

FOR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ONLY

MINUTES OF AN EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE  
AND PROPERTY COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS

March 10, 1977

Dr. Blanton reported that, following Dr. Temple's hospitalization, arrangements were made for an interim governing structure. A committee was formed, composed of the three Provosts and Dr. Willett as Chairman. Dr. Blanton stated that it was now necessary for the Board to decide on a policy for management of the University until a successor to Dr. Temple could be named. Dr. Blanton indicated that there appeared to be two options -- an interim committee with a chairman or an acting president. He then placed the matter before the meeting for discussion and for the presentation of any other viable options.

Mr. Shumate stated that the committee system just did not seem to work. Both he and Mrs. Thalhimer indicated that Dr. Temple had had problems with the committee structure during the last presidential search.

Dr. Willett indicated that some of the problems that Dr. Temple had experienced were due, in part, to the fact that he was a candidate for the presidency and a member of the Search Assistance Committee.

Mr. Shumate indicated that the appointment of Dr. Willett as acting president would free him from considerable pressure by giving him the authority to make decisions and delegate responsibilities without having to call a meeting of a committee.

The consensus of the Board members present was that Dr. Willett would be the best person to either chair an interim committee or serve as acting president.

Mr. Dabney expressed his concern for Dr. Willett's health under these additional responsibilities. Other members of the Board expressed the same concern and asked if there were anyone else who could assume these duties. Several alternatives were discussed.

A discussion was then held concerning the presidential search. Mr. Obenshain suggested that the search process might be reversed from the procedure used previously. He suggested the Executive Committee (the Search Committee for the Board) review the applications and bring in the Search Assistance Committee at a later date (when the preliminary screening of applicants had been completed).

The strong desire of those present was that the search be expedited as much as possible. Since a search had been held such a short time ago, the following suggestions were made: (1) review applicants from VCU's last search, (2) contact other universities who have recently made searches, and (3) eliminate candidates without adequate preparation for the presidency.

Dr. Willett stated that it was imperative to involve the University community as much as possible, indicating that a precedent had been set by the last search. He continued that the new president would have to have full acceptance from the faculty, students and other university groups in

order to have a successful beginning as president.

Dr. Blanton stated that, since the full Board would be meeting next week, he was appointing a committee composed of Mr. Shumate, Mrs. Satterfield and Dr. Willett to consider the ideas expressed at this meeting and make recommendations regarding the interim administrative structure of the University and the plan for the presidential search.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.