To Members of the University Community,

The Board of Visitors shares in the profound mourning of the loss of three of our students, Devin Chandler, Lavel Davis Jr., and D'Sean Perry, and prays for a full recovery for the two students injured in the senseless act of violence Sunday evening. We are hearing and reading the stories and remembrances of friends, family, fellow students, and team members, and they are heartwarming. Some of our members know the tragedy of losing a child or a sibling at a young age—the pain dulls over time but will always be with us because each young person is a precious life that deserves to have the opportunity to fulfill their destiny. The families and friends of those who died as well as those who were injured need our comfort and assistance, and we support the University’s efforts to help in any way we can.

The Board of Visitors held an emergency meeting yesterday and we have been fully briefed on all known aspects of the violence. We thank President Jim Ryan, Chief Operating Officer J.J. Davis, Provost Ian Baucom, University Police Chief Tim Longo, Athletics Director Carla Williams, Coach Tony Elliott, Dr. Craig Kent and our medical staff, as well as the many other individuals who have worked around the clock throughout this difficult time.

While the senseless loss of life of our beloved students will leave an indelible mark on all of us, our ability to come together as a community to show our love and support for these families and for each other is necessary to begin the healing process. These students need to be honored, remembered, and celebrated for the fine outstanding men they were.

Again, our hearts go out to the many people whose lives were touched by Devin, Lavel, and D'Sean and most especially to their families and friends.

Sincerely,

Whittington W. Clement
Rector