

To: Hourly and Classified Employees Executive Committee; Professionals & Professional Faculty Assembly  
From: Mary Molineux, staff representative to the W&M Board of Visitors  
Subject: Report on the November 2009 W&M Board of Visitors Meetings  
Date: 12/12/2009

Here's my report from the November 19 & 20, 2009 W&M Board of Visitors (BOV) meetings.

## **I. Basic background information:**

- **Board of Visitors information:** here's the URL for the BOV's webpage <http://www.wm.edu/about/administration/bov/?svr=web>

It gives information about the members, committees, approved minutes from previous meetings, etc. Also helpful are the items posted under the "Presentations and Reports" link: these are mostly PowerPoint presentations that have been given at the BOV meetings on topics such as student affairs, buildings & grounds, financial affairs, sustainability, etc.

- **Agenda:** About a week before each Board of Visitors meeting, a copy of the agenda book is put at Swem Library's Circulation/Reserves Desk so that anyone may review it.
- **February 2010 meeting:** The Professionals & Professional Faculty Assembly and Hourly & Classified Employees/Staff Assembly have asked for time at the February 2010 BOV meeting to make presentations about our organizations.

## **II. Notes from November 2009 BOV meetings:**

### **Thursday, November 19, 2009 – Committee Meetings**

#### **Committee on Development & Alumni Affairs**

**W&M Alumni Association President Janet Atwater** talked about the Alumni Association's goals for the year: they include collaborating with the College re lifelong relationships, making sure the College has accurate alumni contact information, improved communication to alumni, diversifying the Alumni Association's board of directors, strengthening the Alumni Association's finances.

**W&M Vice President for Development Sean Pieri** reported on results of recent Development Office activities, including Homecoming (raised \$13.3 million), annual giving drive, etc. Overall, giving is up and more current students and alumni are participating.

**W&M Director of Annual Giving Molly Bodner** reported on broadening of annual giving activities, some market research that shows the uniqueness of W&M, options to let donors designate how their donated funds will be used, etc.

**W&M Foundation Board Chair Sue Gerdelman** reported on aligning the Foundation Board's priorities with those of both the Board of Visitors and the Development Office. W&M's endowment fund was \$494.8 million as of June 30, 2009, and is up 10.07% in the first quarter of FY2010.

#### Committee on Administration

**W&M Provost Michael Halleran** and **W&M VP for Administration Anna Martin** reviewed the new policy for "Appointments & Terminations" for professionals and professional faculty. [Note: as of 12/11/2009, this policy is still undergoing some revision; the Provost will release it in the near future.]

**W&M VP for Administration Anna Martin** reported some of the restructuring classification numbers: 20% of classified staff moved to the new "university system"; 78% of W&M employees (including instructional, professionals/professional faculty, and operational) are in the "university system." For W&M Chief Information Officer for Information Technology Courtney Carpenter, Martin reported on a new IT security audit and a network upgrade that will soon provide much faster file transfers and improved streaming video. She also reported that about 800 students had had the flu, with about 50 to 60 cases at any given time; H1N1 vaccines had just arrived and clinics being held for students and employees.

#### Committee on Athletics

**W&M Director of Athletics Terry Driscoll** reported on the various W&M student sports teams and their win/loss records and that the mascot search has been narrowed to 5 finalists, with a graphics company in the process of developing sketches. These 5 finalists will be posted mid-December for public input. There was also a presentation by and about the **Student Athletic Advisory Council**, comprised of student representatives from sports teams; the council advises on many issues and also organizes many student volunteer projects.

#### Committee on Buildings & Grounds

**VIMS Director of Planning & Budget Carolyn Cook** reported on the damage at VIMS from the recent nor'easter storm (\$20,000 to \$30,000 worth of damages) and then on other VIMS building projects.

**VP Martin** reported on campus utilities improvements (power plant renovation/upgrade; cooling plan upgrade; new steam/hot water pipes to be installed) and capital projects (School of Education new building on target and on budget, with a May/June ready date; Small Hall, March 2011 completion; Career Center; Brafferton—feasibility study; Thiemes House demolition to make way for new apartments/business complex; Bell

Building—new home for Human Resources; Tucker Hall—renovation may have to wait until state budget crisis passes).

