



THE RECTOR AND VISITORS OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

February 17, 2021

The Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia held an electronic meeting at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 for a workshop and to hear public comment on the proposal for tuition and fee increases for academic year 2021-2022. James B. Murray Jr., Rector, presided.

Participants were Whittington W. Clement, Robert M. Blue, Mark T. Bowles, L.D. Britt, M.D., Frank M. Conner III, Elizabeth M. Cranwell, Thomas A. DePasquale, Barbara J. Fried, Robert D. Hardie, Babur B. Lateef, M.D., C. Evans Poston Jr., James V. Reyes, and Mazzen Shalaby.

Also present were M. Elizabeth Magill, Jennifer Wagner Davis, Huda Aden, William Ashby, Melody S. Bianchetto, Sim Ewing, Adam Daniel, Susan G. Harris, Timothy J. Heaphy, Donna P. Henry, Megan K. Lowe, and Debra D. Rinker.

Speakers for the public comment session were Ella Tynch, Levi Schult, Allison Buehler, Bianka Warrick, Gray Webbert, Hannah Koizumi, Anna Calhoun, Colette McCord-Snook, Madeleine Poche, Anthony Guy Lopez, Thomas Phillips, Hania Abboud, Maille Bowerman, Jacob Wartel, V. Layne Berry, Grace Gyamfi, and Madison Perry.

Educational Workshop

Rector Murray opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. He said the University has held similar meetings over the past few years to solicit input on tuition and fees decisions. One of the most important issues the Board of Visitors considers every year is setting tuition. He introduced the 13 other members of the Board who attended the meeting.

Mr. Murray began the workshop portion of the meeting on the considerations that go into determining the level of tuition and fees. He acknowledged that 2020 was a particularly tough year for students, parents, and the administration of the University – a psychologically and financially troubling year. Providing online classes has been costly, but probably most costly to the university is the lost revenue, with many areas of the University that support the educational enterprise shut down. He said the biggest cost is personnel. To avoid extensive layoffs the University instituted a hiring freeze and faculty and staff did not receive raises. Many employees took pay cuts. He commended leadership for keeping the University on a solid financial footing and said the Board was grateful for the tremendous amount of work that has gone into keeping the university operating and solvent.

Mr. Murray said the presenters would address plans for next year and the costs associated with those plans. Board members are committed to keeping tuition increases at a minimum and using every other source of revenue whenever and wherever they can; tuition is the last lever they pull. He introduced the workshop presenters and said the public comment would follow. He outlined the rules for public comment. He asked that anyone who wanted to have their comments on the public record should submit them in writing at the email address in the notice of the meeting. He assured participants that the Board will read everything that is submitted. Mr. Murray then asked Ms. Magill, Executive Vice President and Provost, to present.

Ms. Magill spoke about the overall strategic direction of the school and the values the administration thinks about as they work on issues related to tuition. She outlined the strategic goals of the 2030 Plan and said the fundamental purpose of their budget and financial planning is about advancing the strategic objectives of the University. Any budget worth its salt balances priorities and tradeoffs and strategic choices to move the institution in a particular direction. The 2030 Plan envisions a university that is both great and good, that is academically excellent, operating at the highest levels of research, accessible and affordable education, a commitment to public service, as well as a University that is thinking about excellence in the service of doing good for the wider world. Getting there means evaluating all of the university's resources and its cost levers and building a plan that paves the way. In the end, all of the sources of funds available to the University play a role. Tuition is an important component of that plan. It is also one that directly affects students and families.

Ms. Magill said a key source of strength for the university and one of the foundations of the strategic plan is the outstanding value proposition that the University represents: immensely talented students and faculty, a world-class education that is recognized in the country and in the world for its strength and its breadth, and one of the top graduation rates in the country. Graduates have high job placement rates and are very competitive for admission to the best graduate and professional schools if they choose that for their future. She said UVA is one of two public universities that meets 100% of the students' demonstrated financial need, which is a core value of the institution.

Ms. Magill said the University always strives to minimize the tuition increases. The Board's published guidelines call for educational inflation plus 1%, which this year would be a total of 3.1%. She emphasized that for any student on financial aid, any increase in tuition would be covered by an increase in aid, assuming that the student's eligibility remains unchanged.

Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Jennifer Davis explained UVA's commitment to providing 100% of need for undergraduates. For in-state Virginia families with incomes under or equal to \$30,000, the University provides grants that cover tuition, fees, room, and board. Virginia families with incomes under \$80,000 receive grants

totaling tuition and fees. Over the past 30 years, the responsibility of funding higher education has shifted from the taxpayer, i.e. the state, to students and families. Over the same period of time, this combined investment from students and from the state, if adjusted for inflation, is less than what was appropriated in 1990-1991. In-state funding of undergraduate tuition has not kept pace so now there is a deficit of about \$3,600 per student. This means is that the University is working with fewer resources. Approximately 42 cents on every dollar are allocated directly to fund faculty salaries and benefits. Thirty-five cents of each dollar covers academic support such as technology, advising, and library support. Eight cents of each dollar provide financial support for graduate teaching assistants. Five cents of each dollar are used to maintain academic space. The last 10 cents support general administration.

