

March 7, 2002

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Committee on the College and Graduate School of  
Arts and Sciences South Lawn Construction Project:

Mr. John P. Ackerly, III  
Mr. Thomas F. Farrell, II  
Mr. William H. Goodwin, Jr.  
Mr. Timothy B. Robertson  
Mr. Leonard W. Sandridge  
Ms. Colette Sheehy  
Mr. Edward L. Ayers  
Ms. Calvert Saunders Moore  
Mr. David E. Gibson  
Frances Dickinson McMullan, M.D.  
Mr. Alan Y. Roberts

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

Thomas J. Bliley, Jr.	Gordon F. Rainey, Jr.
Charles M. Caravati, Jr., M.D.	Terence P. Ross
William G. Crutchfield, Jr.	Elizabeth A. Twohy
Charles L. Glazer	Thomas A. Saunders, III
T. Keister Greer	Benjamin P.A. Warthen
Elsie Goodwyn Holland	Joseph E. Wolfe
Sasha L. Wilson	

FROM: Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr.

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee on the  
College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences  
South Lawn Construction Project

The Special Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia on the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences South Lawn Construction Project met, in Open Session, at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, March 7, 2002. The meeting was held at the offices of Dominion Energy, Inc., 120 Tredegar Street in Richmond; Thomas F. Farrell, II, Chair, presided. John P. Ackerly, III, Rector, William H. Goodwin, Jr., Leonard W.

Sandridge, Ms. Colette Sheehy, Edward L. Ayers, David E. Gibson, and Frances Dickinson McMullan, M.D., were present. Timothy B. Robertson and Ms. Calvert Saunders Moore participated by telephone.

Also present were Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr., Robert Dillman, Samuel A. Anderson, III, Joseph E. Grasso, Ms. Connie P. Warnock, James Polshek, Tom Leback, and Guy Maxwell.

The Chair, Mr. Farrell, asked Ms. Sheehy, Vice President for Management and Budget, to present the Agenda.

Ms. Sheehy reviewed the scope of the South Lawn Project: a new classroom building to be erected on the south side of Jefferson Park Avenue, across from the present New Cabell Hall; the renovation of Cocke and Rouss Halls; the demolition of the present New Cabell Hall and construction of a new building in its place; and the provision of 500 parking spaces. Much progress has been made on the Project since the beginning of the year and schematic drawings by the architect, Polshek Partnerships, will be available in the early fall.

Ms. Sheehy also raised the point that the McIntire School needs to expand, which will be difficult to do at Monroe Hall, its present site. The possibility has been raised of returning it to Rouss Hall, where it was founded, and which would be expanded to the rear. Such a possibility would call for McIntire and Arts & Sciences sharing space.

Mr. Ayers, the Dean of Arts & Sciences, said the South Lawn Project would provide a first rate place to teach. It also would create what he called "remarkable architecture."

Mr. Goodwin emphasized that the Project be Jeffersonian in style. Mr. Ayers replied that it will be "remarkable Jeffersonian."

Mr. James Polshek, the architect, then reviewed for the Committee some of the givens of the Project: there is a steep drop of 80 feet from the Lawn to Jefferson Park Avenue; approximately 23,000 cars move past New Cabell Hall on Jefferson Park Avenue every day; and there are serious parking issues.

Mr. Farrell said that nonetheless, the project must move forward.

Mr. Anderson, the University Architect, replied that the schematic drawings will be ready in the fall for approval by the Board of Visitors.

Mr. Polshek continued his presentation. He is working with Olin Partnership in Philadelphia on landscape questions. One of the main issues to be resolved is the question of pedestrian access across Jefferson Park Avenue between the New Cabell Hall replacement and the new classroom building on the other side of the street. There was considerable discussion of the latter point with grade crossing at street level presented as one possibility, pedestrian tunnels or overpasses as another and building a terrace across Jefferson Park Avenue as yet another.

Another design question is sight lines from across Jefferson Park Avenue to Cabell Hall, and from the South Lawn across Jefferson Park Avenue. Mr. Polshek said the curved rear of Cabell Hall is of architectural interest and could form the basis of a kind of propylaea to the South Lawn from Jefferson Park Avenue. Continuing his Classical allusions, he said there could be a kind of agora at the base of the back of Old Cabell. He also talked about a courtyard arrangement for the new building on the other side of Jefferson Park Avenue, with the street side open and parallel structures perpendicular to the main building and the street.

In any case, he said, it is important to extend access to the southern end of the Lawn across Jefferson Park Avenue.

Mr. Goodwin said he thought the concept was good but that pedestrian safety across Jefferson Park Avenue must be a major concern. In any case, he said the Project should be done "right" and there should be no skimping on costs.

Dr. McMullan agreed. She pointed out that it will be important for fundraising to have clear information on space and square footage.

Mr. Robertson agreed with Mr. Goodwin's statements and said he preferred a terrace built over Jefferson Park Avenue.

Ms. Moore suggested taking the wings off Old Cabell Hall or lowering them in order to open up a view.

Mr. Polshek suggested instead opening them in some way.

On motion, the Committee went into Executive Session at 11:35 a.m.

That the Committee on the College & Graduate School of Arts and Sciences South Lawn Construction Project go into Executive Session to discuss endowment fundraising and donor prospects, as

provided for in Section 2.2-3722 (A)(4) and (8) of the Code of Virginia.

The Committee resumed in Open Session at 11:50 a.m. after approving the following resolution certifying that they had discussed nothing illegally in Executive Session:

That we vote on and record our certification that, to the best of each Board member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and which were identified in the motion(s) authorizing the closed session, were heard, discussed or considered in closed session.

The Chair summed up the discussion: there was no talk of parking; attention should be paid to the small graveyard on the site - should buildings be designed to go around it or should it be moved?; getting people across Jefferson Park Avenue is of prime concern as designs are considered; thought should be given to the idea of the parallel wings or structures at the new building across Jefferson Park Avenue from the New Cabell Hall replacement building; could low density student housing, as on the Lawn, be included in the planning; and finally, the question of the wings to Old Cabell Hall.

Mr. Ayers emphasized once again that "we're going for quality architecture."

The Chair said there would be another meeting of the Committee in late April or early May.

On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

AGG:jb

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

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