

OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

Board of Visitors Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, February 23, 2004

MINUTES

The Executive Committee of the Board of Visitors met on Monday, February 23, 2004, at 3:00 PM in the Board Room of Webb University Center on the Norfolk campus. Present from the Executive Committee were:

Frank Batten, Jr., Rector
Henry P. Bouffard
James A. Hixon
Ross A. Mugler
William E. Russell

Also present from the Board of Visitors were:

Conrad M. Hall
William M. Lechler
Moody E. Stallings, Jr.

Also present were:

Roseann Runte, President
Robert L. Ash
C. Tabor Cronk
Ken Daley
Robert L. Fenning
Thomas L. Isenhour
David Loope
Donna Meeks
Jennifer Mullen

CALL TO ORDER AND MOTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

The Rector called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM and recognized Mr. Hixon, who made the following motion: "Mr. Rector, I move that this meeting be recessed, and, as permitted by Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711(A)(3) and (7), that we reconvene in Closed Session for the purpose of discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real estate for the public purpose of the University, because discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the University, and for the purpose of consultation with the University's legal counsel and briefing by staff members pertaining to the Chapman and Pentecost cases, because consultation with counsel in an open meeting will adversely affect the University's negotiating or litigating posture." The motion was seconded by Mr. Stallings and unanimously approved by all members present and voting. (*Bouffard, Hall, Hixon, Lechler, Stallings*)

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND FOIA CERTIFICATION

At the conclusion of the closed session, the meeting reconvened in open session, at which time the Rector called for the Freedom of Information Act certification of compliance that (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements under the Freedom of Information Act were discussed and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened were heard, discussed or considered. The certification of compliance vote was seven in favor and none opposed. (*Bouffard, Hall, Hixon, Lechler, Mugler, Russell, Stallings*)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2003 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Mugler moved that the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on October 20, 2003, be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hixon and approved unanimously as distributed by all members present and voting. (*Bouffard, Hall, Hixon, Lechler, Mugler, Russell, Stallings*)

RECTOR'S REPORT

The Rector indicated that he had no report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Runte provided an update on activities at the University since the last Board meeting. She indicated that four major searches are currently underway for the Vice President for Research, Dean of the College of Engineering and Technology, University Librarian, and Director of the Career Management Center.

President Runte asked Vice President Ash to brief the Committee on activities that will take place on Research Day on March 23rd. Dr. Ash indicated that the keynote speaker is Dr. Leroy Hood, who is an expert in Biotechnology and Information Technology. He also noted that an ODU researcher has once again been chosen as the Virginia Scientist of the Year, and that individual will be announced on the 23rd.

The President commented that the Colleges of Education and Engineering and Technology are currently undergoing accreditation reviews by their respective accrediting bodies. She explained the rigorous reviews that are periodically done on an institution-wide basis as well as at the college and program level by professional accrediting bodies. She indicated that a bill has been introduced in Congress that would require additional reviews by these accrediting bodies, the results of which would be reported to the federal government. She expressed her concern that no funds would be available to the institutions to support the costs of these additional reviews. She is also concerned about the interest at the State level for developing standards similar to "Standards of Learning" for higher education.

President Runte stated that the current five-year Strategic Plan expires on December 31, 2004, and Provost Isenhour will lead the development of the next five-year strategic plan. She indicated that the Board of Visitors will be engaged in the process, and reviewed the broad institutional goals that will be addressed in the plan. These goals are: (1) increase academic quality and retain faculty, gaining a national reputation for excellence (top 100); (2) create a research agenda and a climate which encourages research; (3) increase graduate programming; (4) create a viable, lively campus community in a beautiful setting, conducive to learning; (5) integrate all services, colleges, and academic programs; (6) make the campus community sensitive to the region and world around it; and (7) find the means to accomplish these goals. She commented that many strategic plans leave out this last goal. The Provost indicated that he and Vice President Burnett will be meeting with students to hear their opinions on ODU's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, and welcomed interested Board members to attend. Mr. Batten requested that the plan not only address what the University will do, but also what it will not do. He encouraged those who are interested in participating to so advise the President or Provost.

