

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

November 17, 1977

A regular meeting of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Commonwealth University was held on Thursday, November 17, 1977, at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room at 910 West Franklin Street.

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

Dr. Blanton called the meeting to order in Executive Session. Following a discussion, on motion made and seconded, the appointment of Dr. Edmund F. Ackell as the third President of Virginia Commonwealth University was unanimously approved subject to his receiving a comprehensive medical examination. Mrs. Satterfield stated that the Search Assistance Committee and the Search Committee should be congratulated on an outstanding search and all their hard work. Dr. Blanton indicated that, with the Board's approval, he would write letters of appreciation to the Search Assistance Committee.

At this time, Dr. Ackell joined the meeting and the position of President of Virginia Commonwealth University was offered to him. Dr. Ackell accepted the appointment and expressed his gratitude for the confidence expressed in him by the Board of Visitors.

Following the Executive Session, on motion made and seconded, the Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Academic Policy Committee, held October 5, 1977, and a Special Meeting of the Student Affairs Committee, held October 10, 1977, were unanimously approved.

The Report of the Acting President followed.

Mr. David L. Ross, Legal Advisor to the Board and President, presented his report. He stated that the Doe vs. Linas case was favorably disposed of in Federal court on November 16, 1977. The Oslund case has been indefinitely continued due to health problems of Mrs. Oslund. Mr. Ross stated that no new suits have been filed against the University since the last meeting of the Board.

Following a discussion, on motion made and seconded, the Faculty Appointments and Changes in Status were unanimously approved.

The Report of Gifts, Grants and Contracts, on motion made and seconded, was unanimously approved.

Mr. Guerdon presented a list of those contracts signed since the October meeting of the Board which, following a discussion and on motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously affirmed.

Drs. Salley and Woods presented their "Report to the Board of Visitors on Positions Entitled 'Director of Graduate Affairs.'" This report was presented for informational purposes.

Mrs. Satterfield, on behalf of the Academic Policy Committee, stated that the Committee would be meeting with the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate on Tuesday, November 22.

Mr. Seaborn, on behalf of the Audit Review Committee, stated that the committee has met to review the Executive Summary produced by Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company. This summary recommended several changes including the establishment of a standing audit committee of the Board of Visitors and a change in the reporting of the audit function to this committee. Following a discussion, on motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, the Audit Committee was made a standing committee of the Board of Visitors, subject to the appropriate changes in the By-Laws and the internal audit office will have a direct reporting line to this committee. (Administratively, the internal audit office will report to the Provost for Administration.) Following a discussion, on motion made and seconded, the Audit Report prepared by Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company was unanimously accepted and the recommendations approved.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Dr. Blanton reported that a number of meetings had been held dealing with the search for a new president.

Mr. Grey reported on behalf of the Hospital Committee. The letter of intent to participate in the South Central Professional Standards Review Organization was presented to the Hospital Committee and signed by Mr. Grey. The Committee also discussed the current nurse shortage, the Virginia Hospital Laundry and the accreditation of the School of Medicine. It was also pointed out to the Committee that the hospital is 140 days behind in collections from third party payors. It was determined that an additional 30 days review of the situation should be made before any major action was necessary. It was pointed out that the collection rate on accounts turned over to the Attorney General's office was approximately three percent. Prior to the new policy set by the State, a collection

rate of approximately 16 to 20 percent had been realized.

Mr. Scott reported on behalf of the Property Committee and stated that this committee will be meeting on Monday, November 21 at 8 a.m.

Mrs. Stone stated that the Student Affairs Committee had met and set up their plans for the year. They will be meeting with a number of student groups on campus.

Following an executive session, Mr. Lewis Mills, Athletic Director and Mr. Dana Kirk, Men's Basketball Coach, joined the meeting to report on the total athletic program. Mr. Mills reported that the Women's Volleyball team hoped to make it to the national finals in Utah. Other men and women's sports are progressing nicely. Mr. Kirk reported that the men's basketball team has had some injury problems, the most severe being the broken foot of Lorenzo Watson. Mr. Kirk stated that the basketball team will have a respectable season and invited members of the Board to attend the games and practice sessions.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.



Richard D. Obenshain, Secretary

Approved:


Wyndham B. Blanton, Jr., M.D., Rector

REPORT OF THE ACTING PRESIDENT

November 17, 1977

1. Parking

Dr. Willett reported that the administration is continuing to work with city and state officials on solutions to VCU's parking problems

2. Budget

Dr. Willett stated that the administration has worked very hard with the various state agencies on our budget requests. Dr. Beller reported that, with regard to the State Council's review, VCU has done very well.

3. Legislative Relations

Mr. Ware reported that a number of legislative meetings have been scheduled. Mr. Ware is working with Dr. Beller and his staff on developing the budget presentations. The administration is hoping to meet with a number of those legislators who serve on the Appropriations and Finance Committees.

4. Enrollment

Dr. Willett reported that our headcount enrollment was a little over 19,000. The FTE is approximately 13,700. VCU is running slightly ahead of its enrollment projections.

5. Nurse Shortage

Dr. Neal reported that we are at a very critical period with regard to nurses in the hospitals. MCV/VCU has recruited 124 nurses and has had 128 resignations. There is some problem with the pay schedule for nurses and MCV/VCU and UVA plan to meet with State Personnel to get a regrade for the nurses.

6. Guest Day

VCU held its first Guest Day on Saturday, November 12 on the Academic Campus. Prospective students and their parents were invited to attend. Approximately 1,200 to 1,500 persons attended this event.

7. Bond Referendum

Dr. Willett reported that the bond referendum for higher education had passed overwhelmingly. VCU had two projects included -- the Cancer Center and the Music/Theatre Classroom building.