

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS OF  
VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

HELD ON MAY 27, 1968

The annual meeting of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Commonwealth University was held on the 27th day of May, 1968 at 11:00 o'clock in the forenoon in the President's dining room of the Richmond Professional Institute in the City of Richmond, Virginia, pursuant to due notice.

Present were all of the Visitors.

Mr. Virginius Dabney served as Chairman of the meeting and Mr. Brent as Secretary thereof.

On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the minutes of the first meeting of the Board held on April 23, 1968, the minutes of an adjourned meeting held on April 30, 1968, and the minutes of an adjourned meeting held on May 7, 1968 were approved in the form mailed to all of the Visitors, and the minutes of a special meeting of the Board held on May 14, 1968 were approved in the form presented to the meeting.

At the request of the Chairman, Mr. Brent then explained that the proposed By-laws, drafts of which had been circulated to all of the Visitors, had been considered and approved by the Executive Committee and that a copy thereof had been placed in front of each member of the Board. A general discussion of the proposed By-laws then followed, with several minor modifications being suggested, after which on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the By-laws of Virginia

Commonwealth University were approved in the form presented at the meeting as modified, and the Secretary was directed to place a copy thereof in the corporate minute book.

It was then pointed out that the By-laws as adopted provided for the annual meeting of the Board to be held in May and that it might be appropriate to designate this meeting as the annual meeting and to elect officers for the ensuing year. A discussion then followed, after which on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was determined that this meeting should be designated as the annual meeting for the year 1968 and the present officers and members of the Executive Committee were all re-elected to the positions presently held, to serve until the next annual meeting of the Board of Visitors to be held in May of 1969 and until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

Mr. Wayne then reported that information with respect to heraldry involving the seal for the University, academic gowns, etc. has been given to him, whereupon, the information and matters related thereto were referred by the Chairman to the Student Activities Committee for consideration and recommendation to the Board.

The Board was then reminded that at its last meeting the Executive Committee had been requested to consider the status of all personnel associated with both Richmond Professional Institute and the Medical College of Virginia as of July 1, 1968. Mr. Wayne thereupon reported that the Executive Committee had

considered the matter and presented to the Board a proposed resolution with the recommendation of the Executive Committee that it be adopted. Mr. Brent read the resolution which was generally discussed, with several modifications thereto being offered, after which on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, Mr. Brent moved the adoption of the resolution as modified. After further discussion, the motion was seconded by Mr. Scott and the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 93, Acts of Assembly of 1968, Virginia Commonwealth University will formally come into existence on July 1, 1968 and the Medical College of Virginia and Richmond Professional Institute will cease to exist as separate, independent institutions; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Visitors of Virginia Commonwealth University is presently seeking a person who may be appointed as President of Virginia Commonwealth University; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Visitors desires to provide for the orderly administration of the University on a temporary basis until such time as a President is appointed and takes office;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That commencing on July 1, 1968 and until further action by this Board, Dr. R. Blackwell Smith, Jr. shall continue as the Chief Executive and Academic Officer of that part of Virginia Commonwealth University formerly known as the Medical College of Virginia, with the same compensation and the same duties, powers and responsibilities as theretofore held by him as President of the Medical College of Virginia with the title Provost - The Medical College of Virginia, Health Sciences Division, Virginia Commonwealth University.

2. That commencing on July 1, 1968 and until further action by this Board, Dr. Roland H. Nelson, Jr. shall continue as the Chief Executive

and Academic Officer of that part of Virginia Commonwealth University formerly known as the Richmond Professional Institute with the same compensation and the same duties, powers and responsibilities as theretofore held by him as President of the Richmond Professional Institute and with the title Provost - General Academic, Virginia Commonwealth University.

3. That commencing on July 1, 1968 and until further action by this Board, all other officers, administrative personnel, faculty and agents who were employed by the Richmond Professional Institute or the Medical College of Virginia on June 30, 1968 shall likewise continue in their former positions, with such compensation as may have heretofore been approved and with the same title, powers, authority and responsibilities with Virginia Commonwealth University as theretofore held by them.

At this point, Mr. Brent withdrew from the meeting and Mrs. Thalhimer recorded the minutes.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Mr. Wayne then reported that Dr. Smith had stated that he did not desire to be considered as a candidate for President of Virginia Commonwealth University but preferred to remain as the Chief Administrative and Academic Officer of The Medical College of Virginia, Health Sciences Division of Virginia Commonwealth University.

Mr. Wayne continued and explained that the Executive Committee had met with Faculty and Administrative Representatives of the Richmond Professional Institute and The Medical College of Virginia, and also Representatives of the Board of Visitors of both Institutions, in order to obtain their views with respect to the qualifications which should be possessed by the new President of the University. He then presented to the meeting for discussion a memorandum entitled "Desirable

Qualifications for the President of Virginia Commonwealth University", which was generally discussed with various modifications being made therein, after which on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the memorandum as modified was approved, with the Executive Committee being instructed to eliminate the numbering of the paragraphs. The Chairman directed the Secretary to attach to the minutes of the meeting a definitive copy of the memorandum after the changes were made by the Executive Committee.

