

**OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF VISITORS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Monday, 19 October 1998**

MINUTES

The Executive Committee of the Board of Visitors met on Monday, 19 October 1998, at 3:00 PM in the Board Room of Webb University Center. Present from the Executive Committee were:

Edward L. Hamm, Jr., Rector
Joan D. Gifford
William M. Lechler
Lawrie Falck Rollison

Also present from the Board of Visitors were:

Elizabeth W. Atkinson
J. Jack W. Hilgers
Patricia W. Perry
Ronald John A. Villanueva
Lois S. Williams

Also present were:

James V. Koch, President
John R. Broderick
Dana D. Burnett
Nancy P. Coberly
Stephen P. Daniel
William A. Drewry
Lorraine Eaton (*The Virginian-Pilot*)
Jo Ann M. Gora
Corey Hamlin (*Mace & Crown*)
David F. Harnage
Donna W. Meeks
William C. Rice
Gia Stewart (*Mace & Crown*)
William E. Thro

**CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING OF 4 AUGUST 1998**

The Rector called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM and asked for approval of the minutes of the Board of Visitors Executive Committee meeting of 4 August 1998. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved as distributed.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hamm thanked the board members for showing their confidence in him by electing him as Rector and commented that he has had several positive discussions with various board members since the September meeting. He also indicated that he has spoken by telephone with Mr. Lewis Warren, the newest appointee to the Board of Visitors, and looks forward to working with him in the coming year.

Mr. Hamm asked Ms. Perry to report on a meeting she had recently with Governor Gilmore. Ms. Perry stated that the meeting was mainly personal in nature, and the Governor had nothing for her to report back to the Board.

Mr. Hamm reported that the Council of Visitors meeting will be held on 7 November in Charlottesville. Since he will be unable to attend, he asked Dr. Williams to attend as the Board's representative. Ms. Gifford also indicated that she would be attending.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Rector called on President Koch for his report. President Koch reported that the University received funding during the 1998 General Assembly to increase its output of students in technology related fields and is required to report how that funding is being utilized. He shared these initiatives with the Board, as follows: (1) Scholarships for undergraduates in computer science/technology related disciplines; (2) \$587,000 to hire additional faculty and provide additional support for students; (3) Oracle database training; (4) putting the undergraduate Computer Science curriculum on the Internet; and (5) the IT Pro Certificate Program.

President Koch also reported that the University has been granted Motions for Summary Judgment in two of the lawsuits involving engineering faculty (i.e, the court ruled in favor of the University, thereby ending the lawsuits, subject to appeal to a higher court).

Mr. Lechler indicated that he recently attended seminars in which discussion focused on the Internet. He asked President Koch for a brief summary of the University's involvement in distance learning. President Koch explained that while many institutions are involved in asynchronous forms of distance learning, Old Dominion University features both asynchronous and synchronous types of distance learning, with TELETECHNET being the University's synchronous, real-time distance learning program. The data has shown that student retention is twice as high in the TELETECHNET courses than in asynchronous forms of teaching. Several institutions are becoming more involved in this type of distance learning, but many will not succeed. The distance learning arena will likely be modeled on the banking industry, in that there will be a relatively small number of large distance learning sites, with smaller sites providing more specialized forms of distance learning. Old Dominion University is hoping to form partnerships with entities such as Microsoft, Disney, Cox, and At Home to capitalize on the technology these entities can offer.

In response to a question about competition, President Koch indicated that Old Dominion has the largest interactive televised system in United States. Other institutions, such as the University of

Phoenix and the British Open University, offer similar programs, but where Old Dominion excels is that it offers quality programs at a competitive price. Old Dominion's programs, for example, must be accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the professional accrediting bodies, and 80% of the sections are taught by full-time faculty members. Mr. Lechler requested that President Koch provide the board members with a competitive cost summary of its distance learning program.

UNIVERSITY'S ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICIES AND PRACTICES

Vice President Burnett presented Old Dominion University and national statistics on alcohol and drug use by college students, and he briefed the Committee on initiatives the University is employing to combat this major concern.

Vice President summarized the University's policy which prohibits the use of alcohol by any student under the age of 21 and specifies the provisions under which alcohol may be served at functions. These provisions include compliance with ABC laws, the prominent display of food and non-alcoholic beverages, proof of age requirement for all attendees, prohibition from using the serving of alcoholic beverages as an enticement to attend, and the requirement that the event be by invitation only. In addition, all events in which alcohol is served must be registered with the Office of Student Activities. If any of these provisions are violated, a student organization could lose recognition status.

Vice President Burnett explained how violations are handled. Normally, if it is a first offense, in addition to student disciplinary and criminal sanctions, the student is required to attend a program called "On-Campus Talking About Alcohol (OCTAA)", which is a national program whose focus is on changing behavior. If it is the student's second offense, he or she is required to attend "Last Call," a more rigorous program. A similar process is used for student organizations. Violations are handled through the student disciplinary process as well as criminal actions. The organization may be put on probation or have their charter revoked.

