

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS
OF VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY
September 25, 1986

A regular meeting of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Commonwealth University was held on Thursday, September 25, 1986, at 9 a.m. in the University Meeting Center.

Present were Mesdames Abady, Bemiss, Epps and Whittemore; Messrs. Beadles, Berry, Gregory, Latham, Morris, Smith and Wurtzel; and Drs. Holland and Moore. Absent were Messrs. Allen, Farinholt and Lipman. Mr. Charles Thomas, student representative to the Board, also was present. Also present were Drs. Ackell, Connell, Ruch, Sparks and Wilson; Messrs. Brown, Bruegman, Doswell and Ross; and Mrs. Price.

The secretary, Mrs. Bemiss, called the meeting to order and announced that due to the absence of the Rector, Mr. James B. Farinholt, Jr., and the Vice Rector, Mr. Eric M. Lipman, it would be necessary to hold an election for a Rector Pro Tem. On motion made and seconded, Mrs. Bemiss was elected Rector Pro Tem.

On motion made and seconded, the Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Board of Visitors held on July 16, 1986, and the Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Visitors held on July 17, 1986, were approved.

The Report of the President followed. Dr. Ackell reported on the following items:

1. Dr. Ackell announced that Charles Thomas, Jr., a fourth year dental student, is VCU's new student representative to the Board. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from James Madison University. Charles has lived in Richmond most of his life and hopes to establish a dental practice here.
2. Dr. Ackell stated that VCU is moving into a new year with primary emphasis on improving academic quality through higher standards and enhanced recruitment and retention. For the first time in VCU's

history, fall registration week began with a waiting list of freshman students. This was accomplished even though VCU was more selective in accepting applications to the University.

For the third consecutive year, the academic quality of VCU's regularly admitted freshman class increased. Mean combined SAT scores for freshmen enrolling for fall 1986 increased seven percentage points, from 967 in 1985 to 974 in 1986.

Striving for higher standards, VCU continues to balance quality with access. Conventional wisdom may argue that VCU cannot simultaneously be elitist and egalitarian. VCU must and, indeed, has the responsibility to be both because of the University's mission and urban location.

Dr. Ackell noted that in order to attract and retain the best and the brightest students, VCU must provide them with opportunities to develop their talents. This semester, the honors program includes 240 students representing every school on the academic campus. Qualified students interested in a Health Sciences career can be considered for early admission into programs in the Health Sciences division. Seven VCU freshmen have been selected this year for early admission via this program.

Dr. Ackell reported that VCU also has embarked on a comprehensive project aimed at defining a general, liberal education and assessing undergraduate achievement in areas of knowledge considered essential to the undergraduate experience. This project provides one of the few opportunities for the faculty as a whole to engage in serious dialogue and planning for VCU's undergraduate programs. These discussions will move beyond the constraints of discipline, department, school or campus. The project, known as "The Varieties of Undergraduate Experience," is being funded for the next two years by a grant from SCHEV through The Virginia Funds for Excellence.

Dr. Ackell noted that despite a decline in the number of high school graduates, college enrollment nationally is projected to remain relatively stable. Trends over the past 10 years indicate that any decline in enrollment nationally may be moderated to some extent by increases in the number of part-time and older students.

VCU is well positioned to compete favorably in the future because of the healthy part-time market and the new strategies the University is developing for recruitment and retention. Undergraduate headcount and master's headcount have remained nearly the same. Graduate headcount at the doctoral level has increased, while a small decrease has been shown at the first professional level. Full-time enrollment has declined half a percentage point, while part-time enrollment shows a 2.5 percent decline.

Dr. Ackell stated that new freshmen applications increased 20 percent. VCU's acceptance rate was reduced from 83.8 percent in 1985 to 69.8 percent this year. The number of new freshmen accepted who now attend VCU held steady at 52.6 percent, with 1,811 of them currently enrolled.

Dr. Ackell reported that new transfer applications declined, as did enrollment, but the yield rate held steady. The decline in the new transfer acceptance rate, combined with the smaller applicant pool, is responsible for the decline in transfer enrollment.

Some preliminary figures from the Health Sciences division show that of the 168 first-year medical students enrolled, 35 percent are female and 116 are from Virginia.

Dr. Ackell stated that one of VCU's most important achievements last year in academic programs was SCHEV's approval for the School of Nursing to offer a doctoral program. Already 7 students are enrolled.

Dr. Ackell noted that although the merit scholarship program is still in its infancy, its effect on recruiting has been remarkable. This year, three-quarters of the 75 students offered merit scholarships enrolled at VCU. The criteria used in the selection of those accepted into the program are having a 3.2 GPA, ranking in the top 10 percent of their class, and scoring at least a 1200 on the College Boards.

3. Dr. Ackell reported that this year, the federal government introduced new regulations which are paralyzing financial aid delivery systems throughout the nation. Although VCU was affected as harshly as all other institutions, it implemented service-oriented practices which permitted students to register while they attended to the paperwork required by the verification maze established by the Department of Education.

