

**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
VISIT TO UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA'S COLLEGE AT WISE
APRIL 20, 2016
DRAFT MINUTES**

Council members in attendance: Gilbert Bland, Heywood Fralin, Henry Light, G. Gilmer Minor, and Katharine Webb.

SCHEV staff members present: Peter Blake, Beverly Covington, and Lee Ann Rung.

Others in attendance: Liz Povar, Virginia Department of Economic Development Partnership

UVA-Wise attendees: Chancellor Donna Henry, Huda Aden, Rusty Necessary, Jewell Worley, Shannon Blevins, Sandy Huguenin, Sim Ewing, and Robert Bragg.

Mr. Minor called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m. and thanked Chancellor Henry for hosting the meeting.

Chancellor Henry provided an overview of UVA-Wise and discussed the institution's strategic plan, noting how each of its goals align with The Virginia Plan for Higher Education. She said she anticipates a 3% increase in tuition and fees from 2015-16 to 2016-17, with no increase in student dining fees and no increase in housing fees (with the exception of Henson Hall). The Chancellor spoke about the institution's endowment and the importance of providing ease of access to UVA-Wise students.

Chancellor Henry discussed the college's recruiting and marketing strategies as well as the successful outreach programs and noted the impact each is having on admissions and student success. Chancellor Henry and Mr. Necessary answered questions from members.

A panel discussion provided Council members the opportunity to hear directly from faculty and students demonstrating examples of student success at UVA-Wise. Efforts include faculty engagement, support for teaching, and constant curriculum revision. The institution currently has two endowed chairs in science. Students attested to the importance of the research opportunities afforded them at UVA-Wise and demonstrated various undergraduate research in which they have been involved. Undergraduate research is an integral part of the UVA-Wise student experience and staff stressed the need to fund this important venture.

Council members toured the new library building, which is scheduled to open in summer 2016 and enjoyed lunch, which featured entertainment by a choral group and the opportunity to engage with students about their undergraduate research during a poster viewing session.

Following lunch, staff provided Council with a presentation demonstrating Wise's support of growth and economic prosperity in Southwest Virginia. The Appalachian Prosperity Project combines education, health, and entrepreneurship to help create jobs in the region. The Healthy Appalachia Institute's mission is to improve the health, education, environment and prosperity for residents of central Appalachia.

In May, UVA-Wise will host an economic forum to identify additional strategies that can move the region forward.

John Macfarlane, Chairman of the University of Virginia Board of Visitors Committee on Wise, and Teresa Sullivan, President of the University of Virginia, thanked Council members for taking the time to visit the UVA-Wise campus. Mr. Macfarlane spoke about the governance of the Committee on Wise and the relationship between UVA and the college. The UVA-Wise Chancellor reports to President Sullivan and the Wise campus is a division of UVA, with a separate budget.

President Sullivan informed the Council that Wise is a wonderful example of what the Commonwealth can accomplish and hoped members would leave with a new appreciation of what the institution has achieved. The college began in 1954 serving the needs of the region and today serves students in all but a few counties of the Commonwealth. President Sullivan spoke about the strength of the relationship between UVA and Wise and said that collaboration between the two institutions is achieved throughout the organizational structure. UVA provides shared services for several back-office operations, including payroll, fringe benefits architectural services, legal and other professional services. President Sullivan also informed the Council that students on UVA's wait list are offered admission to Wise with the opportunity to transfer to UVA after two years.

Mr. Minor thanked the staff for hosting the Council, explaining that it was an enlightening and uplifting experience. Mr. Blake echoed Mr. Minor's thanks to the UVA-Wise staff for hosting an extraordinary event.

The meeting adjourned: 3:15 p.m.

G. Gilmer Minor III
Chairman

Lee Ann Rung
Director, Executive and Board Affairs