



THE RECTOR AND VISITORS OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

December 11, 2020

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: The Academic and Student Life Committee:**

Barbara J. Fried, Chair  
Elizabeth M. Cranwell, Vice Chair  
Mark T. Bowles  
Whittington W. Clement  
Frank M. Conner III  
Thomas A. DePasquale  
John A. Griffin

Robert D. Hardie  
Maurice A. Jones  
Angela Hucles Mangano  
James B. Murray Jr, Ex-officio  
Ellen M. Bassett, Faculty Member  
Mazzen S. Shalaby, Student Member

**and**

**The Remaining Members of the Board:**

Robert M. Blue  
L.D. Britt, M.D.  
Louis S. Haddad

Babur B. Lateef, M.D.  
C. Evans Poston Jr.  
James V. Reyes

**FROM:** Susan G. Harris

**SUBJECT:** Minutes of the Academic and Student Life Committee Meeting on December 11, 2020

The Academic and Student Life Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in Open Session, by electronic means at 12:47 p.m., on Friday, December 11, 2020. Barbara J. Fried, Chair, presided.

Committee Members Present: James B. Murray Jr., Mark T. Bowles, Whittington W. Clement, Frank M. Conner III, Elizabeth M. Cranwell, Thomas A. DePasquale, John A. Griffin, Robert D. Hardie, Maurice A. Jones, Ellen M. Bassett, and Mazzen S. Shalaby

Absent: Angela H. Mangano

L.D. Britt, M.D., Louis S. Haddad, Babur B. Lateef, M.D., C. Evans Poston Jr., and James V. Reyes were also present.

Present as well were James E. Ryan, Jennifer W. Davis, K. Craig Kent, M.D., M. Elizabeth Magill, Margaret S. Grundy, Susan G. Harris, Timothy J. Heaphy, Donna P. Henry, Michael J. Citro, John C. Jeffries Jr., Patricia M. Lampkin, Megan K. Lowe, David W. Martel Clark "Chip" L. Murray, Melur K. Ramasubramanian, and Debra D. Rinker.

The presenters were Stephen Farmer, Nicole T. Jenkins, and Alex Hernandez.

Ms. Fried reviewed the agenda and then turned the meeting over to Ms. Magill. There were two consent agenda items. First, the closure of four degree programs in Arts & Sciences: the Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Literature, the Master of Arts in Italian, the Master of Arts in German, and the Doctor of Philosophy in German. There are no students currently enrolled in these programs. These closures come after an audit by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, conducted every five years to assess the productivity and viability of degree programs. The College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences agrees with the proposed closures, based on limited student demand and the strategic allocation of resources. Second is a degree program title change, from the Doctor of Philosophy in Media, Culture and Technology to Doctor of Philosophy in Media Studies. The department faculty and College leadership agree that this is a more appropriate title, given the broad curricular focus of the course of study, and believe it will be more attractive to both prospective students and employers.

Upon motion, the committee approved the following resolutions and recommended them for full Board approval:

**SCHEV PROGRAM PRODUCTIVITY REVIEW CLOSURES: BACHELOR OF ARTS IN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE; MASTER OF ARTS IN ITALIAN; MASTER OF ARTS IN GERMAN; DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN GERMAN**

RESOLVED, after review by the University and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Literature; the Master of Arts in Italian; the Master of Arts in German; and the Doctor of Philosophy in German are approved for closure effective Fall 2021.

**DEGREE PROGRAM TITLE CHANGE: DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN MEDIA, CULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY TO DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN MEDIA STUDIES IN THE COLLEGE AND GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES**

RESOLVED, the Doctor of Philosophy in Media, Culture and Technology is retitled the Doctor of Philosophy in Media Studies.

**Action Item: Establishment of the John L. Nau III Bicentennial Distinguished Professorship in the History and Principles of Democracy**

The holder of this professorship will also serve as the Director or Co-Director of the Democracy Initiative and as a professor in a department within Arts & Sciences that aligns with the mission of the Initiative. This professorship is made possible by the generosity of John L. Nau III, a former Board member and a generous donor, for whom Nau Hall is named.

On motion, the committee approved the following resolution and recommended it for full Board approval:

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JOHN L. NAU III BICENTENNIAL DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP IN THE HISTORY AND PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY**

WHEREAS, John L. Nau III took a B.A. in History from the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences in 1968. He is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Silver Eagle Distributors, LP, the nation's largest distributor of Anheuser-Busch products. From 1995 to 2001, he served on the Alumni Association Board of Managers, and from 2011 to 2015, he served on the Board of Visitors. He is also an Emeritus Trustee of the College Foundation Board; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nau has given generously of his time and resources to the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences to support a number of projects and programs including Nau Hall, the John L. Nau Center for Civil War History, and the Democracy Initiative; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nau is passionate about the Democracy Initiative and funded the Program for Constitutionalism and Democracy as well as core labs within the Democracy Initiative; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nau provided funding for the John L. Nau III Bicentennial Distinguished Professorship in the History and Principles of Democracy with the concept that the chairholder will serve as the director or co-director of the Democracy Initiative and will direct the Core Lab. The chairholder will hold a faculty position in the Corcoran Department of History, the Department of Classics, the Corcoran Department of Philosophy, or such other department that squarely aligns with the mission of the Core Lab;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors establishes the John L. Nau III Bicentennial Distinguished Professorship in the History and Principles of Democracy in the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Board of Visitors offers profound thanks to John L. Nau III for his many generous contributions to the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences and the University, including this professorship.