Last year, University Enrollment Services processed more than \$30 million in aid to about 10,000 students. Currently, about 75 percent of all students eligible to participate in aid programs -- (that is, those enrolled at least half time) -- received some assistance, most in the form of self-help through work or loans.

4. Dr. Ackell stated that with VCU's continuing efforts to make students feel more comfortable in the urban environment, the University hopes to increase their receptivity to learning.

For example, this year, in an effort to offer new academic campus students a more intense and comprehensive orientation to the University, VCU restructured summer orientation and registration to include the "New Student Welcome." This was conducted one week before the start of classes and focused on the personal changes that occur when beginning college life. The program offered seminars on such topics as student services, employment opportunities, library facilities and stress

management. A secondary function of the program was to reinforce students' legal obligations regarding Virginia alcohol laws and to provide information on services available at VCU for students with substance abuse problems. The response from students was very positive.

5. Dr. Ackell announced that this fall's calendar has a number of important events to note. Among them is a major retrospective exhibit of Theresa Pollak's paintings and drawings at the Anderson Gallery. This is her first exhibit since 1969 and a fitting tribute to the individual considered to be among the most influential developers of Richmond Professional Institute. The exhibit will be on view through October 5th.
6. Dr. Ackell reported that the University's fifth convocation honoring faculty will be held on October 16th at 3 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. Dr. Ackell noted that he will deliver the convocation address. This year's award recipients are Dr. Thomas V. McGovern, Associate Professor of Psychology, who will receive the Distinguished Teacher Award; Dr. David J. Smith, Professor of English, who will receive the Distinguished Scholar Award; Dr. Thomas O. Hall, Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies, who will receive the Distinguished Service Award; and Dr. Harold M. Maurer, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics, who will receive the University Award of Excellence.

Mrs. Bemiss reported that two resolutions were enclosed with the agenda honoring Dr. H. I. Willett and Senator Edward E. Willey. On motion made and seconded, the following resolutions were adopted:

Edward Eugene Willey

1910-1986

Whereas, Virginia Commonwealth University and the people throughout the Commonwealth lost a valued friend when Senator Willey died Thursday, July 17, 1986, and;

Whereas, The Senator was an alumnus of the School of Pharmacy, Class of 1930, and during his career served his profession as President of the Virginia Pharmaceutical Association, his City of Richmond as Councilman, and his State as a Senator for thirty-four (34) years in the General Assembly of Virginia, and;

Whereas, during his tenure in the Senate, he was an outspoken advocate on many occasions in support of the University and other higher educational institutions, and;

Whereas, he received many honors during his lifetime including the establishment of The Edward E. Willey Scholarship at the University and Distinguished Alumnus Awards from the Pharmacy Division and The Medical College of Virginia Alumni Association of Virginia Commonwealth University, and;

Whereas, his record in public life was unblemished and his honesty, loyalty and integrity unmatched; therefore,

Be it resolved, that the Board of Visitors expresses its feeling of great loss in the death of Senator Willey and its deep appreciation for his life of service to the Commonwealth and to this University, and;

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to his widow and his two children and that a copy be made a permanent record of Virginia Commonwealth University.

Henry Irving Willett

1904-1986

Whereas, Henry I. Willett, better known as "Hi", served with distinction as a teacher, principal and administrator in the public schools of the Commonwealth, including four terms as superintendent of Richmond Public Schools; and,

Whereas, this period of service was during a time of dramatic growth, accompanied by the pressures that came with expansion of a system undergoing major change during the desegregation era; and,

Whereas, during the time that Hi Willett was superintendent of Richmond Public Schools, he was universally recognized as a strong and courageous administrator with a keen intellect, who gave the system the leadership it required; and,

Whereas, after his retirement, he joined Virginia Commonwealth University for a second career from 1969 to 1978, as professor, special assistant to the President, and finally as Acting President in 1977, and again demonstrated his special talents, which resulted in the University's awarding him the coveted Wayne Medal in 1978; and,

Whereas, after leaving Virginia Commonwealth University in 1978, he continued to be active with the State Telecommunications Board, which he served as chairman, and with his church, where he maintained a strong commitment throughout his life; therefore,

Be it resolved, that the Board of Visitors recognizes with grateful appreciation Hi Willett's service to education generally and to Virginia Commonwealth University specifically, and that a suitably prepared copy of this resolution be sent to his widow and to his two sons.

Mrs. Bemiss reported on behalf of the Executive Committee which met on August 14, 1986. She stated that the Committee reviewed, for information, the 1985-86 Budget Report, the Management Practices Document and heard the announcement concerning the VCU campaign. Action on the 1986-88 Institutional Priorities Document was deferred. The Committee approved the 1987 Legislative Requests as outlined in the minutes and the attachment. These requests were also reviewed by the Property Committee. On motion made and seconded, the Report of the Executive Committee was accepted, the 1987 Legislative Requests approved, and the Minutes of a Meeting held on August 14, 1986, also were approved.