Ms. Davis said challenges include maintaining academic quality but also affordability and access. The public notice of a tuition increase stated the increase would be between 0 and 3.1%. The 3.1% represents the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) plus 1%, which is in the six-year state-approved plan. One percent roughly generates about \$3.2M and 3.1% generates \$9.9M. Increases this year besides the pandemic costs include merit compensation increases. The General Assembly has proposed between 3.0% and 3.5% but so far has not appropriated the funds to fully cover this increase. The cost to UVA is between \$33M and \$38M. Faculty and staff have stepped up in incredible ways; last year there was no compensation increase and, in some cases, pay cuts. In addition, utility prices are going up with an average increase of 5.7% in this coming year. These are in addition to the increased costs related to the pandemic which were approximately \$142M in costs and lost revenue this year. There will be some additional expenses in fiscal year 2022.

Ms. Davis said they are also proposing increasing required fees by up to \$114. The key component of this increase is for Student Health: \$75 of the \$114. There are also increased costs related to Newcomb Hall and recreational facilities.

Chancellor Donna Henry gave an overview of the College at Wise. The value proposition revolves around service to students in the Commonwealth and in the Appalachian region. The College at Wise serves students from lower socioeconomic areas who might not have access to affordable higher education and they were awarded a “most bang for the buck” designation from *Washington Monthly* magazine. The College at Wise’s software engineering program is recognized nationally for its accessibility to students and is one of the best programs for students to go on and do good work, which is needed in the Commonwealth and across the country.

Chancellor Henry said their goal is to provide one-on-one attention to students, giving them access to faculty who can help them be successful and move forward in the world and so keeping tuition low is important. They have a program that provides for students who come from families making \$40,000 or less that covers all tuition and fees.

Vice Chancellor Sim Ewing said the College at Wise tuition rates are 22.8% below the average cost for tuition and fees. This has been a directive since the college was founded in 1954—always focused on accessibility. The "Within Reach" program is having great success for Virginia students. He said the College at Wise is looking at between 0 and 3% in tuition increases this year. Each percent costs the students about \$59. Each percentage increase in fees costs the student about \$50. Combined together, a 3% increase would be \$325, which would still keep the College at Wise the most affordable in the Commonwealth. The largest component of auxiliary fees goes to support intercollegiate athletes because they do not have television money and distributions. The fee also allows the continuation of the iPad initiative. Other items include the student health clinic and student facilities and services such as student mental health and student affairs, intramurals, and recreation.

Public Comment

Mr. Murray asked Ms. Harris to announce each speaker. There were 17 speakers, 16 of whom are current UVA undergraduates. The 17th is an alumnus.

The comments of each of the speakers are summarized below.

1. Ella Tynch: Second-year in Arts and Sciences studying government and potentially double majoring in elementary education. She expressed concern about the burden on her family of paying for college tuition. Her parents pulled money from her sister's college fund to cover her expenses. She has incurred thousands of dollars of debt and will go into public education which is not a lucrative field. She works three jobs. She is currently in North Carolina as a caregiver for her great aunt who is suffering from dementia. She had big dreams when entering UVA of joining different clubs, joining student government, and getting involved in things that suit her interests, but she has had to work instead. Families are also working with less. Any increase is a big increase on the individual level.
2. Levi Shult: Fourth-year student from Charlottesville. He asked that UVA keep tuition at the current level because students, especially low income and first generation, cannot afford an increase. Many students have lost their jobs because of the pandemic. UVA will be judged by those most directly affected. He was able to find work as a delivery person because he has a car, but most students do not have a car.
3. Allison Bueller: She is on the Student Council Legislative Affairs Committee and a second-year in the College of Arts & Sciences studying French. She is from South Carolina and so out-of-state. She is concerned about increasing the amount of loans she must take out because her father was diagnosed with brain cancer six years ago and the family has medical debt. Her sister has just recently started attending a graduate program. A tuition freeze would temporarily ease the burden of college on their finances while her mother searches for another job.

4. Bianka Warrick: A current student at UVA and vice chair of the Legislative Affairs Committee. She cited statistics from a Student Council survey: 31.7% of the middle-class student survey participants said that the pandemic would affect their ability to pay tuition for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 academic years, and 41.7% said maybe. Additionally, 14.5% of the middle-class survey participants said that the pandemic would impact their enrollment at UVA, and 32.4% answered maybe. She asked that UVA not raise tuition this year.

5. Gray Webbert: Undergraduate Engineering student. She said other universities have chosen to freeze tuition and UVA should do the same. An increase of 3.1% for an Engineering student is \$668. Her mother has been out of work since the quarantine. She is paying for college herself with the help of scholarship money. She said 42% of UVA students report that they or their families struggle to pay tuition this year and 69% fear they would have to pay more for tuition next year.

6. Hannah Koizumi: A fourth-year in the Batten School and a chair of the Student Council Legislative Affairs Committee. She said Student Council did surveys to find the financial need of students in the face of the pandemic: 68% of Hispanic or Latinx students reported that their family faced difficulty paying tuition this year; 64% of Black or African-American students reported the same. Of the Asian or Asian-American students, 58% reported the same. Greek rush was allowed to happen, putting all in danger – Greek life is a majority White institution, and many students are losing jobs because of the shutdown put in place as of yesterday. She said she knows not all of this falls within the jurisdiction of the Board of Visitors, however, the Board can control tuition increases.

7. Anna Calhoun: A second-year on the Student Council Legislative Affairs Committee. She cited the same statistics as reported above. UVA has a great deal of resources and more of an ability to “bounce back” from the pandemic than households.