**Action Item: Establishment of The Irfan & Noreen Galaria Research Professorship in Islam and Liberal Democracy**

The professorship will promote and support rigorous and innovative research on the relationship between Islam, secularism, and liberal democracy. The Galarias chose UVA over many peer institutions because the University has taken responsibility for examining the relationship between religion and democracy, as the University's founder did during his lifetime. The chairholder will have expertise on Islam's interactions with various political economies and cultures and engage in research within Muslim communities.

On motion, the committee approved the following resolution and recommended it for full Board approval:

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE IRFAN & NOREEN GALARIA RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP IN ISLAM AND LIBERAL DEMOCRACY**

WHEREAS, Doctors Irfan and Noreen Galaria are physicians specializing in Plastic Surgery and Dermatology, respectively; and

WHEREAS, the Galarias chose UVA for a professorship in Islam and Liberal Democracy over many peer institutions because the University has taken responsibility for critically and continually examining the relationship between religion and democracy, as the University's founder did during his lifetime; and

WHEREAS, the chairholder will address the relationships between religion, politics, and democracy in the Muslim world. The chairholder will have expertise on Islam's interactions with various political economies and cultures which, among other things, may include a focus on Islam in Europe and North America, and will conduct research that is rooted in primary sources (textual or otherwise) and/or extensive fieldwork within Muslim communities, broadly defined;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors establishes the Irfan & Noreen Galaria Research Professorship in Islam and Liberal Democracy in the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Board of Visitors offers profound thanks to Doctors Noreen and Irfan Galaria for supporting an important area of research in the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences.

**Action Item: Establishment of the Jefferson Scholars Foundation Schenck Distinguished Professorship in Law**

This professorship is established in honor of former Law Foundation Board member Garrett Schenck, an early supporter of the Jefferson Scholars Foundation and a 1958 graduate of the Law School, who passed away in 2000.

On motion, the committee approved the following resolution and recommended it for full Board approval:

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JEFFERSON SCHOLARS FOUNDATION SCHENCK DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP IN LAW**

WHEREAS, together donors to the Jefferson Scholars Law Fellowship Program and the Jefferson Scholars Foundation determined that contributions to the fellowship program would be put to better use to fund a professorship for a distinguished member of the School of Law faculty; and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson Scholars Foundation wishes to recognize Mr. Garrett Schenck, a 1958 graduate of the School of Law and former member of the Jefferson Scholars Foundation Board who passed away in 2000;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors establishes the Jefferson Scholars Foundation Schenck Distinguished Professorship in Law to attract and retain a distinguished faculty member at the School of Law; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Board of Visitors offers profound thanks to the generous donors who contributed to the Jefferson Scholars Foundation to make this professorship possible.

**Action Item: Establishment of the Miller Family Bicentennial Professorship in Otolaryngology**

This professorship is awarded to an emerging scholar in the Otolaryngology department. It is given in honor of Nancy & Michael Miller's son Matt, who was treated at UVA Health as an undergraduate following a serious bicycle accident. Matt made a full recovery, earned both his undergraduate degree and a medical degree at UVA, and completed an otolaryngology residency with the doctors who helped him recover.

On motion, the committee approved the following resolution and recommended it for full Board approval:

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MILLER FAMILY BICENTENNIAL PROFESSORSHIP IN OTOLARYNGOLOGY**

WHEREAS, Nancy and Michael Miller's son Matt was treated at UVA Health following a traumatic bicycle accident that occurred while he was an undergraduate at UVA; and

WHEREAS, the Millers have given generously to UVA in appreciation for the complex care that Matt received. In the intervening years, Matt has made a full recovery, earned his UVA undergraduate degree and a medical degree, and completed an otolaryngology residency with the doctors who helped him recover; and

WHEREAS, the Millers made the decision to fund a professorship based on conversations with the chair of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery regarding the department's most pressing needs;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors establishes the Miller Family Bicentennial Professorship in Otolaryngology to support an emerging scholar in the Department of Otolaryngology. The professorship will be awarded to an assistant or associate professor until contributions reach \$2M, after which it may also be awarded to a full professor in the department; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Board of Visitors offers profound thanks to Michael and Nancy Miller and their sons Matthew and Michael, for their generous contributions to the Department of Otolaryngology, UVA Health, and the University.

