

**OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF VISITORS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, 25 January 1999**

MINUTES

The Executive Committee of the Board of Visitors of Old Dominion University met on Monday, 25 January 1999 at 3:00 PM in the Board Room of Webb University Center. Present from the Committee were:

Edward L. Hamm, Jr, Rector
William M. Lechler
Anthony C. Paige
Patricia W. Perry

Also present from the Board of Visitors were:

Elizabeth W. Atkinson
J. Jack W. Hilgers
William E. Russell

Also present were:

James V. Koch, President
Gregory Banks (Norfolk Police Department)
John R. Broderick
Nancy P. Coberly
Stephen P. Daniel
Lorraine Eaton (*The Virginian Pilot*)
Jo Ann M. Gora
David F. Harnage
Donna W. Meeks
William C. Rice

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Rector called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM and asked for approval of the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of 19 November 1998. Reverend Paige made a motion to adopt the minutes as distributed. The Rector requested that the following revisions be made to the minutes: (1) Page 3, paragraph 4, line 4 – change “demanding” to “demand”; (2) Page 4, paragraph 3, last line – change “intervene” to “assist”; (3) Page 4, paragraph 5 – add to end of paragraph – “The Rector thanked the Interim General Counsel but did not concur in this instance. Following discussion, Mr. Lechler withdrew his motion.”

Reverend Paige amended his motion to adopt the minutes as revised above. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

RECTOR'S REPORT

The Rector commented that the interaction he has had with the University and President Koch since the last board meeting has been very positive, and any issues of concern have been reasonably discussed and resolved. His interaction with board members has also been positive. He has had discussions with board members concerning issues brought to the Board for which there were minority votes, and he has also discussed with Mr. Beamer his specific concerns.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Rector called on President Koch for his report. President Koch asked Vice President Harnage to brief the Committee on the Field House fire. Vice President Harnage indicated that someone placed a mattress in the elevator on the north side of the building and set it on fire Saturday evening. A police officer saw the smoke early and the fire was under control within minutes. Fortunately the firewalls in the elevator contained the fire and damage to the building was limited to minor smoke and water damage. The water was removed from the building by 1:30 AM on Sunday, and by noon on Sunday all ceiling tiles were replaced. The building was fumigated to alleviate smoke damage early Sunday evening. All classes were held as scheduled today, and only a couple of offices were temporarily relocated. An investigation is currently underway.

President Koch stated that the University has received confirmation that it will receive a Cave, a more complex virtual reality system than the Immersadesk which was demonstrated at the meeting in December. The University has also taken delivery of its first supercomputer. These will allow the University to support state-of-the-art research and be at the forefront of modeling and simulation research.

President Koch indicated that during the current General Assembly, the University's priorities are to protect the \$2 million Governor Gilmore included in his budget to support workforce development in engineering and technology and to gain additional funding for important initiatives.

The President reminded board members to let him know as soon as possible if they would like tickets to the Lady Monarch's game against Connecticut on 13 February. The Tennessee game was a sellout, as is the Connecticut game, but a small number of tickets are held in reserve for those board members who wish to attend, on a first come-first served basis. Currently the men's overall record is 18 wins and 3 losses, and the women's record stands at 12 wins and 3 losses.

Rev. Paige questioned the press coverage of the men's team, and President Koch responded that the press coverage has probably been more frequent for the women because of their successes over the past several seasons. However, with the men's team doing so well this season, the press coverage for them will likely increase.

Mr. Hamm asked President Koch about the new General Counsel. President Koch indicated that C. Jay Robbins has been hired as the new permanent General Counsel. He is a long-time Chesapeake resident and has strong background in real estate law. His first official day is 1 February, but today he is visiting campus to meet with various individuals. Lawrie Rollison represented the Board

during the selection process. Mr. Hamm indicated that he also had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Robbins by telephone. President Koch expressed his appreciation for the service provided by Mr. William Thro as Interim General Counsel.

