MEMORANDUM

TO: The Student Affairs and Athletics Committee:

Henry L. Valentine, II, Chair
Walter F. Walker, Vice-Chair/Athletics
J. Michael Allen
Charles M. Caravati, Jr.
Champ Clark
Elsie Goodwyn Holland
Benjamin P. A. Warthen
John P. Ackerly, III, Ex Officio

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

William G. Crutchfield, Jr.       Terence P. Ross
William H. Goodwin, Jr.          Albert H. Small
T. Keister Greer                 Elizabeth A. Twohy
Timothy B. Robertson             James C. Wheat, III
                                Joseph E. Wolfe

FROM: Alexander G. Gilliam, Jr.

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee on October 9, 1998

The Student Affairs and Athletics Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, at 11:10 a.m., Friday, October 9, 1998, in the East Oval Room of the Rotunda; Henry L. Valentine, II, Chair, presided. Walter F. Walker, Vice Chair, Charles M. Caravati, Jr., Champ Clark, Mrs. Elsie Goodwyn Holland, Benjamin P. A. Warthen, J. Michael Allen, and John P. Ackerly, III, Rector, were present. Also present were William G. Crutchfield, Jr.,
Student Affairs and Athletics Committee


The Chair asked Mr. Harmon, Vice President for Student Affairs, to present the Agenda.

Mr. Harmon introduced Mr. Cabell Vest, Chair of the Honor Committee, and asked him to report on summer Honor trials and other recent initiatives of the Committee. In introducing Mr. Vest, Mr. Harmon said his leadership has been outstanding and that much of what the Honor Committee has been able to do in recent months can be attributed to the lead Mr. Vest has taken.

Mr. Vest told the Committee that for the first time in many years, Honor trials were held over the summer. There were five trials involving six students; five of these students were found guilty. In addition to the trials, the Committee performed a number of housekeeping duties in preparation for the fall semester. These included organizing and updating archives, creating a data base, resolving incomplete cases, organizing first year orientation activities and considerable work on files. The new Committee administrative assistant, a position supported by the Board of Visitors, has been of inestimable help in all of this.

In response to questions, Mr. Vest said that currently there are 77 cases in the system; probably 35 to 45% of these won’t come to trial. About 30% of these cases were initiated by non-students, principally Faculty, but this figure needs to be refined as cases initiated by Teaching Assistants are classified as cases initiated by Faculty when they really should be classed as cases initiated by students.

Mr. Harmon reminded the Committee of the initiatives of the Faculty Senate last year, which called for moving fraternity rush to the second year, which is to say prohibiting firstyearmen from rushing. The Dean of Students
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instead moved rush from the first semester of the first year to second semester. Mr. Harmon then introduced Mr. Al Park, President of the Inter Fraternity Council, and asked him to report on rush.

Mr. Park reported that so far this semester, there has been a decline in the number of violations of rush rules. As rush won’t begin until after the Christmas Break, however, it is too early to draw many conclusions. The main concern about second semester rush at this point is the prevention of dirty rush (defined as obtaining commitments from rushees before rush actually begins).

He talked instead about a variety of IFC initiatives. The IFC is looking into relationships between fraternities at the University and their national organizations and the general place of fraternities here in relation to the community. Alcohol abuse and underage drinking are principal concerns and the IFC has instituted a ban on hard alcohol at most fraternity functions, as well as strict rules about serving alcohol to first year students. The IFC has been commended by the Attorney General’s office for some of these initiatives.

Mr. Park reported that last May, the IFC received the Atlantic Coast Conference trophy – awarded annually – for the highest fraternity grade point average attained in any of the ACC schools. He expects fraternities at the University to maintain eligibility for this trophy for many years to come.

Mr. Wheat expressed concerns that stringent regulation of fraternity parties, particularly rush parties, might encourage fraternities to hold these parties away from the Grounds, thus raising the specter of alcohol-related injuries and deaths on the roads.

Ms. Twohy expressed concerns about rush as well: as a parent, she said the strict sorority rules about no contact between sorority members and first year women seemed pointless. She said, though, that this was not an issue of Board concern.
On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

AGG:lah
Copies to:  Mr. John T. Casteen, III
            Mr. Gene D. Block
            Dr. Robert W. Cantrell
            Ms. Colette Capone
            Ms. Louise Dudley
            Mr. Ernest H. Ern
            Mr. Paul J. Forch
            Mr. William W. Harmon
            Mr. Terry Holland
            Mr. L. Jay Lemons
            Mr. Peter W. Low
            Ms. Polley Ann McClure
            Mr. Leonard W. Sandridge, Jr.
            Mr. Robert D. Sweeney