Mrs. Abady reported on behalf of the Academic Policy Committee. She stated that the Committee had received, for information, a report on enrollment. It was noted that the mean combined SAT scores for regularly admitted new freshmen enrolling for the fall 1986 semester increased seven percentage points, from 967 to 974. It was noted that the Special Services students', a group of 200 to 300 students who do not qualify through the normal admission process, SAT scores are not included in these figures. The SAT range for VCU students is 800 to 1200. While the freshman class was capped at 1800 and potential students were wait-listed, transfer students were down. The master's and doctoral pools were up.

Mrs. Abady also reported that the Committee received a report from Dr. McGovern on the project he is heading on the Undergraduate Experience. This project received one of the largest SCHEV Awards for Excellence grants and the process is underway.

The Committee also reviewed the Committee's work plan for the coming year and will be having additional discussions on this. On motion made and seconded, the Report of the Academic Policy Committee was accepted.

Mr. Morris reported for the Advancement Committee. He stated that Steve Harvey, Director of Alumni Activities, reported on the successful alumni organizational meeting in Abingdon. Similar meetings are being planned for Northern Virginia, Tidewater and Roanoke. The process of updating and organizing alumni files continues and while it is much better, there is still work to be done.

Mr. Morris stated that Celia Barnes, Director of University Relations, reported on the activities of marketing for the campaign and the program underway to improve the image of MCVH including the initiation of a Guest Relations Program. One of the many items being considered is a program between the School of the Arts and the Hospital to have exhibits, concerts, etc. in the Hospital's lobby. On motion made and seconded, the Report of the Advancement Committee was accepted and the Minutes of a Meeting held on August 14, 1986, were approved.

Mrs. Whittemore stated that the Audit Committee's report would be given in executive session.

Mr. Berry reported for the Hospital Committee. He stated that a Joint Conference Committee had been formed and two members of the Board's Hospital Committee would serve on it along with members of the Hospital staff. The purpose of this Committee will be to review in detail physician privileges and medical audits. The Chief of Staff, Dr. Warren W. Koontz, Jr., will chair this Committee and the Board's representatives will be Dr. Holland and Mrs. Abady.

Mr. Berry stated that the Committee received the initial report of the Clinical Planning Committee and reviewed the major goals contained within. The Committee also received the report of the Hospital's Director, Mr. Carl Fischer. He stated that the most significant items in this report were that the Hospital's cash balance has increased by \$10 million and the patient accounts receivable are down \$20 million or 41 percent. Those patient accounts receivable over 180 days are down from \$40 million to \$12 million which is a very significant improvement over this time last year. Liabilities are also down by 45 percent. The Hospital is remaining in compliance with the Prompt Pay legislation and North Hospital will be operational by November, 1986. On motion made and seconded, the Report of the Hospital Committee was accepted.

Mr. Wurtzel reported for the Property Committee. He stated that the Committee had approved a contract with Bell Atlanticom, ratified the President's letter of commitment with the Virginia College Building Authority, and approved the 1987 Capital Budget Requests. He stated that the Property Committee had two one-half day meetings planned for late September to review the Franklin Street Corridor proposal and the MCV Campus Master Site Plan update. On motion made and seconded, the Report of the Property Committee was accepted and the Minutes of a Meeting held on August 1, 1986, were approved.

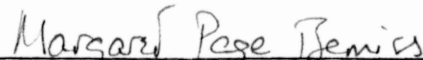
Mr. Gregory reported that the Student Affairs Committee would be meeting on October 7, 1986, at 7:30 a.m. in the University Meeting Center.

On motion made and seconded, the Board convened into executive session to discuss certain personnel matters involving the performance of

identifiable employees or faculty of VCU, and to discuss the evaluation of performance of departments or schools of VCU where such matters regarding such individuals might be affected by such evaluation, and to protect the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business, and to discuss the investing of public funds, and to discuss legal matters and pending litigation with its attorney, and to discuss matters relating to gifts, bequests, and fund-raising activities, and to discuss special awards as authorized by Section 2.1-344 a(1), a(3), a(5), a(6), a(7) and a(8) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

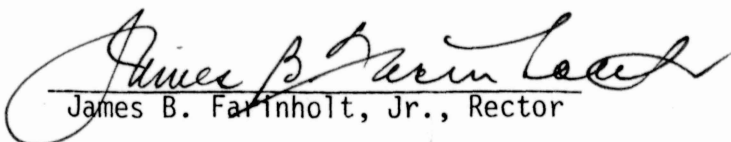
Following executive session, on motion made and seconded, the Board approved endowing a Chair in the School of Social Work in honor of Mr. Samuel Wurtzel, accepted the Executive Session Committee Reports, accepted the Report of the President, accepted the Report of the Legal Advisor, approved Faculty Appointments and Changes in Status, approved Full Departmental and Consultative Privileges, accepted the Report of Gifts and accepted the Report of the Special Awards Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.



Margaret Bemiss, Secretary

Approved:


James B. Farinholt, Jr., Rector