



THE RECTOR AND VISITORS OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

December 7, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Ad Hoc Committee on Research:

Jeffrey C. Walker, Chair
L.D. Britt, M.D.
Thomas A. DePasquale
Maurice A. Jones
Babur B. Lateef, M.D.
Margaret F. Riley
Frank M. Conner III, Ex Officio

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

Robert M. Blue	Robert D. Hardie
Mark T. Bowles	John G. Macfarlane III
Whittington W. Clement	Tammy S. Murphy
Elizabeth M. Cranwell	James B. Murray Jr.
Barbara J. Fried	James V. Reyes
John A. Griffin	Bryanna F. Miller

FROM: Susan G. Harris

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Research on December 7, 2017

The Ad Hoc Committee on Research of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in open session, at 8:43 a.m. on Thursday, December 7, 2017, in the Board Room of the Rotunda. Jeffrey C. Walker, Chair, presided.

Present: Babur B. Lateef, M.D. and Margaret F. Riley

Absent: Frank M. Conner III, L.D. Britt, M.D., Thomas A. DePasquale, and Maurice A. Jones

John A. Griffin and Tammy S. Murphy were also present.

Present as well were Teresa A. Sullivan, Richard P. Shannon, M.D., Melody S. Bianchetto, Ronald R. Hutchins, W. Thomas, Leback, Mark M. Luellen, Melur K. Ramasubramanian, Debra D. Rinker, and Robert M. Tyler.

Daniel W. Lee III, M.D. was the presenter.

Mr. Walker opened the meeting and gave the floor to Mr. Ramasubramanian.

Report on Enhancing Research

Mr. Ramasubramanian reviewed the University's Research Strategic Plan, which consists of a vision statement and a strategy with 6 areas of focus: 1) Partnership – Seed Funding with a Strategy; 2) Bring Opportunities to Faculty; 3) Strengthen Research Infrastructure; 4) Communication; 5) Ensure Safety and Compliance; and 6) Commercialization.

Mr. Ramasubramanian referenced a recent NSF publication showing a 4.5% national increase in funding for university research. Federal funding increased by 2.5 %. The balance was provided by universities and foundations. During the 2012 to 2015 period, the federal share of total research expenditures fell from 62% to 54%. He said the University must focus on fund sources from foundations, philanthropy, and the defense department.

Mr. Ramasubramanian concluded with a review of the nine metrics used by The Center for Measuring University Performance for assessing research universities in the country. The University's goal is to achieve by 2025 a top 25 ranking in four metrics (Research, Endowment Assets; Annual Giving; Faculty Awards; Postdoctoral Appointees) and a top 50 ranking in the remaining metrics (Total Research Expenditures; Federal Research Expenditures; National Academy Members; Doctorates Granted; SAT Scores).

Researcher Perspective

Mr. Ramasubramanian introduced Dr. Lee, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Director of Pediatric Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation. His research focuses on cancer immunotherapy, which uses the body's immune system to attack cancer by adding genes to chimeric antigen receptors, or CAR T cells. Clinical trials started in 2012 on children with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. These children had not responded to other treatments. A single dose of T cells achieved a 70% remission. Dr. Lee came to the University for three reasons: 1) the leadership's support of cellular immunotherapy; 2) the strategic hiring initiative; and 3) the leadership's enthusiasm has spread through out the Medical Center. The University treated the first child in Virginia with the gene therapy and is on its way to becoming the institution in Virginia, if not the region, for delivering the therapy.

The chair asked what support was needed. Mr. Lee outlined two needs. The first is a facility for the manufacture of clinical grade products, and the second is the recruitment of additional physician scientists to work with the T cells to generate new products.

The chair asked for a report at the next meeting on similar research conducted at the University including fund sources. Dr. Shannon said this work is conducted at many universities, but most do not have manufacturing facilities. The facility will be open to other researchers in Virginia and can be used for gene and regenerative therapies beginning in 2019.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

SGH:wtl

These minutes have been posted to the University of Virginia's Board of Visitors website:
<http://www.virginia.edu/bov/advancementandcommunicationsminutes.html>