**Provost Halleran** reported that:

- a “Dean of University Libraries” search committee had been formed and met
- “Liberal Arts” conversations are continuing on campus
- Discussions being held re the ideal size of W&M’s student body
- Quality of students being attracted to W&M continues to be very high

**W&M VP for Enrollment Earl Granger** reported that:

- Freshman class has grown by about 50 over the past 2 to 3 years
- Number of Transfer students has increased about 150 over last 4 years (as part of restructuring agreement)
- Some of these increases due to dual enrollment (students jointly enrolled at W&M and another university or community college)
- 46% of W&M students participate in study abroad (this doesn’t count summer abroad students)
- Applications for attending W&M are up 4% to 17% for categories of undergraduate and graduate programs
- 62% of applicants are female; about 55% of admitted students are female
- 50% of the Virginia students at W&M are from Northern Virginia
- 7% of freshmen are “legacy” students (one or more parents attended W&M)
- Smaller number of incoming students record a specific race or ethnicity on their applications
- Admission Office has a YouTube video that gives advice on how to do a college application
- Twamptannica – a student publication about the “Typical William and Mary Person” (TWAMP) will soon have an online site

**Faculty Liaison Professor Kate Slevin** introduced two professors who reported on how the budget cuts are affecting research and teaching at W&M:

Prof. Lizabeth Allison from Biology spoke about the importance of original research opportunities for students and how budget cuts had resulted in loss of needed equipment replacements, loss of tenured faculty positions where long-term faculty-student relationships could be developed, loss of push for innovation and morale, and perhaps loss of highest quality of teaching. She recommended that increased tuition be earmarked for undergraduate education.

Prof. Phil Daileader from History spoke about reduced doctoral program (1/2 the size of 10 years ago), library book budget cuts (1/2 the size of 10 years ago), loss of tenured faculty positions that results in students lacking faculty for Honors programs or letters of recommendations for graduate school/jobs, fewer field trips for educational purposes, etc. He suggested that W&M was trying to “overreach” and may need to try to do fewer things but to do them well.

## Committee on Student Affairs

### **VP for Student Affairs Ginger Ambler** reported on:

- Student housing/dorms: fraternities may opt for portions of dorms since they can not all fill up a fraternity house
- Flu: as noted above, about 800 have had it so far
- Student leadership opportunities: there are many opportunities for students to get leadership experience; examples are jobs as residence hall assistants, Honor Code Council, student government, self-designed majors, etc.

### **Student liaisons to the BOV** reported on:

- W&M cited as the top study-abroad program at a public university
- “Rock the Vote” project for the November 3 Virginia elections
- CORE: Conversations on Reconciliation & Equality – regular programs [For more info on CORE, see <http://www.wm.edu/news/stories/2009/change-begins-at-the-core-123.php> ]

## **Friday, November 20, 2009 – Full BOV Meeting**

### President’s Report

**W&M President Taylor Reveley** spoke optimistically about the budget situation, emphasizing that W&M will get through it, but that we should work on the strategic plan and consider streamlining what we do and developing a new financial model that is less dependent on state funds.

### Committee on Financial Affairs

- **W&M VP for Finance Sam Jones** reported on the state’s budget outlook (revenues down significantly) and reviewed the recent history of cuts in funding to W&M.
- **Budget adjustments:** The BOV approved resolutions to handle budget shortfalls and that included:
  - **eliminating several frozen positions, laying off 12 positions (some professionals/professional faculty and some operational), and reducing hours for other positions;**
  - reducing operating funds (utilities, travel, hardware/software, etc.); allocating stimulus funds where possible; and
  - increasing Spring 2010 **tuition** for undergraduate, graduate business, and graduate law (not graduate VIMS or graduate Arts & Sciences because of low graduate stipends) **by \$300** to the base
- **Budget discussions:** There was general discussion about the budget, including questions from BOV members about the cost to educate students at W&M (\$17,300/year for just the educational part; roughly \$32,000/year if all costs, including buildings and utilities, are included). BOV members also voiced the

need to improve the way W&M conveys its need for additional funding – both to legislators, alumni, and other possible donors.

- **VIMS Carolyn Cook** presented VIMS budget situation which, because it's more dependent on state funds and grants, has had to lay off 29 positions (10 faculty; 19 staff).
- **Investment Portfolio:** value of W&M's investment portfolio was \$48.4 million as of 11/15/09 and is improving from last year's economic downturn.

### Committee on Strategic Initiatives

**VP for Strategic Initiatives Jim Golden and Provost Halleran** reported on the progress with W&M's Strategic Plan:

- 110 implementation steps have been identified for FY 2010 and most are underway.
- The "Liberal Arts" conversations are part of the process and will help with W&M's curriculum review.
- A "dashboard" project – to create a table of significant W&M numbers to help us compare progress and compare with other universities – is still being refined; BOV members had several suggestions for improving this project with targets and more qualitative measures.
- Various W&M Communications committees are looking at ways to improve both external and internal communication.

### Government Relations update

**W&M Associate VP for Government Relations Fran Bradford** reported on work with General Assembly legislators and the "Grow by Degrees" program that is a partnership of businesses and higher education.

### Resolutions

All of the resolutions proposed by the BOV committees were approved in the general meeting. These resolutions can be found in the BOV agenda book (a copy at the Swem Library Circulation Desk).