



THE RECTOR AND VISITORS OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

September 24, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Academic and Student Life Committee:

Barbara J. Fried, Chair
Elizabeth M. Cranwell, Vice Chair
Mark T. Bowles
Carlos M. Brown
Frank M. Conner III
Thomas A. DePasquale

Robert D. Hardie
Angela Hucles Mangano
L.F. Payne
Whittington W. Clement Ex-officio
Joel W. Hockensmith, Faculty Rep
Sarita Mehta, Student Rep

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

Robert M. Blue
L.D. Britt, M.D.
Louis S. Haddad
Babur B. Lateef, M.D.

James B. Murray Jr,
C. Evans Poston Jr.
James V. Reyes

FROM: Susan G. Harris

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Academic and Student Life Committee Meeting on September 24, 2021

The Academic and Student Life Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in open session, at 10:24 a.m., on Friday, September 24, 2021. Barbara J. Fried, Chair, presided.

Committee members present: Whittington W. Clement, Elizabeth M. Cranwell, Mark T. Bowles, Carlos M. Brown, Frank M. Conner III, Thomas A. DePasquale, Robert D. Hardie, Angela H. Mangano (via phone), L.F. Payne, Joel W. Hockensmith, and Sarita Mehta

Robert M. Blue, L.D. Britt, M.D., Louis S. Haddad, Babur B. Lateef, M.D., James B. Murray, Jr., 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, Donna P. Henry, Michael J. Citro, Stephen Farmer, Brie Gertler, Robyn Hadley, Megan K. Lowe, David W. Martel, Clark L. Murray, Melur K. Ramasubramanian, Debra D. Rinker, Margot M. Rogers, Anda S. Webb, and Jasmine H. Yoon.

The presenters were Jennifer West and Josipa Roksa.

Ms. Fried reviewed the agenda and then turned the meeting over to Ms. Magill.

Action Items

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

KARSH INSTITUTE OF DEMOCRACY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

WHEREAS, Bruce Karsh (Law '80) is the co-founder and co-chairman of Oaktree Capital Management; and

WHEREAS, Martha Lubin Karsh (Col '78, Law '81) is a leader in the nonprofit world and the co-manager of the Karsh Family Foundation; and

WHEREAS, as part of their extraordinary philanthropy to the University, in April 2021 the Karsh Family Foundation pledged \$50M to create an Institute of Democracy, which will focus and project the University's commitment to democracy; and

WHEREAS, the Institute will provide leadership by playing a convening and coordinating role for existing entities committed to the work of democracy while simultaneously developing its own signature programs, events, and initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the gift will provide funds for construction of a prominent building on the Emmet-Ivy Corridor, a future hub for public forums, research, and classes; and

WHEREAS, the University will provide \$50M in additional philanthropy and University support to fund the Institute;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors establishes the Karsh Institute of Democracy; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Board of Visitors offers profound thanks to Bruce Karsh and Martha Lubin Karsh for their extraordinary and generous support of the University.

On motion the committee approved the following seven professorships and recommended them for full Board approval:

THE EDGAR F. SHANNON JEFFERSON SCHOLARS FOUNDATION DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP IN ART HISTORY

WHEREAS, Edgar F. Shannon joined the faculty of the University in 1956 as a professor of English and served as the fourth president of the University from 1959 through 1975; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shannon accomplished much in his time as president of the University including full coeducation in 1970. In his pursuit of academic distinction for the University, Edgar Shannon sought eminent scholars and high-achieving students and he played an integral role in the

legislation that created the Eminent Scholars Fund (in which the state would match private donations). This fund enabled Mr. Shannon to attract well-known and respected faculty members to UVA; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shannon and his provost, Frank Hereford, who succeeded him as president, focused on building exceptional science and humanities programs. The Departments of Physics, Astronomy, English, History, and Medicine became nationally known centers of scholarship and research under his leadership; and

WHEREAS, to honor Mr. Shannon's service as a faculty member and president, generous friends of the University, Mary Scott and John H. Birdsall, gave the funds to make the Edgar F. Shannon Jefferson Scholars Foundation Distinguished Professorship in Art History possible;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors establishes the Edgar F. Shannon Jefferson Scholars Foundation Distinguished Professorship in Art History in the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Board of Visitors, the University, and the College and Graduate School of Art & Sciences, offer profound thanks to Mary Scott and John H. Birdsall for their extraordinary generosity in making this professorship possible.