CAMPUS SECURITY AND SAFETY ISSUES

Vice President Harnage indicated that at the last meeting the Committee was briefed on the University's efforts regarding campus security and safety. Today's meeting provides an opportunity to discuss key issues identified at the last meeting in greater detail; namely, key versus electronic entry systems, visual identification, limiting access to campus and personal security devices, and other issues of concern to the Board.

Mr. Harnage reported that currently there are 4,320 doors on campus, 470 of those external doors. It costs approximately \$156 per door for a manual lock system, while an electronic system would cost approximately \$2,000 per door. A typical electronic system requires hardware to support electronic readers for every 16 doors and the electronic readers for each door which read the magnetic key and connect to a computer that monitors the use of each door. While an electronic system has several advantages (for example, the computer makes a record of each entry and an alarm will sound if the door is propped open), some students at institutions that use an electronic system have perceived this as an invasion of privacy.

Vice President Harnage commented that, to the extent that we wish to maintain an open campus, the University should consider electronic keying systems for at least some buildings on campus. He recommended that the University selectively use electronic entry systems in areas of concentrated levels of equipment or in areas such as laboratories where the contents need to be protected. These include instructional technology classrooms, computer labs, and fiscal operations offices where money and important records are stored. In addition, as the 111 classrooms on campus are converted to technology based classrooms, the University would invest in electronic security for those as well. In the aggregate this would cost approximately \$200,000, but would be phased in at a rate of approximately five classrooms per year.

In response to a question by Rev. Paige, Mr. Harnage commented that the use of electronic keying systems in the areas suggested is likely to act as a deterrent and reduce the overall rate of theft. In addition, protecting areas with high concentrations of equipment in this manner would increase the availability of campus police to patrol the other areas of campus. Rev. Paige requested information on the University's efforts to protect the property of individual students. Vice President Harnage noted that the University has made services and support available to students to prevent theft of their personal items (such as lockers), but often these services are not used or are used inappropriately.

Vice President Harnage commented that individuals other than students and employees visit the University to do the kinds of things and take advantage of the kinds of services that only a university can provide. Therefore, closing the University's access to the general public is not appropriate or desirable. This, however, subjects the University and its property to certain kinds of exposure. The University has implemented a visual identification program for selected personnel as a way to aid the campus police in identifying individuals who are supposed to be in certain areas of the

University. Currently, personnel in the offices of Finance, Computer Services, Physical Plant, Mail Services and Instructional Technology participate in the visual identification program. It would be unrealistic, however, to require that all university employees be required to participate in such a program.

President Koch asked Vice President Harnage to address the issue of student ID cards. Mr. Harnage explained that the University ID system for students and employees is operated out of Student Services. Currently students are issued ID cards at the time that they register at the University and there is no system in place to re-validate the cards each semester. A system audit has been conducted, for which he has seen only preliminary comments, and recommendations for enhancing the system will result from that audit.

Vice President Harnage indicated that the University is currently holding discussions with a company which markets the Walkmate, a personal security device which would allow public safety personnel to locate a subscriber in an emergency, and to maintain important information, such as medical data, about that individual. The administration does not wish to invest in the infrastructure, but the University is willing to negotiate for services such that the company opens an outlet on campus where they market the service, and students, at their discretion, may subscribe to the service. Currently the cost per student is estimated at \$50 per year. Should discussions continue to go well, the University anticipates making a proposal during the budget process. Chief Rice indicated that he will be visiting with the Walkmate representatives and will observe a trial run of the system at Florida State University. One issue of concern for him is whether the system will interfere with the numerous radio waves already in this area.

Ms. Atkinson expressed concern that this system might be too expensive for students and that this would not replace the call box system currently in place. Mr. Harnage assured the Board that the call boxes will remain on campus. Additionally, the red phones located in each campus building, which are direct lines to Public Safety, will also remain. Like the call boxes, these serve as useful deterrents to crime.

The Rector asked whether there have been significant assaults on campus recently. Mr. Harnage commented that there have been no major assaults on campus and most incidents have been related to domestic issues such as fights or disagreements between students. There have been some altercations involving students in areas surrounding the campus, but none where anyone was seriously injured. Chief Rice explained an incident involving an international student which took place at an off-campus location during the holidays.