8. Colette McCord Snook: A third-year undergraduate studying Kinesiology and Spanish. She said throughout the course of the pandemic, it has been made abundantly clear that the university values financial gain over the health and well-being of students and staff and the greater community. While this does not come as a surprise with the extent to which higher education is entrenched within our capitalist society and founded on inaccessibility, it is disappointing and disgusting nonetheless. Currently, the long-term pool is at \$9.9B and the short term is around \$211.4M, although it continues to increase year after year. Given the precedent that has been set with regards to increasing the endowment distribution in times of need and the increase in endowment funds that have occurred, a tuition hike does not appear to be necessary. The University can use other sources of revenue and does not need to raise tuition. The tuition and cost of higher education is burdensome so the university should not use that unequitable position as a point of reference.

9. Anthony Guy Lopez: An American Indian and an alumnus who graduated in 2009. He said UVA offers nothing to American Indians—no degree program or point of contact within UVA. It's rare that there are any American Indian faculty. They have asked the president to create a commission or a committee or an advisory board that would advise on policy matters regarding American Indians.
10. Madeleine Poche: A third-year at UVA. She said she has good financial aid and her parents' employment was not affected by the pandemic. That is not typical, and the Board should freeze tuition because many students and families are struggling.
11. Thomas Phillips. A first-year student on the Student Council Legislative Affairs Committee. More statistics from the survey: 64.9% of first-generation or low-income students reported that they or their families faced financial difficulties paying tuition this year. This is 19.1% higher than the percentage of non-first generation and low-income students asked the same question. Of the first generation or low-income students, 78.5% reported that COVID-19 has forced them to significantly change their spending. This is 19.3% higher than the percentage of non-first generation and low-income students asked the same question. He said they fully appreciate the circumstances in which the Board is working, and this is a very difficult situation and tough choices have to be made. The purpose of speaking is not to badger members of the Board but to provide information. He said they hope the University will freeze tuition.
12. Hania Abboud: A third-year undergraduate student in Civil Engineering. She supports a tuition freeze until 2023. Several students she knows are struggling to meet their basic needs and to find jobs or to keep their current jobs. The students who usually work over the summer and winter breaks to save up for the school year were either out of work this year or had reduced hours. This will only continue in the coming months with the pandemic. Increasing tuition only exacerbates the students' financial situations. She did not sign up for online education and was hoping to get in-person lab experience and grow her critical thinking skills through hands on learning and become a well-rounded technical engineer. She is unable to access resources that she is paying for due to the pandemic and COVID restrictions. She is not getting the training she needs in order to succeed as an engineer.
13. Maille Bowerman: A first-year in the College of Arts & Sciences. Increasing tuition will harm students financially and mentally. It is asking students to take out even more loans that will keep them in debt for years to come and postpone potential graduate plans, postpone owning houses and starting adult lives and families because they have to pay off these loans. Students face restricted social gatherings and online classes and the increasingly stressful state of global affairs which all are contributing to feelings of isolation, loneliness, anxiety, depression, and even trauma. Students who have to work multiple jobs to pay off their tuition bills and pay off loans will stress more about this debt

and they will be forced to devote less and less time to their academics. It is particularly unconscionable considering the size of this University's endowment.

14. Jacob Wartel: Tuition and the coronavirus spike are related. One of his roommates works multiple jobs, one in a grocery store, because while tuition went up last year, his financial aid did not. At the end of January, he got COVID, not because he was irresponsible but because he was a frontline worker providing for the community. His roommate had symptoms and the other roommates, including himself, contracted COVID. There is a crisis and UVA should be lowering tuition or at the very least committing to years of tuition freezes like other peer institutions have done.

15. V. Lane Berry: A fourth-year undergraduate student studying Computer Science and linguistics. She read the UVA mission statement and said UVA's status as a public university and the commitment to accessibility for students of all backgrounds is what she loves most about the school. She asked the Board to reaffirm their universal dedication to excellence and affordable access and show that their support of a collaborative diverse community truly is unwavering. The partially virtual university has not afforded her the same quality of education that she was receiving beforehand. Since her first year, she has taken 18 to 19 credits a semester, as well as working as a teaching assistant and doing research. She has to cut back and drop her research project this year. She has friends who have dropped majors or minors and had to go to work to support their families. Others had to move home without reliable internet service. They are all learning less. With a tuition raise, some students will have to leave UVA and others will have to take on additional jobs.

16. Grace Gyamfi: A fourth-year student. She said she has been on financial aid for some time and she is grateful, but many other students are struggling to pay tuition. Some must make choices about whether to go to school or to take care of their families. The Board has a choice as to whether or not student voices matter.

17. Madison Perry: A third-year in the College of Arts and Sciences studying Economics and Mathematics. She worked two jobs in the summer because her restaurant job took a hit, much like so many others, due to the pandemic. She spoke about her father being a veterinarian without paid sick leave and he had a sinus infection that caused him to be out of work for a week and a half. They thought it was coronavirus and that was difficult for her family. Over the past year, she has taken out more in private loans than ever before. If tuition is the last lever that the board wants to pull, then why has tuition gone up every year for decades now? UVA has taken austerity measures to recoup the losses in housing and dining and the costs associated with online learning. She is not getting the full value of her tuition right now.