President Runte commented that Old Dominion fares well in each of the three budgets put forth by the Governor, the Senate and the House, and the administration eagerly awaits the final results of the General Assembly. She indicated that the University has received a gift of 2,000 to 4,000 daffodils to plant around campus, adding to the 1,000 daffodils planted earlier by students near the Oceanography and Physical Sciences building. A gift of \$1.5M from former Rector Bob Stanton was also recently announced.

Mr. Stallings questioned Mr. Stanton's gift and asked who prepared the press release. President Runte responded that the news release was prepared by the University's Office of Media Relations, and that it is customary when reporting a gift not to provide details of the specific arrangements made between the donor and the institution. Mr. Stallings commented that he felt this announcement was misleading since the gift was not an outright gift of cash.

The President announced that Mary Haddad will be honored as the Humanitarian of the Year by the National Conference for Community and Justice. Professor Charles Wilson won the SCHEV Teaching Award. She will be asking the Board to approve a list of potential honorary degree recipients at their meeting in April so that she will have more flexibility in scheduling their visits to campus based on their availability.

At the conclusion of the President's Report, Mr. Mugler asked when the Capital Campaign will be officially announced. President Runte indicated that it is standard practice in such campaigns to wait until half of the goal has already been achieved. While Old Dominion's campaign is now at that point, she wants to wait until the formal opening of the Engineering and Computational Sciences Building and is hoping by then that the building will be named in honor of a donor.

The Rector asked about the status of the enrollment proposal. The President indicated that the enrollment proposal amendment will probably not be included in the budget, but if the University receives sufficient base adequacy funds, targeted enrollment increases may be possible, including institution of the summer session and some asynchronous courses. Mr. Mugler commented that he has heard unfavorable comments from faculty about the asynchronous proposal. President Runte stated the data show that students in asynchronous programs test as well as those in the traditional classroom setting and students also rated these classes satisfactorily.

OLD/UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

The Rector asked if there was any old/unfinished business or new business to come before the Committee. There was none.

BUDGET REPORT

Vice President Fenning provided a brief status report on the budget and how the administration is dealing with the uncertainties that now exist given the different approaches advanced by the Governor, the House and the Senate. From what is known thus far, it appears that substantial investments in higher education and base adequacy funding are proposed in all three versions. The following key assumptions included in these budgets were: (1) provide base adequacy funding (over varying amounts of years); (2) recognize current base funding disparity among institutions; (3) close the gap through a combination of general fund and non-general fund revenues (for ODU, that gap is \$40.5 million); and (4) employ a 67 GF/33 NGF split to close the gap, and will impact tuition and fees.

Mr. Fenning reviewed the tuition and fee and operating budget development process for the University, noting that the Board will consider tuition and fee increases at their meeting in April, and approval of the University's FY05 budget in June. Given the uncertainty that currently exists in Richmond, the President requested that the Vice Presidents submit operating budget requests under three scenarios. Scenario 1 assumes that there will be no general fund appropriations and the University would need to rely solely on increased tuition and fees for new revenue. This new tuition and fee revenue, together with reallocation of existing resources, would be used to address unavoidable cost increases and urgent needs. It also assumes level enrollment and minimal new resources for new initiatives.

Scenario 2 assumes that the University will receive additional general funds for base operating needs. Tuition and fees would still increase consistent with appropriations language (which currently ranges on the Senate side between 5-6%, and 4-8% on the House). It also assumes level enrollment. Budget requests are to include base and one-time enhancements consistent with the institution's mission and priorities.

Scenario 3 assumes that the University's enrollment growth proposal is approved by the General Assembly, and funding is received for the development of asynchronous degree programs, addition of the summer semester, and expansion of TELETECHNET.

In response to a question by Mr. Lechler, Vice President Fenning explained how base adequacy, and the \$40.5M gap for Old Dominion, was determined. It was emphasized that any new funding received would be used to make critical investments, including faculty retention efforts.

With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM