MANUAL OF
THE BOARD OF VISITORS OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

2004
The University of Virginia is an educational institution of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The duties and powers of its governing body, the Board of Visitors, are set forth in general terms in the statutes of the State, of which those most pertinent are printed in an appendix to this Manual. The portions of the Code of Virginia that treat the general organization and governance of the University may be found in Va. Code Sections 23-62 et seq. The Board itself, however, largely determines its internal organization, its procedures of operation, and the responsibilities of the administrative officers selected by it to carry out its directives of policy and program.

On 12 September 1947 the Board adopted a Manual for the purpose of setting forth its powers and duties and those of the principal administrative officers in order to “clarify the manner in which the Board and such administrative officers shall function.” This Manual was replaced in 1966 by a completely revised edition that, with several amendments, served as the controlling statement of the Board’s procedure and practice until a revised Manual was adopted by the Board on 30 May 1975. This present edition of the Manual includes a revised Statement of Purpose adopted by the Board on 31 May 1985, as well as amendments approved since the 1975 edition and the editions of 1985, 1991, and 1998. These amendments reflect changes in how the Board organizes itself
and conducts its business, as well as changes in the administrative structure of the University.

It is hoped that the Manual will give to interested persons, and to new members of the Board in particular, an understanding of the manner in which the Board functions and of its relation to the administrative officers. It cannot, of course, convey an adequate impression of the spirit and traditions of the University, which so often guide the decisions of the Board. Nor can it adequately express the resolve that at all times has animated the members of the Board—to realize Mr. Jefferson’s high aspirations for the institution.

The revisions to the Manual in 1966 were done by Mr. Lawrence Lewis Jr. of the Board and by Mr. Weldon Cooper as Secretary to the Board. Mr. Lewis was chairman of the Board committee that compiled the 1975 edition; Mr. Robert P. Buford and Mr. W. Wright Harrison of the Board were members of the committee, as well as Mr. Raymond C. Bice Jr., who was the Board Secretary. Mr. Charles K. Woltz of the Law School faculty acted as consultant to both the 1966 and 1975 committees. Edgar F. Shannon Jr. was President of the University at the time of the 1966 revision, and Frank L. Hereford Jr. was President in 1975.

Further revisions were undertaken in 1991, during the rectorship of Edward Elliott Elson, and in 1997, during the rectorship of Hovey S. Dabney. John T. Casteen III was President of the University in both instances. The 1991 revisions were directed by the Executive Committee of the Board of Visitors under the chairmanship of Mr. Elson. The 1997 revisions were done by a special committee of the Board appointed by Mr. Dabney and under the chairmanship of Mr. Champ Clark. Modifica-
tions to these revisions were made in 1998 under the supervision of Mr. Clark and at the beginning of the rectorship of John P. Ackerly III; the Board Secretary, Alexander G. Gilliam Jr., assisted in the 1997 and 1998 revisions.

Work on the present edition of the *Manual* began in the fall of 2003 under the rectorship of Gordon F. Rainey Jr., who asked Mr. Don R. Pippin of the Board and Mr. Gilliam to undertake the task. This edition was approved by the Board of Visitors on 31 July 2004. John T. Casteen III was President of the University.
On 19 March 1985, with the concurrence of the President, the Faculty Senate of the University of Virginia adopted a new Statement of Institutional Purpose to replace the statement that had been in effect since 17 May 1974. This statement subsequently was recommended by the President to the Board of Visitors, who on 31 May 1985 adopted the Statement of Institutional Purpose reading as follows:

The central purpose of the University of Virginia is to enrich the mind by stimulating and sustaining a spirit of free inquiry directed to understanding the nature of the universe and the role of mankind in it. Activities designed to quicken, discipline, and enlarge the intellectual and creative capacities, as well as the aesthetic and ethical awareness, of the members of the University and to record, preserve, and disseminate the results of intellectual discovery and creative endeavor serve this purpose. In fulfilling it, the University places the highest priority on achieving eminence as a center of higher learning.