



THE RECTOR AND VISITORS OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

May 5, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Special Committee on the Nomination of a President:

William H. Goodwin Jr., Co-chair
Frank M. Conner III, Co-chair
Mark T. Bowles
L.D. Britt, M.D.
Robert F. Bruner
Whittington W. Clement
Elizabeth M. Cranwell
Thomas A. DePasquale
Thomas F. Farrell II
Aryn Frazier
Barbara J. Fried

Victoria D. Harker
John C. Jeffries Jr.
Babur B. Lateef, M.D.
John G. Macfarlane III
George Keith Martin
James B. Murray Jr.
Jahan Ramazani
Margaret M. Riley
Pamela Sutton-Wallace
Michael Suarez
Phoebe A. Willis

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

John A. Griffin
Kevin J. Fay
Frank E. Genovese

Tammy S. Murphy
James V. Reyes
Jeffrey C. Walker
Nina J. Solenski, M.D.

FROM: Susan G. Harris

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Listening Session with Members of the Special Committee on the Nomination of a President at the College at Wise on May 5, 2017

Members of the Special Committee on the Nomination of a President met, in open session, at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, May 5, 2017, in the Library of The University of Virginia's College at Wise (the College at Wise). Mr. Macfarlane and Ms. Cranwell conducted the meeting.

Present as well were Donna P. Henry, Huda Aden, and Susan G. Harris.

The purpose of the meeting was to listen to members of the College at Wise community about the qualities and characteristics they seek in a new president of the University of Virginia. Present were members of the College at Wise Foundation Board, the College at Wise Advisory Board, and the College at Wise Alumni Board; the meeting was also open to the public.

Mr. Macfarlane began by providing an overview of the search process. Ms. Cranwell provided some introductory remarks as well. Mr. Macfarlane asked the participants what attributes they sought in a new president of the University. The responses included the following points:

- President Sullivan is a face they know; she has embraced the College at Wise as her own and they would like to see this relationship with the University president continue and not to lose momentum.
- Candidates for president should be aware of what the College at Wise is and does, and how the College at Wise benefits the University of Virginia as well as vice versa, and this should occur before the president is hired.
- The College at Wise has a good story to tell, and although when the name change from Clinch Valley College to The University of Virginia's College at Wise was first proposed to the Board of Visitors they were not receptive, Board members have changed their positions and have been very supportive of the College at Wise since that time.
- The president should be forward-thinking but also have a respect for history --both the history of the College at Wise and the University of Virginia.
- Experience with state legislatures is particularly important, because the College at Wise depends on state support.

When asked by Ms. Cranwell about personal characteristics, leadership experience, and background, participants responded with the following thoughts:

- As a leader, the president should be outspoken and willing to take a stance.
- The president should encourage the faculty and be a role model for the faculty.
- Creative, innovative, open-minded, and willing to go beyond the mindset of the norm.
- Hands-on personal interest in the welfare and continued growth of the College at Wise and the southwest Virginia region.
- Supportive of, and an advocate for, the College at Wise. The example used was when the previous chancellor, David Prior, passed away. President Sullivan was on the campus assuring the community that she would personally oversee the College at Wise.
- The president should be thinking about how the programs at the University of Virginia could benefit the College at Wise but without being paternalistic.
- The president must be a great communicator—communication is the key.
- The president should be actively engaged in the business community.

When asked the priorities of the next president, participants named affordability and student debt; developing a student culture at the College at Wise which is now lacking; thinking about the future of higher education and how technology should and will play a role; teaching financial literacy to students; developing a winning football team at the University; and communicating the important role that public higher education plays in Virginia and the nation.

Mr. Macfarlane, Ms. Cranwell, and Ms. Harris offered closing remarks, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

SGH

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