MEMORANDUM

TO: The Educational Policy Committee:

Don R. Pippin Chair
Susan Y. Dorsey
James W. Head
L.F. Payne
Terence P. Ross
E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr.
John O. Wynne
Gordon F. Rainey, Jr., Ex Officio

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

William G. Crutchfield, Jr. Glynn D. Key
Thomas F. Farrell, II Mark J. Kington
G. Slaughter Fitz-Hugh, Jr. Warren M. Thompson
W. Heywood Fralin Thomas A. Saunders, III
Georgia M. Willis

FROM: Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr.

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Educational Policy Committee on June 11, 2004

The Educational Policy Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 10:30 a.m., Friday, June 11, 2004, in the East Oval Room of the Rotunda; Don R. Pippin, Chair, presided. Ms. Susan Y. Dorsey, James W. Head, Lewis F. Payne, E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., M.D., John O. Wynne, and Gordon F. Rainey, Jr., Rector, were present.

Present as well were William G. Crutchfield, Jr., G. Slaughter Fitz-Hugh, Jr., W. Heywood Fralin, Ms. Glynn D. Key, Mark J. Kington, Thomas A. Saunders, III, Warren M. Thompson, and Ms. Georgia M. Willis.

The Chair asked Mr. Block, Vice President and Provost, to present the Agenda. Mr. Block noted briefly two faculty matters: Mr. Nicholas J. Garber, Professor of Civil Engineering, has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering for "significant contributions to national and international engineering education." Mr. Garber has been a member of the faculty since 1980. He has written over 80 refereed publications and reports and he is co-author of a textbook.

Mr. Block also reported that Mr. Bernard Frischer, founder and director of the Cultural Virtual Reality Lab at the University of California at Los Angeles, will join the faculty in the fall as Professor of Classics and Art History and as Director of the Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities.

Mr. Block then asked Dr. Gomez, Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, to report to the Committee on the planning for a new research building at the Fontaine Research Park. Dr. Gomez noted that at present, the University is about 500,000sq ft short in research space. He was joined by Mr. Neuman, the Architect for the University and together they discussed the design elements to be taken into consideration in planning the new building.

Mr. Block next reported on the recruitment of senior science faculty. In the sciences, the University's strategy is to focus on biodifferentiation, information technology, quantum and nanoscale science and "healthy aging" (gerontology, cell and molecular science, cognitive psychology, and mobility engineering). For the coming year, nominations from the faculty and the administration will be solicited this month and next and a short list of leading prospects will be developed by October and November. The President, the Provost, and the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies will begin recruiting candidates at the end of the year and the Provost will be able to report to the Board on these efforts at the June, 2005 Board meeting.

As for faculty recruitment in general, in the academic session just ended, by May 25th, 152 offers had been extended and 87 accepted. Offers were made to 84 men and 68 women; 50 and 37, respectively, accepted. Of the offers made, 116 went to Whites
(69 accepted), 13 to African Americans (4 accepted), 19 to Asian Americans (12 accepted) and 4 (2 accepted) to "others."

Mr. Block introduced Mr. Victor E. Luftig, Director of the Teachers for a New Era programs at the University and Associate Professor, General Faculty, who reported on the programs.

Mr. Luftig explained that the programs, which are supported by a $5 million, five-year challenge grant, and that the academic year just finished was the second year of the grant. Teachers for a New Era seeks to improve the preparation of K-12 teachers and the University was one of the first four schools chosen to receive a grant. The programs emphasize the engagement of Arts & Sciences in the training of teachers.

Finally, Mr. Block introduced Mr. Robert Davis, the outgoing Chair of the Faculty Senate, and Ms. Marcia Childress, the incoming Chair. Mr. Davis gave a final report on the activities of the Senate over the past year, and Ms. Childress outlined some initiatives the Senate contemplates for next year.

On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

AGG:jb
These minutes have been posted to the University of Virginia’s Board of Visitors website.
http://www.virginia.edu/bov/educationalminutes.html