Rev. Paige expressed his concern with the traffic surrounding the campus. In an effort to deal with the traffic problem, a very detailed enforcement of crosswalks and speeding on campus was begun two years ago. The long-term strategy involves the construction of large parking structures on the periphery of campus to make the interior of the campus more pedestrian friendly.

Ms. Atkinson commented that while the data support that Old Dominion University is a relatively safe place, the perception is that it is not. Something needs to be done to change the image of the University. Vice President Harnage stated that Norfolk itself is perceived as an unsafe place and some people perceive events which happen in areas surrounding the campus as being connected with

the University. The development of the University Village will go a long way toward solving this problem, as will the development currently taking place in downtown Norfolk. As the physical environment of the city and the campus improve, so will behavior and perceptions.

Captain Banks of the Norfolk Police Department indicated that while Norfolk's crime statistics have improved over the years, the impression still exists that Norfolk is a bad place. He cited Military Circle as a prime example of an entity that has taken great strides to improve its image. Chief Rice commented that in a survey conducted two years ago, 88% of the students who live on campus believe it is a safe place, while the remaining on campus population said that they were unsure, rather than saying that they felt it was unsafe. The perception was the same for those individuals surveyed in areas surrounding the campus.

President Koch commented that campus crime data for Old Dominion University report low instances of violent crime, and data concerning non-violent crime compare favorably to other campuses. Area Leaders Tours are another means of promoting the University's image.

The Rector thanked President Koch, Vice President Harnage and representatives of the Old Dominion University and Norfolk police departments. He commented that board members are required to be aware of the circumstances and to make suggestions for improvement if appropriate. The Board is proud of the administration's efforts in improving safety on the campus and plans to remain vigilante to make sure that this continues.

OLD BUSINESS

The Rector asked Dr. Hilgers for a report on the budget devoted to instructional support. Dr. Hilgers distributed a handout and explained that the Rector asked him to research this issue after the newspaper ran an article reporting data about Old Dominion University which was inconsistent with those data provided by SCHEV and reported by President Koch at the last meeting. *The Virginian Pilot* reported that state universities devoted 14% of their budgets to administration and only 56% to academics, and lamented that nothing has been done by the state institutions to improve these figures since restructuring was initiated. However, upon contacting SCHEV, he learned that the data reported by President Koch were accurate and speak well for Old Dominion University. The data, as amplified by the handout provided by the administration presented to the members of the executive committee, show that Old Dominion University devotes only 11% to administration, while 75% of its budget is devoted to instruction and academic support.

NEW BUSINESS

The Rector asked if there was any new business to come before the Committee. President Koch indicated that plans for the February Executive Committee meeting include a presentation on the Foundations which support the University, including the income tax forms required by the IRS. As an issue which has received so much attention throughout the State, it is important for the Board to understand the University's relationship to its Foundations and how those Foundations support the mission of the University. Mr. Lechler suggested that the chairs of each of the Foundations be

invited to speak to the Committee. President Koch indicated that discussions would likely span more than one meeting.

Rector Hamm stated that previously he and Mr. Lechler were appointed as the Board's representatives to the Investment Committee of the Real Estate Foundation. Now that he is Rector, it is inappropriate for him to be one of the Board's representatives and someone must be identified to replace him so that there are two official representatives to the Foundation.

The Rector indicated that Ms. Perry, as the new chair of the Institutional Advancement Committee, has been asked by him to talk to individual board members regarding their financial support of the University. He also indicated that Rev. Paige had suggested at a prior meeting that the Board review the University's needs and plans for student housing. The Student Affairs Committee has been charged to look at this issue and make any necessary recommendations to the Board, including further discussions by the Executive Committee, if desired. Rev. Paige suggested that the Committee begin by reviewing the University's master plan.

Mr. Hamm asked about the current solicitation for student housing within the University Village. Mr. Harnage explained that the Village plans include 1200 apartments; the current solicitation covers the first phase consisting of 400 apartments at the northern end of the Village. The overall master plan, however, provides for future building sites for more traditional university residential facilities.

With no further business to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.