

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS
OF VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

May 18, 1977

A special meeting of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Commonwealth University was held on Wednesday, May 18, 1977, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanger Hall Board Room.

Present were Drs. Blanton, Gayle and Gwathmey; Messrs. Bliley, Dabney, McGehee, Norris, Obenshain, Scott and Seaborn; and Mesdames Satterfield and Stone. Absent were Messrs. Grey and Shumate and Mrs. Thalhimer. Also present were Drs. Beller, Brooke, Hall, Neal, Willett, Wilson and Woods; Messrs. Cribbs, Holmes and Ross; and Mrs. Price.

Dr. Blanton called the meeting to order. He asked members of the Board to consider the new format for Board meetings which included an evening meeting before the regular Board meeting. An attempt would be made to keep the day meeting to one-half day with lunch for those members of the Board who wished to stay.

Mr. Cribbs, Budget Director, presented the steps relating to budget development, request, review, appropriation, and adoption of the financial plan.

Dr. Beller made a visual presentation of the four major areas affecting the budget. These are faculty salaries, faculty/administrative salaries, classified personnel costs and other operating expenses. These four areas are basically established through formulae, fixed percentages, etc. which are given to the individual institutions by other State agencies (i.e., State Personnel, State Budget, SCHEV, etc.). In each instance, the

individual institution can appeal certain points based on special circumstances, but basically the guidelines are predetermined and given to the institutions for formulation of their budgets.

Mr. Cribbs reviewed the 1976-77 operating budget and the preliminary 1977-78 operating budget. A detailed discussion followed.

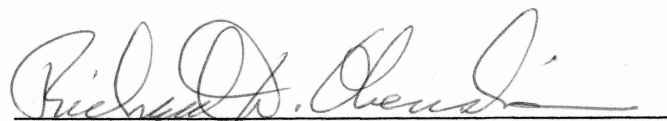
In response to a question, Dr. Willett pointed out that, once the funds are appropriated, the Board of Visitors can determine which departments receive which amounts. There was discussion relating to a possible ten percent reserve fund which would be taken off the top of the operating budget. The various schools and departments could then justify their need for additional funds from this reserve fund. However, it was suggested that the administrative supervision of such a process would be difficult.

It was also pointed out that the administration, in formulating the VCU budget, has assumed that the State would pick up the total cost of faculty salary increases. If it did not, in view of the five percent reversion requested by the Governor and the one percent requested by the Legislature, VCU would have severe budget problems and would have to seek some type of relief.


Dr. Willett also reported that the administration had been working on goals and objectives, and priorities for the University. At one time, it was believed that the budget would be formulated through budget targets. However, because of the time constraints, the State Budget Office has now stated that VCU would get a six

percent increase the first year of the biennium and a four percent the second year. Additional discussion followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.


Richard D. Obenshain, Secretary

Approved:


Wyndham B. Blanton, Jr. Rector