April 16, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Student Affairs and Athletics Committee:
    Thomas F. Farrell, II, Chair
    Susan Y. Dorsey
    G. Slaughter Fitz-Hugh, Jr.
    W. Heywood Fralin
    Glynn D. Key
    Don R. Pippin
    John R.M. Rodney
    Warren M. Thompson
    Georgia M. Willis
    Gordon F. Rainey, Jr., Ex Officio

    and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

    William G. Crutchfield, Jr.  Terence P. Ross
    Mark J. Kington         Thomas A. Saunders, III
    Lewis F. Payne          E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., M.D.
    John O. Wynne

FROM: Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr.

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee on April 16, 2004

The Student Affairs and Athletics Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 8:00 a.m., Friday, April 16, 2004, at the Kaleidoscope Center in Newcomb Hall; Thomas F. Farrell, II, Vice Rector and Chair, presided. Ms. Susan Y. Dorsey, G. Slaughter Fitz-Hugh, Jr., W. Heywood Fralin, Ms. Glynn D. Key, Don R. Pippin, John R.M. Rodney, Warren M. Thompson, Ms. Georgia M. Willis, and Gordon F. Rainey, Jr., Rector, were present.

Also present was James W. Head, the Student Member-elect.

At the Chair's request, Ms. Dorsey reported on the forum she and he conducted in Newcomb Hall on the evening of April 12th. Ms. Lampkin, Vice President for Student Affairs, had sent out by e-mail an invitation to the entire student body to attend; about 35 to 50 students came, not a bad number considering the bad weather that evening, several conflicting events at the same time, and the approaching end of the semester with tests, papers due, and so on. There was an interesting and productive discussion, with the Honor System and student housing questions being the main issues at hand.

The Chair said he planned to have similar gatherings during the next Session.

The Chair then asked Ms. Lampkin to give her customary report.

Ms. Lampkin told the Committee that the University Board of Elections, a student-run organization, has done an excellent job of establishing a new elections procedure; the first elections under the new system were held in February, using an on-line voting system developed by the University's Office of Information Technologies.

She next listed some honors won by students this year: a Marshall Scholarship, a Mitchell Scholarship, a Truman Scholarship, four Goldwater Scholarships, and four Jack Kent Cooke Scholarships, among others.

Ms. Lampkin then introduced Ms. Shamim Sisson, Senior Associate Dean of Students, who reported on the establishment of the Kaleidoscope Center for Cultural Fluency in Newcomb Hall. Kaleidoscope opened on February 26th at the north end of the third floor of Newcomb Hall, in what was known as the Informal Lounge, a room that was underused. The Class of 1996 gave money for redesigning the room, which is envisioned as a "center for cultural fluency."

Ms. Sisson described Kaleidoscope as a place where students can lounge, as a resource center, as a room where University programs of one kind or another can be held, and as a catalyst for diversity initiatives. Art exhibitions have been mounted on the walls, there is a collection of periodicals and CDs and a large television screen on which videos and DVDs can be played.
A number and variety of meetings, lectures and programs have been held or scheduled in Kaleidoscope and there are plans next year for film series and an international cable hookup.

Mr. Sandridge, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, gave a report on University housing – having given a report to the Committee on the same subject at the Committee’s January 16th meeting.

He said that in response to pressures put on first-year students in their first weeks at the University to sign leases for private housing for their second year, the University, beginning in the fall of this year, will guarantee first-year students University housing for their second year, so long as they make their wishes known to the Housing Office by November 1st.

Guarantees also will be made to current upperclass students and to transfer students. Any current upperclass students living in University housing who want to remain in the same room for the next year, will be guaranteed that room assignment. Transfer students entering the University this fall will receive offers of University housing.

Mr. Sandridge went on to point out that making these guarantees means that the University must be aggressive about adding more housing to its stock. There must be new housing, particularly new upperclass housing, and there must be major renovations and replacement of outmoded or rundown existing housing.

The University will consider the possibility of public-private partnerships for graduate, upperclass, faculty, staff and family housing. Another possibility could be the acquisition of existing apartments in the community for University housing. There should be a serious discussion of future directions in housing, possibly by the time of the next meeting of the Committee.

The Chair said that he wants to have a meeting of the Committee devoted to housing issues.
The President repeated remarks he had made on housing in his State of the University speech in Cabell Hall on April 14th, pointing out that the University’s master plan calls for building residence halls on the Ivy Road and Emmet Street with traditional upperclass housing in front of the Parking Garage. Apartments that would be mixed-use housing for students and faculty are envisioned in other areas. He pointed out the necessity for city and county involvement in University housing initiatives.

The Chair asked Mr. Littlepage, Director of Athletics, to report on the activities of the NCAA Task Force on Recruiting, and to review the University’s processes in recruiting prospective student-athletes.

Referring to recent publicity about questionable recruiting activities at several schools, Mr. Littlepage reviewed the NCAA rules governing recruiting and the strong response of the NCAA to the recruiting scandals. There is an NCAA Task Force on Recruiting, formed in reaction to these activities, and the Task Force has already begun making recommendations.

Mr. Littlepage then reviewed the University’s practices affirmed his intention that the University be a leader in the national movement to reform athletic recruiting.

On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.