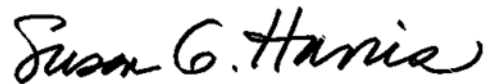
Rector Murray thanked the speakers and assured them the Board is listening and is aware of the hardships that families face. The University is doing all they can to manage costs. He said they would not take any action on tuition and fees until March 5 and the

decision will be affected by what the General Assembly does with regard to appropriating money for employee compensation increases. The Board awaits word from the General Assembly and the Governor on a final budget.

Mr. Murray encouraged those who would like to have their comments in the formal record to submit them in writing to respond_uva_tuition@virginia. Written comments received through February 24, 2021 are appended to these minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan G. Harris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan G. Harris
Secretary

SGH:ddr

Attachment: Written Comments Spreadsheet

These minutes have been posted to the University of Virginia Board of Visitors website.
<http://bov.virginia.edu/public-minutes>

FI-Admin Services T&F Public Comment

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Case Record Type equals FIN Case

Detail equals Tuition and Fees Public Comment

Date/Time Opened	Case Number	Contact Name	Contact: Email	Subject	Description
2/4/2021 8:39 AM	00508745	Leslie Hellerman	lesliehellerman@gmail.com	Public comment on Tuition and Fees for 2021-2022	<p>I would like to submit comments ahead of the Feb 17 Tuition and Fees public comment period.</p> <p>Name: Leslie Hellerman Contact information: lesliehellerman@gmail.com<mailto:lesliehellerman@gmail.com>, 434-760-2001 Affiliation with the University: parent of a rising 3rd year student, employee at UVA Family Medicine</p> <p>Comment: During this time of severe economic hardship for families, I request that the proposed Undergraduate Degree-seeking Tuition and Educational & General Fees for the 2021-2022 school year be limited to <1%. Many families have had reduced salaries, been furloughed (myself included), or lost jobs and their businesses altogether. I appreciate that the University faces unprecedented financial challenges. These are difficult times for everyone, including institutions. However, there are other resources from which the University can pull--not families or students.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my comments.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Leslie Hellerman Jeff Hellerman</p>
2/5/2021 7:05 AM	00509253	Leanna Wenderoth	thewenderothfamily@gmail.com	Tuition increase punishes the middle class	<p>I just read you are considering a tuition increase.</p> <p>At a time of a pandemic, when many are suffering, and have already obligated themselves and their kids to an education at the University, I implore you to consider keeping tuition the same, or ideally(given the reduced value - sorry, yes, value has been reduced this year!) reduce the cost of tuition to reflect a number of university provisions.</p> <p>If you increased tuition, much like everything in our world, the lowest and top percentage wage earners are minimally impacted. But the middle class cannot easily recover at this point. Your increase in an already high amount for out of state middle class families would be devastating. Perhaps you are only considering an increase to in state? But that inequity is also hard to swallow. The relative unequal distribution of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds that already exists would actually be more negatively impacted. As a university alum with a student there, I have been proud to see how you have begun to pay attention to increased diversity and equity. A move to increase tuition would be a slap to that movement since you will be further pushing those who bring more than the "rich, white, in state" students out of the university.</p> <p>Having heard my first year discuss her experiences this year, I think you need to make sure the minority of out of state, black, middle class students can still attend- and I believe we are the ones who will disproportionately leave or be discouraged with an increase in tuition.</p> <p>Is the increase worth the loss of diversity when you continue to need this?</p> <p>Please think of the repercussions.</p> <p>Regards, Leanna Herman Wenderoth CLAS '93</p>
2/6/2021 2:24 PM	00509795	Laurie Twomey	lauri2me@gmail.com	BOV Meeting Considering Tuition/Fee Increase	<p>To the Women and Men serving on the UVA Board of Visitors, President Ryan and all interested parties:</p> <p>A recent article indicated the BOV would be convening to consider tuition/fee increases for the 2021-2022 school year between 0%-3% and asked for input by current stakeholders. As a parent of an undergraduate Third Year, allow me to give voice to this issue.</p> <p>I am writing to ask you, strike that, beg you to FREEZE tuition for the next school year.</p> <p>While no doubt this pandemic has wreaked havoc on UVA's budget, the people who should be least expected to right that ship are the current students who have suffered so greatly under the conditions set out by the pandemic. Despite your valiant efforts to try to offer a meaningful experience this past year, it's well documented in national publications the adverse impacts these restrictions and mitigation measures have had on our young people's mental health, financial solvency, future employment prospects, quality of virtual academic education, to name a few.</p> <p>It's unconscionable to make those who have already paid such a heavy price, in every imaginable way, foot this bill. Please find another way, or kick the can down the road for those who get the full benefit of attending the University under conditions that have returned to some semblance of normal.</p> <p>Respectfully, Lauri Twomey</p>
2/12/2021 12:12 PM	00512995	Trevor Waddell	tlw5y@uvawise.edu	Trevor Waddell (tlw5y@uvawise.edu) UVA-Wise student. Comments regarding tuition and fee increases.	<p>I am strongly against the idea of our education becoming more expensive in any way. I am aware that over time expenses can increase but as college students many of us are struggling just to avoid abject poverty and are accumulating debt simply to attend this institution. I feel it would be wiser to look to alternative solutions for financial issues such as trying to reduce costs perhaps by cutting back on things that are not essential for the college. Furthermore it could be beneficial to attempt to gather funds from other sources since I am sure that there a number of options available to a respectable public institution.</p>

