

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 September 2009 W&M Board of Visitors Meetings
Date: 9/30/2009

Here's my report from the September 2009 meeting.

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.

II. Notes from September 2009 BOV meetings:

Listed below are the meetings that I attended, with brief notes. There were no controversial issues; the 15% state budget cut obviously overshadowed all other topics and affects most of the issues that were discussed.

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Committee on Administration

VP for Administration Anna Martin reported on W&M's progress re sustainability (reduced carbon footprint); violence/threat assessment team formed to find ways to reduce risk; and campus flu management update. She also reviewed Strategic Plan Grand Challenge 5 ("provide the administrative resources and infrastructure required for a university in the 21st century"). For Challenge 5: IT is upgrading all of the campus's IT infrastructure; a new phone system is planned for the future; plans to consolidate/coordinate all W&M databases (e.g., Banner, Development, Alumni); new GIS center located in Swem Library; new cell towers to improve cell phone access; more security training and risk management policies & procedures; and purchasing more "green" products to improve sustainability.

Thursday, September 17, 2009

President's Report

President Reveley spoke optimistically about several major areas:

- People: record number of student applications; 25 new tenure-track professors hired; changeover in new top administrators has gone smoothly (e.g., new President; new Provost....)
- Physical Plant: many new projects being completed or under renovation (e.g., School of Business; School of Education; Small Hall....)
- Communications: improvements in several areas
- Development: highest fund-raising year ever just completed

He also noted that, in light of the state's continued budget cuts, the College needs to pursue a new financial model, which is Strategic Plan Grand Challenges #4.

Committee on Financial Affairs

- W&M's investment portfolio was reviewed and is showing improvement after last year's decline; the investment company recommended reducing W&M's risk level in its investment strategies.
- VP for Finance Sam Jones reported on the state budget cuts and reviewed issues in Governor Kaine's proposal, including the furloughs, VRS contribution postponement, etc. Kaine's proposal awaits approval next winter/spring by the General Assembly. Jones also explained that the state was waiting for federal approval to allow use of the 2011 federal stimulus funds in 2010 to minimize the 15% cut. Options for raising funds and cutting expenses were discussed, including tuition hikes, cost savings with hiring freezes, etc.
- Carolyn Cook of VIMS gave a presentation on budget implications for the VIMS campus.

Committee on Buildings and Grounds

Reports were given about the School of Business project, VIMS projects, and other main campus projects, including the School of Education; power plant upgrade; Small Hall; Career Center; Tucker Hall (on hold); etc. VP Martin discussed the LEEDS (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification levels for which new projects either have attained or would aim to attain.

Committee on Development and Alumni Affairs

Alumni Association director Karen Cottrell reported on alumni projects; VP for Development Sean Pieri reported on development initiatives and goals.

Committee on Athletics

VP for Athletics Terry Driscoll reported on how the various teams were faring so far this year and showed Strategic Plan goals for athletics. The new mascot choice has been narrowed to about 5 concepts and will be announced in the next few months.

Provost's Report

Provost Michael Halleran gave an optimistic report about what he's learned about W&M during his first 3 months on the job, including the high level of research, even on the undergraduate level; the competitiveness for admission to W&M; the high rankings in national polls; excellent student-faculty ratio; and our commitment to being a liberal arts university.

Faculty Presentation

Professor Kate Slevin, VP of the Faculty Assembly, gave a presentation about what faculty do – focusing on 9 faculty members, with 3 each featured for their teaching, research, and service activities.

Committee on Student Affairs

- VP for Student Affairs Ginger Ambler reported on several projects: an assessment of fraternities and sororities; housing for fraternities; town-gown relations; the Student Health Center and flu preparations; a renovated Watson Lab (which houses equipment for students with disabilities). Dr. Virginia Wells of the Student Health Center, and Vernon Hurte, new director of the Student Diversity Center, gave reports about their respective centers.
- Student Liaisons reported on major student issues: City of Williamsburg's local noise ordinance and 3-person rule that limits the number of unrelated occupants living in a house; fraternity housing needs; how much they like the new School of Business building; success of the Green & Gold Affair; new Tribal Fever sports fan club.

Committee on Strategic Initiatives

VP for Strategic Initiatives Jim Golden reviewed the Strategic Plan.

Friday, September 18, 2009

Full Board Meeting

The BOV went into closed session for much of this meeting; during the public portions, they approved a number of resolutions such as establishing the campus assessment and intervention team; budget requests for the main campus and VIMS; approvals of appointments to fill vacancies of faculty and professionals/professional faculty positions; granting of tenure; approval of academic leaves of absence; VIMS bylaws changes; changing the College's investment strategy; etc. All of these resolutions are in the agenda book, available for review at Swem Library's Circulation/Reserves Desk.

III. Recommendation: As a result of attending the BOV meetings and observing the presentations made, the HACE/Staff Assembly Steering Committee and the PPFA might want to propose a joint presentation about these organizations' activities/progress at the November 2009 BOV meeting.