The Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met in open session at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, November 8, 2019, in the South Meeting Room of Newcomb Hall at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia. James B. Murray Jr., Rector, presided.

Present were Whittington W. Clement, Elizabeth M. Cranwell, Thomas A. DePasquale, Barbara J. Fried, and Derrick Wang.

Absent were Robert M. Blue, Mark T. Bowles, L.D. Britt, M.D., Frank M. Conner III, John A. Griffin, Louis S. Haddad, Robert D. Hardie, Maurice A. Jones, Babur B. Lateef, M.D., Angela Hucles Mangano, C. Evans Poston Jr., James V. Reyes, and Peter C. Brunjes.

Also present were Jennifer Wagner Davis, M. Elizabeth Magill, Susan G. Harris, David W. Martel, and Debra D. Rinker.

Following a welcome and introduction by Rector Murray, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Davis and Executive Vice President and Provost Magill gave a short presentation on the strategic goals, value proposition, Access UVA, declining state appropriation, tuition philosophy, and the proposal for undergraduate tuition and fee increases. The slide presentation can be found at: https://bov.virginia.edu/system/files/public/meetings/2019%20November%20Slides%20for%20Public%20Comment%20Session.v3%20-%20pdf.pdf

Five individuals spoke during the public comment session: four were students and one represented Partners for College Affordability and Public Trust (PCAPT).

Stacie Gordon of PCAPT said the Board’s primary duty is to the Commonwealth and UVA has sufficient assets to hold or decrease tuition. She acknowledged the generous financial aid provided to students, but said the University had the financial capacity to freeze tuition and so the Board should do that.

Jacob Wartel, a second-year student, said the University should not increase tuition and fees. He said students don’t want more “benevolence” in the form of financial aid, just lower tuition for everyone.

Jake Eichenbaum, a McIntire School student, focused on mental health services to students. He said any tuition increase should be used to provide more embedded therapist positions in the schools, and more positions at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS).
Ahman Brown, a fourth-year student, said housing costs keep going up but the quality and quantity of on-Grounds housing do not improve.

Later, Jacob Wartel spoke again and said he agreed with Mr. Brown, and housing should be provided on-Grounds at below market rates.

Alex Handel, also a fourth-year student, suggested the Board should look for other ways of raising funds rather than through tuition and fees.

The Charlottesville public comment session ended at 10:30 a.m. The Board recessed to travel to The University of Virginia’s College at Wise for a workshop and public comment session in the afternoon.

At 3:00 p.m., the Board resumed in the Chapel of All Faiths at the College at Wise in Wise, Virginia.

Present were Elizabeth M. Cranwell, Thomas A. DePasquale, Barbara J. Fried, and Derrick Wang. James B. Murray Jr., Rector, presided.


Also present were Jennifer Wagner Davis, Chris Dearth, Sim Ewing, Donna P. Henry, Anda S. Webb, and Susan G. Harris.

Rector Murray opened the meeting and Chancellor Donna Henry, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Sim Ewing, and Vice President for Enrollment Management Chris Dearth, spoke about rankings, affordable access, and the College’s tuition setting philosophy. Mr. Ewing said tuition at the College is the third lowest in the state. The slides are available at: https://bov.virginia.edu/system/files/public/meetings/UVA%20Wise%20-%20Tuition%20and%20Fees%20Education%20Session%2011%2008%202019%20FINAL%20%28002%29.pdf

Two College at Wise students spoke: Logan Baker, a senior who is the student member of the Wise advisory board, and Hubertine Moyo, a junior and president of the African Culture Association.

Mr. Baker expressed his hope that any tuition and fees increase would be covered for those on financial aid. Ms. Moyo said a 3% increase is substantial for out-of-state students, and as an international student she is not eligible for federal financial aid. Ms. Moyo is from Congo but she has lived for 10 years in Zambia. The currency exchange rate is about 10 to 1 and this is a problem for international students desiring to study in the U.S.
On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan G. Harris
Secretary

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