2/15/2021 12:40 PM	00513625	Christopher G O'Neill	cgo6cc@virginia.edu	Regarding the proposed tuition increase	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I'm writing to you concerned about the proposed tuition increase. As the pandemic is still currently happening (and is arguably worse than ever) and many students and their families are dealing with the financial ramifications of that, it's deeply inconsiderate of the needs of students to raise tuition further right now, especially when it's already as high as it is. Especially with the problem of most classes being done online, the quality of education is sufficiently impaired by virtue of the lack of in-person resources that an increase in tuition is unjustified.</p> <p>Speaking from my own experience as an out-of-state student in my last semester as an undergrad, finances were absolutely a consideration when I chose where to go for college, and had UVA been as expensive then as it is now, I would not have chosen to come here. In raising tuition, you run the risk of pricing out qualified students who want to do good by the university and would be assets to the community but can't or won't take the financial risk of coming here. With every successive increase in tuition, that risk grows.</p> <p>We all want UVA to be great, but I am concerned that the way we are going about that involves playing at being a private university. We can be a great university while also being a more-than-nominally-public university, and to that end, financial accessibility needs to be one of UVA's priorities - not just in new gestures of financial aid that aren't all that different from what we already do, actual accessibility.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my comments; I want the University to be its best, and to that end, it needs to be responsive to the needs of the students. For that reason, the proposed tuition increases should not go forward at the very least until the pandemic is past us.</p> <p>Sincerely, Christopher O'Neill UVA College of Arts and Sciences, Class of 2021 B.A. Biology, B.A. Music (240) 994-5023 cgo6cc@virginia.edu</p>
2/15/2021 12:38 PM	00513622	Sabrina Fuller	sf8ez@virginia.edu	Please don't increase tuition	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a 4th year, and due to health issues and the pandemic--I've had to delay my graduation for a semester. So I am already paying more than I wanted for school with that extra semester and every little bit that tuition is not increased will help offset that. Due to Covid, my family has taken on extra financial responsibilities to take care of my grandparents as well as not being able to supplement their income that they would be doing if not for Covid. Not to mention my dad has already received a pay-cut due to covid.</p> <p>So this increase would only make things more challenging for us.</p> <p>Thanks for taking your time to read this,</p> <p>Sabrina Fuller UVA SEAS CS 2021 they/she</p>
2/15/2021 1:18 PM	00513659	Leah M Erwin	lme4xv@virginia.edu	Written comments concerning tuition increase	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>I am writing to express strong disappointment regarding the proposal to increase undergraduate tuition within a range of up to 3.1%. I will be brief to save space for those comments that will actually be spoken at the meeting. We are in the middle of a pandemic, and undergraduate tuition increases at this point in time will create largely disparate effects. They will primarily harm student communities of color and low-income students. Additionally, the University of Virginia has a 9.6 billion dollar endowment. There can be no revenue shortage from the pandemic itself that cannot be mitigated using other funds that do not burden our students any more during what has been an incredibly difficult time financially, academically, and mentally. I would request that the board have some compassion for their students and recognize the situation that they are in, and find other methods of securing any revenue increases they feel they need to keep up with operating costs as the general undergraduate tuition is already one of the highest for a state institution in the country.</p> <p>Leah Erwin University of Virginia Class of 2021 Public Policy & Leadership</p>
2/15/2021 2:08 PM	00513699	Sophie O Beckman	sb9uxm@virginia.edu	STOP tuition hikes	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a third year undergraduate student writing to express my disapproval of the consideration to raise tuition in a PANDEMIC. Next year's classes are not set in stone, so there is no reliability that all the services of a full education will be provided as they were before the pandemic started. Frankly, it is very insensitive to consider hiking tuition when many students and parents have lost jobs due to the pandemic and shows the lack of sympathy and awareness the school has to its supporters. Again, I am here to express my objection to raising tuition for the coming year.</p> <p>Respectfully, Sophie Beckman CLAS 22</p>

