time away from badly needed summer jobs. Ms. Most and Mr. Ayers said that was a good point but one that has not yet been resolved. Ms. Dorsey asked if there is evidence that students this fall have benefited from the program last summer. Ms. Most replied that anecdotally, last summer's participants are doing well but no semester grades, of course, are in yet.

Mr. Ayers and the Provost commented that as the program continues, it will be modified.

The Provost asked Dr. Gomez, Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, to lead the continuing discussion of research programs at the University, a discussion which began at the August meeting of the Committee. Mr. Block noted that Dr. Gomez' report would not be a final report on a proposed research "plan," the finished version of which he would present to the Committee in the spring.

Dr. Gomez' report was divided among five headings - "goals for new investment in scientific research," "new collaborative strategy," "five-year objectives," "implementation plan," and "performance assessment." There was a lively discussion of the report: Mr. Ross said he thought it would be helpful for the new Members of the Committee to see the Virginia 2020 goals for priorities in the sciences; the Provost agreed to send out copies. Mr. Payne suggested that the final report have more information on how the Commonwealth, outside the University, will benefit from increased emphasis on research here. The Rector and Mr. Ross said the Committee "is 100% behind the plan;" the Rector told the Provost and Dr. Gomez he would like to have it presented to the Board for approval at the February Board meeting.

The Provost next asked Mr. Harmon, Senior Vice President, to report on the work of the Task Force on University-Wide Recruitment Initiative for Under-Represented Graduate and Professional Students. The Task Force was organized in the fall of 2002 with Mr. Harmon as chair. At that time, it was agreed that the charge of the Task Force was *to recommend appropriate*

measures designed to increase the number of under-represented minority students who apply, matriculate, and successfully complete graduate and professional programs of study at the University of Virginia, as well as to foster the development of an inclusionary community that respects and values the differences that diversity brings to academic life.

The Task Force has met over the last year. Mr. Harmon said the Task Force had identified both good and bad recruiting procedures in the various schools and departments of the University. The Task Force concluded that a centralized recruitment strategy "...would not only expand diversity within the University community, but is likely to result in the increased production of a cadre of future minority academics and professionals..."

Ms. Dorsey commented that the University needs to better market itself: "we're good, but that doesn't always show in surveys." Better marketing, she said, is particularly important both in building relationships with the five historically Black institutions in Virginia and in recruiting on their campuses.

Several Members asked for more data and refinements in the numbers presented: Mr. Ross wanted numbers without the professional schools included and Ms. Dorsey asked that the numbers be broken into urban vs non-urban. Mr. Ross said the Task Force's report doesn't tell why there is a problem and that more information is needed.

Mr. Ayers said the University doesn't offer enough graduate support and that is the most important reason.

The Chair, in conclusion, said Committee Members would like additional information and he asked the Provost to collect this.

The Committee recessed at 3:05 and resumed at 3:20 to hear a report from Mr. Davis, the Chair of the Faculty Senate.

Mr. Davis began his report by picking up the earlier discussion on the importance of improving the University's efforts in scientific research. The University's position in the latest National Research Council rankings - admittedly done in 1995 and based on even older data - puts the eighteen ranked science programs typically in the second quartile: the University is not among the top-ranked public institutions in any science area. In this part of the country, Duke University, the University of North Carolina, North Carolina State University and the University of Maryland are more often ranked higher.

Mr. Glazer asked if the efforts at attracting "research stars" proposed in Dr. Gomez' preliminary report would help. The Provost replied that targeting areas in which to selectively "grow" the sciences is key to the success of these programs. Dr. Gomez pointed out the importance of using National Institutes of Health ratings to determine these targets. Mr. Ayers commented that the best undergraduate science students do spectacularly well and go on to the best graduate schools. Decisions as to where to do graduate work are based on the financial aid package offered and the reputation of the program and faculty. The President said that recruiting, based on his experiences in recruiting undergraduates, has to be done consistently face-to-face, year in/year out.

The President also commented that the leadership of the state needs to understand the link between economic development and excellence in science programs at the state institutions. The Rector said he thinks the Governor has a good understanding of this and has stated that research is very important to Virginia's economy. He speculated on the possibility of holding an economic development "summit" at the University that would highlight the University's research initiative, the link between research and economic development and the need for research excellence at the University. Ms. Dorsey mentioned a report done in the Governor's Office in the last year and a half on the types of investments needed for economic growth.

Mr. Payne seconded the idea of a summit. The President said that Board support would be necessary to do an effective summit.

Mr. Davis said such things as having well funded and good graduate students, top senior and junior faculty, groups of colleagues who work well together, and good administrative support - all would attract good scientists to the University.

Continuing his report on Senate activities, Mr. Davis said the Harrison Awards and the Dissertation Year Fellowship Program continue; that the Senate is working closely with Mr. Sweeney on planning for the Capital Campaign and that Mr. Sweeney is meeting with the Senate December 4th, to discuss faculty participation. Finally, Mr. Davis said the Senate is working closely with the Honor Committee in seeking to understand the impediments to faculty "participating fully" in the Honor System. In reply to a question from Ms. Dorsey as to what he meant by "participating fully," Mr. Davis said there are more cases of cheating not being brought to the Honor Committee because faculty members believe the single sanction is too severe and not effective. He said there will be a report on this at the April Board meeting. Mr.

Rodney commented that faculty often will deal with cheating by the "grading option," which is to say giving a zero mark for an examination. Mr. Ayers added that there is a perception that bringing charges to the Honor Committee is a major investment of time and energy. Some institutions with honor systems have dropped the single sanction in favor of a graduated system of penalties.

The Rector declared that this is the kind of thing the Board wants to hear about and discuss, and he affirmed that the Board wants the faculty to be supportive of the Honor System.

On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

AGG:lah

These minutes have been posted to the University of Virginia's Board of Visitors website.

<http://www.virginia.edu/bov/educationalminutes.html>