**Action Item: New Degree Program: Bachelor of Science in Brain and Behavioral Sciences in the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences**

This program will prepare students for careers in health sciences and translational research, as well as for advanced study in medicine, psychology, neuroscience, and related fields. The University of Virginia would be the first public institution in the Commonwealth of Virginia to offer a B.S. in Brain and Behavioral Sciences. The degree program has been approved by the Faculty Councils of the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, the University Faculty Senate, the provost, and the president.

On motion, the committee approved the following resolution and recommended it for full Board approval:

**NEW DEGREE PROGRAM: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BRAIN AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES IN THE COLLEGE AND GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES**

RESOLVED, subject to approval by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the Bachelor of Science in Brain and Behavioral Sciences is established in the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences.

**Executive Vice President and Provost Remarks**

Ms. Magill reported on several ongoing searches: vice president for Student Affairs, vice provost for Academic Affairs, dean of the School of Architecture, dean of the School of Engineering, and dean of the School of Medicine.

The Provost also spoke briefly about research. She said we have experienced a 13% drop in awards and 10% drop in overall research expenditures. There are a number of factors influencing this change, including the pandemic, but this is not a uniform drop across all disciplines, and it is not in and of itself a cause for alarm. She said we are serious about maintaining our research momentum and extremely positive about our current research agenda. The University has initiated a second round of funding for both 3Cavaliers and the President and Provost's Fund for Institutionally Related Research. These funds will serve as catalysts for faculty to begin thinking about new projects. UVA has received gifts from the Ivy Foundation (\$2M) and Paul Manning (\$1.9M) making a difference in helping faculty focus on the pandemic and making immediate resources available that have already produced significant results.

Ms. Magill also spoke about J-Term. As of Monday, December 7, more than 7,000 students have enrolled in over 100 J-Term classes, compared with 1,000 students in 57 courses last year. This year represents a seven-fold increase over previous J-Term enrollments. This includes about 300 students who probably would have studied abroad during that time period in normal times. Through this process, she said they learned some lessons in how they communicate. They were not sure what the interest would be, given they had never run J-Term this way before. In response to the high demand, instructors were asked to accommodate greater numbers—either by increasing their enrollment caps, adding a TA to support them, or both; as a result at least 12 new classes or sections were added and they increased enrollment caps in 20 classes. Overall, they added nearly 600 additional seats in standard J-Term courses alone from the time registration began. Many of these classes meet degree requirements and have practical application as well—for example, there is a course introducing data science; one on public speaking and one on impact investing in Appalachia. Ms. Magill highlighted two classes: Designing Your Life After COVID-19, and Academic Adulting. She said the University will apply the lessons learned to planning for Summer Session.

Ms. Magill gave a special thanks to Jody Kielbasa and his team for producing the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Virginia Film Festival under extraordinary circumstances. The program included over 125 films that were presented virtually and at safe, socially distanced drive-in locations at Morven Farm and the Dairy Market. They brought over 61 narrative and documentary features, 67 short films, 43 tributes, and conversations with industry leaders including Ethan Hawke, Annette Bening, Leslie Odom Jr., and Linda Hamilton. The festival included partnerships with faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community members.

Ms. Magill said admission numbers are up; early decision applications are up 36% from last year and a record high. They received 28,903 early action applications, up 15% from last year, also a record high. They are currently up 39% in regular decision from last year, which will increase by the January 1 deadline. Total applications to date number 33,500. Increases are across the board for every school and every demographic.

### **Introduction of New University Leaders**

Ms. Magill introduced Steve Farmer who comes to the University from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he just ended his tenure as the vice provost for enrollment and undergraduate admission, overseeing Admissions, Scholarships and Student Aid, and the University Registrar. He will oversee an office of enrollment combining Admission, Student Financial Services, and the Office of the Registrar, beginning on January 1, 2021.

Mr. Farmer said he was grateful to be able to come back to Virginia. He and his wife met at the University and were married in Charlottesville. His top priority will be to care for students from their first interaction with the University through final weekend and beyond.

Next, Ms. Magill introduced Nicole Thorne Jenkins, the John A. Griffin Dean of the McIntire School of Commerce. She joined the University this summer from the Gatton College of Business and Economics at the University of Kentucky, where she was the Vice Dean and the Von Allmen Chaired Professor of Accountancy. She holds a Ph.D. in Accounting from the University of Iowa, and her research focuses on financial reporting failures and share repurchases. She is an award-winning teacher. Ms. Magill described her as an innovative thinker and a coalition builder who is dedicated to the community and to the School's research mission.

Dean Jenkins gave an overview of her goals and her vision for the McIntire School of Commerce.

The last presenter was Dean Alex Hernandez of the School of Continuing and Professional Studies. His expertise in blended learning—combining in-person and online instruction for maximum impact—as well as years of experience expanding high-quality education programs have been invaluable since he joined the University, especially this year.

Dean Hernandez gave a presentation on the future of Higher Education with regard to online learning and nontraditional learners.

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The chair adjourned the meeting at 1:57 p.m.

SGH:ddr

These minutes have been posted to the University of Virginia's Board of Visitors website:  
<http://bov.virginia.edu/committees/179>