2/16/2021 12:17 PM	00514130	Zoe Cam Thi Pham	zcp7yd@virginia.edu	Feb 17 BOV Meeting: Written Comment - Tuition Freeze NOW	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Zoe Pham, email address zcp7yd@virginia.edu<mailto:zcp7yd@virginia.edu>, phone number 832-283-7790, and I am a 3rd-year undergraduate student studying Computer Science in the College, a student worker teaching assistant, and a Posse scholar at the University of Virginia. I would like to submit a written comment for the Feb 17 Board of Visitor's meeting tomorrow below as I cannot attend in person:</p> <p>The University of Virginia has one of the largest endowments in the country, and yet hasn't taken substantial action to ease the financial burden COVID-19 has placed on ALL students, families, workers, and the Charlottesville community. COVID-19 has caused a financial crisis where businesses failed and millions of jobs were lost to workers needing to support themselves and their families. This financial crisis has disproportionately impacted Black and Brown communities for the worse, and if the University of Virginia wants to uphold Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, financial support should follow in holistic racial equity.</p> <p>I myself am a Posse scholar, one of among 70+ students on Grounds from Houston, Texas. Posse is a nonprofit organization awarding merit-based full-tuition scholarships to groups of student leaders who have already made deep impacts and connections here. Posse has partnered with the University of Virginia for 7 years to increase access to a fantastic education for those who have historically been underserved, and some of my Posse mates must still work multiple jobs just to make ends meet, despite financial support from the program. Many Posse scholars like me come from diverse backgrounds, and are here because of the scholarship. Posse's ease of diverse students' financial strains has allowed UVA to become more diverse, the access to education more equitable, and has included Black and Brown students that admission efforts may have not reached. While we do not have to 'worry' about tuition, we are put in a privileged position to understand how this ease of financial burden has allowed us to excel, focus on our academics, and improve Grounds. I understand that increasing tuition will eliminate the equitable access to education and will prohibit including diverse students on grounds to participate in a fulfilling college experience. I demand a tuition freeze in order to uphold these values UVA has proclaimed, rather than be performative.</p> <p>YDSA at UVA's survey revealed increasing concern about covering financial obligations, including rent. I and many other students struggling with paying for reduced University services because of COVID-19 cannot be expected to pay full price for these services, let alone increased tuition. With an over \$9 billion endowment that has grown even during the current economic crisis, UVA can afford to freeze tuition at the 2019-2020 rate. Endowments are meant to provide long-term financial security for universities, especially during crisis years such as these when other sources of revenue may not be adequate. We demand the endowment be used for this purpose, rather than the University further indebting students who will be graduating into a recession and laying off workers during an economic crisis and deadly pandemic. UVA has the option of either increasing tuition at the detriment of its students and workers or using its endowment to provide for the entire university community. We demand that UVA not pass more financial burden onto us.</p> <p>Other public universities in Virginia have frozen tuition for the 2020-2021 year. They include Virginia Tech, Radford, JMU, and William and Mary. At this point a</p>
2/16/2021 9:11 PM	00514426	Lyla Hahn Ward	lhwh4qf@virginia.edu	Support for Tuition Freeze	<p>Dear Board,</p> <p>I'm writing to express my support for a tuition freeze. The pandemic has not significantly affected my family's income, but I support the freeze in solidarity with all my classmates and friends who have faced financial hardship due to the pandemic. Raising tuition every year is an injustice to students and their families even during times of greater stability--to raise tuition during a nationwide economic depression would be an act of violence and total disregard for the Black and brown students at UVA, as Black and brown people have faced the greatest devastation due to Coronavirus.</p> <p>Sincerely, Lyla Ward</p>
2/17/2021 9:16 AM	00514501	Rob Robins	rob.robins@baydiesel.com	No tuition increase please	<p>I am writing to express my strong objection to any UVA tuition increase this year.</p> <p>I have a UVA student that is very frustrated with his first year at UVA. He has been essentially confined to his dorm room off and on throughout the year and paying full price tuition for a sub par educational and social experience. I can respect the fact that costs are increasing for UVA overall. The leadership of UVA needs to search out state and federal options for additional funding NOT a tuition increase.</p> <p>It is surprising and disappointing that UVA would even consider a tuition increase considering the economic challenges our families are facing and the limited University experience the students are dealing with on grounds this year.</p> <p>Please let me know if there are others I need to be reaching out to with my concerns.</p> <p>Thank you, Rob Robins</p>

2/17/2021 11:25 AM	00514631	Virginia L Berry	vlb9ae@virginia.edu	Board of Visitors Public Comment Section Transcript	<p>Hi, The following is a link to a transcript of the public comment I plan on presenting today, so that it can be included in the minutes and in any collection of public comments that you are maintaining. Looking forward to seeing you all soon! -Layne</p> <p>https://docs.google.com/document/d/1icbFnuWeV98tDTHKwhj-MVck3DGiWrjnAbBKWgHK9mc/edit?usp=sharing</p> <p>-- V Layne Berry Distinguished Major, Computer Science and Linguistics University of Virginia Class of 2021</p> <p>Hi! My name is Layne, I'm a fourth year undergraduate student studying Computer Science and Linguistics. Thank you all so much for allowing me to speak, it's an honor to be here with all of you. I'd like to begin by reading from the University of Virginia Mission Statement, which lists three defining characteristics of this institution: Our enduring commitment to a vibrant and unique residential learning environment marked by the free and collegial exchange of ideas; Our unwavering support of a collaborative, diverse community bound together by distinctive foundational values of honor, integrity, trust, and respect; Our universal dedication to excellence and affordable access. UVA's status as a public university, and commitment to accessibility for students from all backgrounds, is what I love most about this school. My time here has enabled me to meet and to learn from peers from all walks of life, and I am immensely grateful for that opportunity. Today, you are faced with a choice: you can take the easy route, and raise tuition in the middle of a pandemic, or you can reaffirm your "universal dedication to excellence and affordable access", and show that your support of a "collaborative, diverse community" truly is "unwavering". Attending the partially-virtual University for the past year has not afforded me the same quality of education that I was receiving beforehand. Since my first year, I have taken 18-19 credits a semester, in addition to working as a teaching assistant and doing research. This semester, I am in 12 credits and have had to drop my research project in order to keep up with them. I have friends who have gone part-time, and friends who have dropped one of their majors or minors. Some have had to take additional jobs to support their family through this recession. Others have had to move home, where they no longer have a quiet learning</p>
2/17/2021 12:32 PM	00514698			Tuition being raised	<p>Hi there, My name is Mike Hunt and I'm just curious how much you all make? How big is the endowment? How hard was Jim Ryan and the rest of the administrative body hit when you all "HAD" to make pay cuts? And please, don't tell me it's "unprofessional" to ask any of these questions. I think it's unprofessional to treat education like a business while the people up top line their fat little pockets and students struggle to pay exuberant fees.</p>
2/17/2021 12:48 PM	00514708	Gray Webbert	kittywebb1234567890@gmail.com	Public Tuition Increase Public Comment Script	<p>Name: Gray Webbert Here is my comment in words. Link: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ATqu6EeiuZwbxizyWkzrJg4G5ttQZAGMaQJvoMTM7U/edit?usp=sharing</p> <p>Sincerely, Gray Webbert Hello,</p> <p>My name is Gray, undergraduate student at UVA, and like many others I've come today to point out that other Public Universities in Virginia such as VCU, William +Mary, and JMU have chosen to freeze their tuition. If you increase tuition, you're actively choosing to increase the financial burden on your students despite our diverse circumstances.</p> <p>I'm an engineering student, so our tuition and fee rates among UVA's schools are one of the highest, just behind McIntire And Batten. Our current tuition, as provided from UVA as a first year Student is \$21,566. An increase in 3.1% would be an additional \$668 rounding down the cents. That amounts to \$22,234. \$668 doesn't seem like much, with financial aid, maybe it's even Cut in half to \$334 but that's still too much considering that other Public universities in VA and universities in other states are still freezing Their tuition because their students are already financially burdened As their families are out of work.</p> <p>People are still getting infected as we speak.</p>

