

## Chancellor's Cabinet Summary Notes

February 4, 2008  
Slemp Honor Court Room

Members Present: David Prior, Gil Blackburn, Sheila Cox-Combs, Tami Ely, Sim Ewing, Keith Fowlkes, Amelia Harris, Sandra Jones, Gary Juhan, Rusty Necessary, Marcia Quesenberry, Ray Spenilla.

Members Absent: Robin Benke, Roger Hagy, and Rachel Tighe

Chancellor Prior: Prior welcomed Tami Ely, Interim Vice Chancellor for Development & College Relations, to her first Cabinet meeting. Jim Knight has retired from his full-time position but will be working as a consultant on the campaign. A search will be initiated in a month to six weeks for the VC position.

Ewing: Secretary of Finance Wagner appeared before the General Assembly money committees the last week of January, at which time she reported that the state had collected \$150 million less in revenue than for the previous January. Predictions are that there will be an additional \$250 million shortfall, on top of the \$618 million already announced. Within the next couple of weeks, more information will be forthcoming as sales tax figures are released and the Governor's two panels of economists meet. By the evening of 2/11/08, we should have revised figures. UVa-Wise may have additional budget cuts this fiscal year, and for FY09 and FY10.

The 3% salary increase that the Governor proposed for January 2009 is in play: legislators are considering moving it back to the traditional December date. The College pays a portion of any salary increases mandated by the state.

The General Assembly will more than likely fund financial aid, but put a cap on tuition increases.

For capital projects, two different avenues are being explored, a general obligation bond which requires voter approval or a VCBA package which requires the General Assembly and Governor's approval and could proceed by July 1. The various capital project lists range from \$600 million to \$1.6 billion. UVa-Wise is seeking funding for a new library and a convocation center.

Funding for the College's operational budget amendments for new faculty and a new student information system have been submitted but it is uncertain at this time how they will fair with the current budget situation. Prior said that the College will find a way to fund a new student information system, perhaps with debt financing, as our current system will be without vendor support as of December 2008.

Ewing emphasized that though revenues are down, Virginia's economy is still growing and the Commonwealth has more capacity to weather a downturn than in previous years because of the fully funded Rainy Day Fund. UVa-Wise is one of only four public higher education institutions in Virginia that is generating predicted revenue.

Current construction update: Crockett renovation is catching up; entrance is on time; Center for the Arts is on time; the Science Center may be a month behind; and Smiddy Hall is three months delayed due to a change in architects. For residence hall 3 and the new dining hall, Ewing just received permitting from the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Soil & Water Conservation. Ewing's office will receive an updated construction schedule soon, which will assist in the scheduling of classrooms for fall 2008.

Fowlkes: The studio for Channel 55 is nearing completion and an enthusiastic group of students is ready to begin work. IT is working on an RFP for a student information system so that when funding becomes available, the College can proceed quickly.

Harris: The student research symposium will be held on April 3 at Emory & Henry College. Quantitative reasoning results improved – a 16% improvement in students deemed competent at the end of the required math sequence. A new class in math applications may be helping in producing these results.

Ely: College raised \$3.1 million in first six months of this fiscal year – right on target. Expect to receive a large bequest in the spring. Last year 16 new scholarships had been created by the time of the scholarship luncheon and we are on target for matching that this year. The scholarship luncheon will be on March 29 in the gym, as the event has outgrown the cafeteria. For the first half of this year, the College's endowment - now nearing \$50 million –earned a 23.4% return, which is attributed to the excellent management by UVIMCO. The majority of the endowment is for scholarships. Development is seeing a record number of faculty and staff gifts this year.

Spennilla: College will remain in the Mid-South East for now, after a push to move to the West, which would have been detrimental to our academic program. Also a proposal to double the number of conference games for spring sports has been staved off for now.

Juhan: We are currently negotiating meal rates with our vendor and trying to stay within a 5 to 6% meal rate increase for next year. Appalachian Voices, a group opposed to the power plant, has requested and been granted table space in the Slemp Center lobby on February 14. Today at 5 p.m., the emergency siren system and emergency web notification will be tested. Juhan suggested more dialogue and trust between departments and units when suspicious activities are reported and campus police must investigate.

Blackburn: Encouraged openness and thoughtfulness in making budget cuts, if that becomes necessary. Several new options are being considered for Commencement this year, including having refreshments, departmental awards, and diploma distribution by

departments. The faculty evaluation process is under review, as we may be over doing the process. Besides the student research symposium with Emory & Henry, the College may join with other nearby COPLAC schools and hold a multi-state symposium.

Cox-Combs: Spring enrollment dropped 5% from fall. Abingdon enrollment is up 5%, whereas the Center for Teaching Excellence is down. Applications for graduation are the highest ever, with over 312 applications thus far. Senior Celebration week will be the first week after spring break. With departments' cooperation, the registrar's office is using a new template to schedule class for FY08 and FY09.

Necessary: Admissions is ahead 25% in applications for fall 2008 as compared to last year. Winter open house is February 15, and two informational options have been added at the end of the program - one for financial aid and one for athletics. On Feb 23, the College is hosting the Lonesome Pine Forensics competition. Six high schools will be attendance and judges and other support people are needed. New targeted search marketing has been successfully tested with 7,000 students. The direct mail campaign, which includes personalized letters that reflect individual student interests, increased response rates from 7% to 17%. Students can respond by reply card, text messaging, or through a new web site (<http://myUVAwise.com/dream>). The marketing is now being expanded to 50,000 prospective students. Enrollment Management and Academic Affairs are working with our three feeder community colleges to complete articulation agreements for software engineering, computer science, and management information systems.

Jones: The Chancellor is hosting a series of staff breakfasts that are well-attended. Black History Month activities begin on Thursday. Staff Council is scheduling several seminars for spring semester. The Martin Luther King celebrations received extensive media coverage.

Prior: Chancellor concluded the meeting by saying that Courtney Connor is working to expand our outreach to the region's teachers. This semester, five classes for teachers are being held at five different locations throughout our region.

The next Cabinet meeting is scheduled for March 19 at 8 a.m. in the Slemple Honor Court Room.