THE ELCAN JEFFERSON SCHOLARS FOUNDATION DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP

WHEREAS, Patricia "Trisha" Frist Elcan is a 1987 graduate of the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, taking a degree in Economics. She worked at the Andersen Consulting Group and Equitable Securities; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Elcan's service to the University includes as a member of the Contemplative Sciences Center Advisory Board, and as a former member of the Jefferson Scholars Foundation Board and the Alumni Association Board of Managers; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Elcan has helped the underserved and disadvantaged through many social justice efforts. She is passionate about offering educational and career opportunities to those who might not otherwise have access due to socioeconomic, family, or other circumstances; and

WHEREAS, The Elcan Jefferson Scholars Foundation Distinguished Professorship will recruit outstanding faculty members to the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors establishes the Elcan Jefferson Scholars Foundation Distinguished Professorship in the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Board of Visitors, the University, and the College and Graduate School of Art & Sciences offer profound thanks to Patricia Frist Elcan for her

service to the University and her community, and for her gift to the Jefferson Scholars Foundation that makes this professorship possible.

THE JAMES H. AND ELIZABETH W. WRIGHT JEFFERSON SCHOLARS FOUNDATION DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP

WHEREAS, under Mr. Wright's leadership, the Jefferson Scholars Program under the Alumni Association has evolved into an independent foundation dedicated to merit scholarships,

fellowships, professorships, and programming. To date, the Jefferson Scholars Foundation has funded more than 1,300 students and had grown its endowment to over \$700M; and

WHEREAS, many of the Jefferson Scholars Foundation's most generous benefactors have contributed to a professorship in honor of Jimmy and Liz Wright's contributions and dedication to the University community;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors establishes the James H. and Elizabeth W. Wright Jefferson Scholars Foundation Distinguished Professorship in the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Board of Visitors offers profound thanks to the donors to this important professorship, and congratulates Jimmy and Liz Wright on this honor.

THE LESLIE H. GOLDBERG JEFFERSON SCHOLARS FOUNDATION DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP IN BUSINESS ETHICS

WHEREAS, Leslie H. "Les" Goldberg took an undergraduate degree from the University in 1950 and went on to lead Bowl America, with a philosophy of outstanding customer service and community involvement; and

WHEREAS, with matching funds from the University's Bicentennial Professorship Fund, the funds provided by the Goldberg Family Foundation will be used to attract and retain an outstanding professor in business ethics at the McIntire School of Commerce;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors establishes the Leslie H. Goldberg Jefferson Scholars Foundation Distinguished Professorship in Business Ethics in the McIntire School of Commerce; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Board of Visitors, the University, and the McIntire School of Commerce offer profound thanks to Merle Fabian and the Goldberg Family Foundation for their support of this important professorship.

SAUNDERS FAMILY PROFESSORSHIP IN ENGINEERING

WHEREAS, Ann Lee Saunders Brown, a long-term and generous supporter of the School of Engineering and the University, passed away February 22, 2020, leaving unrestricted funds to the School of Engineering to honor Professor and Dean Emeritus James H. Aylor; and

WHEREAS, at their June 2021 meeting, the Board of Visitors approved a quasi-endowment to use the funds from Mrs. Brown's estate to support a professorship in the School of Engineering. With matching funds from the University's Bicentennial Professorship Fund, the combined funding will support the Saunders Family Professorship in Engineering;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors establishes the Saunders Family Professorship in Engineering and Applied Science; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Board of Visitors, the University, and the School of Engineering and Applied Science, express their condolences to the family on the passing of Ann Lee Saunders Brown, and their gratitude for her generous support of the School of Engineering and the University.