2/18/2021 4:44 PM	00515331	Ella M Tynch	emt7pfu@virginia.edu	Public Comment Transcription	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Attached is a transcribed version of my comment from the Public Comment session on 2/17 regarding a tuition freeze. I would like for this comment to be entered into the public record.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Ella Tynch</p> <p>Hello members of the University community and members of the board,</p> <p>My name is Ella Tynch, and I am a second year in the College of Arts and Sciences studying Government and potentially double majoring in Elementary Education. I wanted to express some of my concerns about a potential increase in tuition.</p> <p>This year, my family has had to pull out money from my younger sister's college fund to help pay for my education. I'm already graduating with thousands dollars in debt to go into public education, which is not a lucrative field. While in Charlottesville, I work three jobs. I feel lucky to have these jobs because I know many other students have lost theirs, but two of my jobs put me at high risk for contracting COVID-19.</p> <p>I'm currently in North Carolina working as a caregiver for my great aunt who is suffering from dementia. I know that other UVA students like myself are suffering financially, mentally, and with their physical wellbeing as a result of this pandemic.</p> <p>Students cannot get involved in the University community if they are worried about their finances. I know this personally. I had big dreams of joining different clubs, joining Student government, and getting involved in various organizations that suit my interests, but I have been unable to do so because I have had to work 20-30 hours per week to afford my rent, utilities, groceries, etc.</p> <p>I know that a tuition increase does not seem like a big deal per student, but it is. The University has a moral obligation to freeze tuition, and follow in the</p>
2/17/2021 11:20 AM	00514626	Jing Luo	jl3mc@virginia.edu	Written Comment Re: Tuition Raise	<p>To the Board:</p> <p>My name is Crystal Jing Luo; I am a 4th year PhD candidate in the History department (GSAS). I am writing in support of demands for an undergraduate tuition freeze through 2023.</p> <p>I write as a former instructor and fellow member of the UVa community to further elevate survey findings by UVA's YDSA chapter that students and their families are increasingly struggling to pay rent and bills. I have spoken with dozens of undergraduates who have relied on CARES money and mutual aid to get by this past year, for whom a tuition increase would be devastating.</p> <p>The Board has itself announced that the endowment is doing well since the start of the pandemic. That money cannot be hoarded for a future rainy day. This is the rainy day. UVA can afford to freeze tuition for the two coming academic years. I echo demands that the University call upon its endowment, its donors, and the Commonwealth rather than further indebting students and their families. These are students who will be graduating into a recession and parents who are losing work during an economic crisis. As someone who will also graduate into a recession, I am constantly aware that at the same time, I will resume paying down my student debt from my undergraduate degree. Any policy UVA can adopt to lessen this financial burden, one which especially impacts lower income students and students of color, will further the mission of equity and racial justice the University has claimed to follow.</p> <p>It is particularly embarrassing that UVA has not frozen tuition when less financially well-off public universities in Virginia have done so already. Virginia Tech, Radford, JMU, and William and Mary have all frozen 2020-2021 tuition. The Board, at the very least, owes its students an explanation for why they must continue to pay more at a time when most working people have less.</p> <p>Sincerely, Crystal Jing Luo (she/her) PhD candidate, Corcoran Department of History Scholars Lab Praxis Fellow, 2020-2021 Jefferson Scholars Foundation Graduate Fellow, 2020-2022</p>
2/17/2021 1:38 PM	00514738	Anthony Lopez	agl9k@virginia.edu	Lopez remarks re tuition increase	<p>As a member of the UVA American Indian community and as the co-founder of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Initiative at UVA, I oppose any increase in tuition. UVA offers virtually no services or programs to American Indians. There are no degree programs in American Indian Studies. There are no official committees or advisory boards that represent our interests to the University. There is no official point of contact or responsibility designated by UVA as the liaison to American Indian nations or peoples.</p> <p>Our peer institutions like Michigan, Wisconsin, Washington, and many other higher educational institutions offer free tuition to citizens of federally recognized American Indian tribal nations.</p> <p>UVA should enact a policy which provides free tuition to all members of Virginia's seven federally recognized American Indian nations.</p> <p>At some point UVA must be led by a President and a Provost that will take the steps necessary to build good relations with American Indian peoples but that has not happened in over two hundred years of UVA's existence.</p> <p>Sincerely, Anthony Guy Lopez 3817 Tedrich Blvd Fairfax, VA 22031 434-409-3771</p>