Continuing his report, Mr. Wayne then stated that the Daniel Construction Corporation had offered to sell to the University the Imperial Plaza property and had indicated that in connection with the purchase thereof, should the University be interested, the Daniel Foundation would make a contribution of \$1,000,000. Mr. Wayne pointed out that the matter had been carefully reviewed by the Executive Committee and that it did not appear to be a desirable transaction from an economic point of view and further that it did not appear that the properties could be utilized to advantage at the present time, whereupon, on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the Officers were requested to decline the offer and to express appreciation to the Daniel Construction Corporation and the Daniel Foundation.

Mr. McGehee then explained that the Board of Visitors of the Medical College of Virginia had for some three years had under study a capital fund campaign for The Medical College of

Virginia which would start in the Fall of 1968. He indicated that this was a matter which should be considered by the Board so that those who were planning the campaign would know how to proceed. It was generally agreed that it would be inappropriate to proceed with the campaign as planned and on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the Chairman was requested to refer the matter to the Development of Master Plan Committee for consideration.

Thereupon, a letter which had been received from Dr. Nelson was presented to the Board for consideration. The letter explained that although the proposed Science Building to be constructed by the Richmond Professional Institute had largely been cleared for financing through the proposed State Bond Issue, it appeared to the Board of Visitors of the Richmond Professional Institute that it would be desirable for the matter to be referred to the Board of Visitors of the Virginia Commonwealth University for consideration in order to avoid the possible duplication of facilities resulting from the merger. After a discussion thereof, on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the proposed Science Building was referred to the Property Committee for consideration and recommendation.

Dr. Nelson's letter also explained that the proposed Education Building required immediate action and that it was desired to award the architectural work in connection therewith to the firm of MacIlroy and Parris provided this met with the approval of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Commonwealth

University. A general discussion then followed with respect to the recommendation in connection with the Educational Building and Dr. Nelson was requested to join the meeting in order to speak to his recommendation. He pointed out that action was urgently required as the drawings would have to be in hand by November in order to qualify for financing of the proposed State Bond Issue. After further consideration, on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, appreciation was extended to the Board of Visitors of the Richmond Professional Institute for giving this Board an opportunity to review the matter, and the Board of Visitors of Richmond Professional Institute was requested to award the contract to MacIlroy and Parris subject to final approval of the Property Committee of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Commonwealth University.

Dr. Michaux then indicated that the Board of Visitors of The Medical College of Virginia were quite interested in having an active role as an advisory board in the affairs of the new University and would continue to meet each month. He stated that it would be helpful if this Board could give some direction to their efforts. On behalf of the Richmond Professional Institute, Mr. Wilson stated that this Board would disband as such on July 1, but would be available for call. The Richmond Professional Institute Board did not foresee, he said, their role as an organized body. The matter was then referred to the Executive Committee for consideration and recommendation.

There being no further business to come before the

meeting, the same on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, adjourned.

  
Secretary

APPROVED:

  
Chairman

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Temporary Secretary



DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE PRESIDENT OF  
VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

The candidate must be a person of absolute integrity and the highest character.

The candidate should be between 35 and 55 years of age, preferably, and married.

The candidate should have an earned terminal degree with some training in college administration as well as teaching experience.

The candidate should have had administrative experience and have demonstrated ability as an executive.

The candidate should possess a pleasing and strong personality with demonstrated talent in the field of public and community relations.

The candidate should be articulate and have ability and experience as a public speaker.

The candidate should have demonstrated in prior positions possession of abilities of outstanding leadership, and should be able to delegate authority with forcefulness and tact.

The candidate should possess the kind of personality that inspires confidence and a willingness on the part of others to work as a member of a team.

The candidate should be a person who knows when and how to call in expert assistance when needed to resolve any problem related to the welfare of the University.

It would be desirable for the candidate to have had considerable training in at least one of the disciplines or subject matter areas offered by the University that might qualify the candidate for a professorship in the University, and should enjoy the respect and confidence of colleagues in the area of that academic specialty.

The candidate should be a firm, fair and diplomatic disciplinarian.

The candidate should have an understanding of the unique opportunities and functions of an urban university which carries with it the recognition of the significant role that the President and the University must play in identifying with the needs of modern urbanized society.

The candidate should be forward looking and innovative in a practical fashion.

The candidate should be willing to support and develop a strong college of arts and sciences.

The candidate should have knowledge of finance and be knowledgeable in the area of fund raising from both public and private sources.

The candidate should be interested in and capable of developing a strong department of graduate studies.

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