THE THOMAS A. SAUNDERS FAMILY JEFFERSON SCHOLARS FOUNDATION UNIVERSITY PROFESSORSHIPS

WHEREAS, Thomas A. Saunders III, his wife, Jordan Saunders, and their daughter Calvert Saunders Moore, have been active in University life, serving on University and foundation boards and committees and providing support to several University schools and foundations, including the Darden School of Business, the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, the Jefferson Scholars Foundation, University Athletics, and other areas of key strategic importance to the University; and

WHEREAS, with matching funds from the University's Bicentennial Professorship Fund, the funds provided by the Saunders family will support two Thomas A. Saunders Family Jefferson Scholars Foundation University Professorships in medicine and the sciences;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors establishes two Thomas A. Saunders Family Jefferson Scholars Foundation University Professorships; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Board of Visitors offers profound thanks to Thomas A. Saunders III, Jordan Saunders, and Calvert Saunders Moore, for their deep and steadfast dedication to the University of Virginia, including their support of these two important professorships.

Executive Vice President and Provost Remarks

Ms. Magill outlined her priorities for the year which are in support of the president's priorities in the 2030 Plan. They include faculty excellence and diversity particularly the TOPS and cluster hires programs. Research goals are in the areas of grand challenges, seed funding, infrastructure and research space, and PhD education. The student experience goal focuses on improving advising, innovations in teaching, and enrollment strategy. The final goal is broadening our horizons through online learning, northern Virginia initiatives, and other key initiatives of the 2030 Plan including the buildout of Emmet/Ivy.

Ms. Magil spoke about the critical functions of her office for the year. They include recruiting and onboarding University leaders; resourcing the Academic Division; promotion and tenure (161 cases a year); research and University institutes; enrollment; and overseeing institutional accreditation and advancing inclusive excellence.

Ms. Magill said improving undergraduate advising is an important priority. She provided a timeline for the process, which was derailed a bit during the pandemic. Advising includes academic, career, and personal advising.

In spring 2021, the work on assessing undergraduate advising was restarted under Professor Josipa Roksa, who will be available at the December meeting to speak to the committee. Nine schools enroll undergraduates, and so it would be best to have a vision for advising that was adopted by all the schools. A survey of first year students showed that students went to faculty and others, other than their advisers, for advice. Professor Roksa is still working through the data along with other members of the Advising Task Force. Both Steve Farmer and Robyn Hadley have been integral partners in all of these discussions. The Task Force will review data, engage stakeholders in all of the schools, and review best practices at peer institutions. An interim update will be presented to the Academic and Student Life committee in December, and final presentation at the March 2022 meeting.

Ms. Magill and Vice Provost Brie Gertler answered questions from the committee. Mr. Clement said the Parents Council should be informed of the Task Force work and may be able to help with the career aspect of it.

Introduction of New Dean of School of Engineering and Applied Science

Ms. Magill introduced Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science Jennifer West, who gave an overview of the school. Ms. West is new this fall and comes from Duke University. She is an eminent researcher, award-winning teacher, and academic leader. She holds 19 patents and launched two start-ups. Her research focuses on bioengineering.

Dean West spoke about the mission and vision of the School of Engineering, the core values, and areas of strategic focus, which are engineering for health, engineering for the cyber future, and engineering technologies for a sustainable and connected world. A 95% increase in research funding, from \$44M in 2016 to \$86M in 2021 is unheard of. This was accomplished through growing the number of faculty but also increasing faculty productivity and growing the graduate program. Infrastructure is now at the limit.

She said it is important to facilitate faculty entrepreneurship, which is crucial to retain the best faculty. The school is also focused on excellence in education, utilizing a “support and succeed” model with a dedicated career services office and counseling and psychological services, readily available in the school.

Ms. West said for the future, they are focused on continued growth in teaching faculty, improving resources and infrastructure for teaching and learning, continued growth in student support services, and experiential learning and student entrepreneurship.

The chair adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

SGH:ddr

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