2/18/2021 4:42 PM	00515329	Daniel Hong	deh3ayd@virginia.edu	In support of a tuition freeze	<p>Dear Board of Visitors,</p> <p>Hello, I'm Daniel Hong, a first-year student at UVA. Though I was unable to make the public comment session yesterday, I am writing in support of maintaining tuition at their current levels. I myself am lucky enough to be insulated from the effects of the pandemic, though there are still periods of insecurity and instability. My father has decent job security working at the NIH, but federal appropriations seasons always heightens my family's fears of him being dismissed due to lack of funding.</p> <p>A tuition freeze will ease the burden on myself and on many other students who are dealing with the challenges of this pandemic. At times, I have had to deal with spotty Internet connections, and my house place is a suboptimal location for online learning. I live in a fairly small apartment building which means that background noise is a constant. My bedroom is directly appended to the living room. Not having to worry about a greater financial burden would ease my already stressed life living in a pandemic, and it would do so for the thousands of students who are in one way or another adversely affected by it.</p> <p>I cannot say in good conscience that a tuition hike aligns with the university's values, especially when we are facing a global crisis that has already caused the suffering of millions in term of unemployment, death, and grieving and especially when the burden falls onto our most marginalized communities. Affordable education is a core value of this university, and I hope that the Board upholds such ideals in light of the economic destruction of COVID-19.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Daniel Hong</p>
2/18/2021 5:10 PM	00515346	Grace Owusu Gyamfi	gog5bs@virginia.edu	comment on the tuition increase	<p>To the Board of Visitors,</p> <p>Hello my name is Grace O. Gyamfi, and I'm a fourth-year student here at the University of Virginia, and I'm also from the Northern Virginia area; from a little city town place called Woodbridge.</p> <p>I guess I just thought it would be important to share that and to be completely transparent that after this semester I will no longer be a student of the University of Virginia. This tuition increase will not impact me the way that it will impact those who come after me. I'm saying this because I want to do what I feel like the university hasn't really been doing for us in the most communal way, I'm trying to look out for those who will benefit or see this in the coming generations. I want to help to give a voice to those that seem to have been forgotten.</p> <p>America has a long-standing history of setting precedents and then going back on the ones that don't benefit them, and I somehow feel that UVA has added to that narrative as well. We are in a pandemic and I knowHello my name is Grace O. Gyamfi, and I'm a fourth-year student here at the University of Virginia, and I'm also from the Northern Virginia area; from a little city town place called Woodbridge.</p> <p>I guess I just thought it would be important to share that and to be completely transparent that after this semester I will no longer be a student of the University of Virginia. This tuition increase will not impact me the way that it will impact those who come after me. I'm saying this because I want to do what I feel like the university hasn't really been doing for us in the most communal way, I'm trying to look out for those who will benefit or see this in the coming generations. I want to help to give a voice to those that seem to have been forgotten.</p> <p>America has a long-standing history of setting precedents and then going back on the ones that don't benefit them, and I somehow feel that UVA has added to that narrative as well. We are in a pandemic and I know it's very difficult for a lot of us to understand that, but we are in a pandemic.</p>
2/19/2021 12:02 PM	00515616	William Warren Craghead III	wwc5m@virginia.edu	FW: Comment on tuition	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am Warren Craghead, wrcraghead@gmail.com<mailto:wrcraghead@gmail.com>, 434-284-3127, I am a community member, UVA staff at the law school and am married to a UVA Health System employee who is also an alum.</p> <p>I want to encourage you to freeze tuition and not raise it or fees for the next year. The endowment has grown considerably and UVA can easily afford to not burden students who are already struggling any further.</p> <p>Thank you, Warren Craghead</p>

2/19/2021 12:02 PM	00515617	Sean Dudley	smd5dq@virginia.edu	FW: 2021-2022 Tuition Freeze	<p>To the Board of Visitors,</p> <p>The already high price of UVA has affected me mentally, emotionally, and even financially. Last summer, UVA cut my aid by thousands of dollars during a pandemic, thus leaving me to somehow find \$3,000 to cover what I owed just a week before school started. Luckily, they reversed most of this decision after I talked to people at the school and worked on the issue for days on end. Despite this, the decision to cut my aid during a pandemic was insane as I had been unable to work or earn money all summer long. I find it completely unimaginable that the tuition would then go up on students in the middle of a pandemic when the issues of labor, earning, and health are still at the forefront of concern for many students.</p> <p>This last year, 42% of UVA students reported that they or their family struggled to pay tuition. This struggle could rise to 70% if UVA raises the cost of tuition for the next academic year. In this survey, 31.7% of middle class students noted that they would likely struggle to pay tuition during the pandemic and 2021-2022 Academic Year. The pandemic is getting better, but it is not going anywhere. It will take time for people to get back to work, for the economy to recover, and for students and their families to be able to confidently cover the cost of tuition. I implore you to freeze tuition for students next year.</p> <p>-Sean M. Dudley (they/them)</p>
Total	Count	21			