Dr. Burnett asked Cliff Rice, ODU Police Captain, to report on the University's relationship with the drinking establishments along Hampton Boulevard and some of the alcohol and drug-related problems encountered at some of the bars. Captain Rice informed the Committee about the Alcohol Task Force comprised of Norfolk police, Old Dominion University police and ABC enforcement agents, which was formed to combat underage drinking at the bars. The Task Force was in operation eight evenings during the months of March through September, and resulted in several student arrests. In addition to the Task Force, a system is now in place whereby students receive a student disciplinary summons as well as a criminal summons when caught drinking illegally.

Vice President Burnett indicated that letters are sent from him to all students at the beginning of each semester outlining the consequences if caught drinking, including the notification of parents (which is now allowed by law). He also explained the contractual relationship the University has instituted with each of the fraternities and sororities on campus. This program, called "CHANGE" challenges each Greek organization to comply with specific standards in order to maintain a chapter on campus.

Vice President Burnett indicated that he is also studying the issue of deferred rush as a way to strengthen this contractual relationship.

Vice President Burnett explained the “No Alcohol or Drugs (NADA)” Program whereby students may specifically request to live on certain dormitory floors where all students have stated that they will not tolerate the use of alcohol or drugs. Finally, he informed them of several educational programs designed to deter the use of alcohol on campus.

There followed a lengthy discussion concerning the Board’s involvement in strengthening the University’s alcohol and drug policies. Mr. Villanueva asked if any of the owners of the drinking establishments along Hampton Boulevard were members of the Task Force. President Koch indicated that currently none are but that the University would welcome their involvement. Mr. Hamm indicated that he would like to see the Board be a proponent for stronger policies in this regard. The Executive Committee agreed that the Student Affairs Committee should be asked to review the University’s current policies with an eye toward strengthening them within the confines of the law. Suggestions included prohibiting rush for freshmen, and the institution of minimum GPAs to join Greek organizations. President Koch suggested that the Task Force visit with the Committee at its meeting in December to discuss the recommendations made by the Attorney General.

DEFINITION, ROLE, AND EVALUATION OF RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY OF FACULTY AND ITS RELATION TO TEACHING

Provost Gora briefed the Committee on the role of research and scholarly activity and its relation to teaching. She commented that the University is a community of scholars, with faculty performing research on a continuum from basic to applied research. She pointed out the publication entitled, “Research: A Catalyst for Growth,” which was published by the University in 1995.

Provost Gora indicated that faculty research is evaluated at different times during a faculty member’s career, including an annual self-evaluation by the faculty member in his or her annual report, a pre-tenure review during the summer of the faculty member’s third year of service (which is unique to Old Dominion), during the tenure review process, prior to promotion to full professor, and in certain circumstances during post-tenure reviews.

Research is evaluated through peer review. Examples of peer review include refereed journal publications, the grant funding process, conference presentations and the mass market for such things as novels, sculptures and graphic designs.

Research enhances teaching in the following ways: incorporates examples into lectures; maintains a faculty member’s expertise in his/her discipline; faculty members serve as role models/mentors for their students; incorporates undergraduates in research process; improves the employability of undergraduates; shares the process of discovery with students; provides shared authorship; and introduces new elements in faculty members’ courses.

Research also enhances the reputation of the University. It provides institutional visibility in national venues; influences public policy; and assists people and corporations. President Koch called the board members' attention to the article which appeared in today's *Virginian-Pilot* featuring Professor Zahorian's research on speech recognition of computers.

CALL FOR NEW BUSINESS AND ADJOURNMENT

The Rector asked if there was any new business to come before the Board. Ms. Gifford brought to everyone's attention the letter from the State Council of Higher Education regarding the House Joint Resolution requesting that Boards take action making U.S. History a mandatory course in the undergraduate curriculum. President Koch indicated that all students at Old Dominion University are required to take at least one history course but the type of history course is not specified. There has been a presumption in the past that students have taken U.S. history in high school, but this is no longer the case with the increasing numbers of international students. The Faculty Senate is requested to discuss this issue and report any recommendation(s) to the President and then to the Board of Visitors as may be appropriate. Mr. Hamm asked that this be put on the agenda for a future Academic Affairs Committee meeting.

Dr. Williams indicated that any suggestions for Bylaws revisions should be sent to Ms. Rollison, chair of the Bylaws Revision Committee. Dr. Williams also requested that board members be provided with a list of e-mail addresses of fellow board members.

Mr. Villanueva reported that nominations for Vice Rector will soon be solicited from the Nominations Committee and the Committee will make a report at the December meeting. He also requested that Board members have more interaction with faculty, staff and students. Discussion followed on how this might be accomplished. Mr. Hamm indicated that he would discuss this further with President Koch, and suggested that perhaps board members could speak to a class during the semester, being careful to separate their personal points of view from the collective view of the University. Dr. Williams expressed her concerns with this idea, commenting that the role of a board member is to approve policy and to work with the President and his administration at his request.

President Koch commented that while he had no objection to board members sharing their individual experiences with members of the University community, he suggested a Visitor in Residence program whereby Visitors would spend time on campus to gain both academic and administrative exposure in a manner that is the least threatening to the faculty. He indicated that he would discuss this in more detail at the December Board meeting.

With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM.