

To: Staff Assembly/Hourly and Classified Employees Association  
Professionals & Professional Faculty Assembly  
From: Mary Molineux, staff representative to the W&M Board of Visitors  
Subject: Report on the April 2010 W&M Board of Visitors Meetings  
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Here's my report from the April 15-16, 2010, W&M Board of Visitors (BOV) meetings.  
Please contact me if you have any questions. [msmoli@wm.edu](mailto:msmoli@wm.edu) 757-221-3076

## **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 Book:** 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. This agenda book contains detailed reports, resolutions, etc., that are not posted on the BOV webpage.

## **II. Notes from April 2010 BOV meetings:**

### **Thursday, April 15, 2010**

Richard Bland College Committee: I did not attend, but the agenda included reports from Richard Bland College President **James McNeer**, Provost **Vernon Lindquist**, and other Bland officials.

#### Committee on Development and Alumni Affairs

Reports were given by Alumni Association Director **Karen Cottrell**, Development Director **Sean Pieri**, Development's Director of Leadership Gifts and Foundation Operations **Lee Foster**, and W&M Foundation Director **Sue Gerdelman**. Foster and Gerdelman focused on a review study of the Foundation to improve its structure and coordination.

Committee on Athletics: Athletics Director **Terry Driscoll** gave reports about the various athletic teams and the new mascot (the Griffin, who was introduced). Four of the men's basketball team leaders were introduced.

Committee on Administration and Committee on Buildings & Grounds:

Vice President for Administration **Anna Martin** introduced the resolution for establishment of the **new Staff Assembly**, and the Committee on Administration approved it for going forward to the full BOV.

Martin also reported on a new emergency response plan that needs to be approved by the BOV every four years (per a new state law) and provided updates on building projects, including the School of Education (mid-May move-in dates for some SOE folks), Career Center, Small Hall lab, Andrews Hall HVAC upgrades, and Tucker Hall (possible state funds in the next year).

Committee on Sustainability: co-chairs Linda Butler (Law School) and Dennis Taylor (VIMS) introduced **Caroline Cress**, a W&M senior, who presented the committee's proposal for turning the W&M lodges into an Eco-Village. Each of the 8 lodges would undergo renovation, incorporating various sustainable features such as alternative energy sources, recycled building materials, etc.

The Eco-Village would be designed to save energy, reduce W&M's carbon footprint, and also provide research opportunities for students – to study how the different lodges function, what social factors might be involved, etc. One lodge will be renovated at a time, as funds become available. [It was announced at Friday's BOV meeting that BOV member Michael Tang had provided funds for the initial feasibility study for the Eco-Village project.]

Provost Report and Faculty Presentation:

W&M Provost **Michael Halleran** reported on:

- Lemon Project
- Liberal Arts University "conversations"
- curriculum review scheduled for next year
- review of the merit system (for instructional faculty)

Instructional faculty members presented reports on specific portions of the 2009 Faculty Survey: job satisfaction, gender issues, faculty roles, faculty priorities, and governance. Each presenter highlighted some of the data from the survey.

A few highlights:

- 83% of faculty are either "very satisfied" or "moderately satisfied."
- 80% of male faculty believe that female faculty are treated equally; only 56% of female faculty believe that
- 69% of faculty have worked with undergraduates on a research project
- 92% of faculty listed increased funding for faculty salaries as a top priority
- 78% of faculty are involved in faculty governance

There was some discussion about the significance of data that showed differences in the ways that some subgroups – such as female faculty and assistant professors -- responded to some questions.

It was noted that, in general, faculty responses at W&M correspond to the same responses at similar institutions. [The full Faculty Survey results are at: <http://www.wm.edu/sites/facultyassembly/documents/2009facultyreport.pdf> ]

### Committee on Student Affairs

Vice President for Student Affairs **Ginger Ambler** reported on several of W&M's "transitional programs," including the summer PLUS Program for incoming freshmen, programs for transfer students, and more internships to help students transition to jobs.

Ambler also reported on improvements to psychological help provided to students: the Counseling Center, Dean of Students Office, Student Health Center, and Student Affairs have increased their collaboration to ensure better service and an additional counselor will be added.

She also reported on residence space issues and the assessment that had recently been completed of W&M's fraternities and sororities, which had also noted residence space as a significant issue.

The BOV's student liaisons reported on the need for additional counseling staff (there's been a backlog of student appointments), the Center for Student Diversity's need to expand its role, and the Student Life Survey which identified the need for more off-campus social life opportunities for students (and a Student Chamber of Commerce/Student Assembly partnership).

### Committee on Strategic Initiatives

Vice President for Strategic Initiatives **Jim Golden** and Provost **Halleran** presented the latest version of the "Dashboard" that contains significant data about W&M. This newest edition groups the data in categories based on the Strategic Plan's 6 Challenges.

Halleran reported on the system used by U. S. News & World Report to rank colleges and universities. He noted that some of the data is valid, but that the formula used to weight different factors is subjective and highly-skewed toward private universities (the top 19 of 20 universities in the "National Universities" category – of which W&M is a part – are private universities).

Halleran also mentioned a National Survey of Student Engagement in which W&M might want to participate.

Strategic Plan update: of the 105 objectives, 19 are completed; 78 are underway; 8 have been moved to FY2011. There are another 34 objectives set for FY2011 completion.

The Lemon Project, which is researching the history of slavery at W&M, is developing well, with plans for lectures.

Golden reviewed progress on some specific Strategic Plan goals and reported on progress in the Communications area with identifying W&M's major "messages" – for example: "public ivy" "great liberal arts university" "lifelong experience" "tribe" "there's only one W&M – yours."

## **Friday, April 16, 2010**

### Committee on Financial Affairs

W&M VP for Finance **Sam Jones** reported on the latest budget figures and projections. Because Governor Bob McDonnell's state budget would become available next week, the BOV tabled any decisions about raising tuition until May. FY2011 budget is now in fairly good shape, but FY2012 could see more cuts here at W&M because the last of the federal stimulus funds will have been spent in FY2011.

Jones clarified that the possible 3% bonus for state employees in December 2010 would happen only if the state takes in \$82 million more than it currently anticipates in revenues. If the state's revenues increase by \$41 million more than anticipated, then state employees would receive a 1.5% bonus (in other words, the bonus will be pro-rated based on the state's revenues).

However, W&M will have to cover 65% of whatever bonus is granted (the state covers 35%, the state agency covers 65%).

Jones also noted that new state employees (hired July 1, 2010 or later) will have to pay that 5% Virginia Retirement System contribution, but current state employees will continue to have this covered by the state.

He also noted that the state so far has not published any restrictions to the College's ability to increase tuition.

Tucker Hall's renovation will likely proceed; there appear to be some funds available from the state; details to come later.

Jones also reviewed increases and one-time purchases in FY2011's budget. Highlights include: some new staff will be hired to support new facilities (such as the School of Education and the Career Center) – for example, 2 new HVAC technicians, 1 electrician, 1 plumber, 1 grounds person, and several housekeeping staff members) and Development Office expansion; utility costs and maintenance contracts for the new buildings; new research equipment and equipment upgrade to PBK Hall.

VIMS Director John Wells reported on the VIMS budget, for which the state budget cuts have had a more serious impact, with a number faculty and staff layoffs and hours reductions. Some funds have been restored but FY2012 will also be a difficult budget year for VIMS.

### Full BOV Meeting

Each committee chair reported on his or her committee's meeting (from the previous day or earlier this day) and resolutions, as appropriate, were proposed and approved.

Those resolutions include faculty and professionals/professional faculty hiring and promotions; acknowledgements of retirements; approval of such things as emergency plans and funding for certain projects; and, in this instance, the approval of the establishment of the new Staff Assembly.

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 is available at the Swem Library Circulation Desk).