

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Board of Visitors Meets

The Longwood University Board of Visitors met on campus December 10-11, 2004. Committee reports were presented on December 10, followed by the official board meeting on December 11 that was opened by Vice Rector Helen E. Phillips.

Dr. Patricia P. Cormier, president, presented her President's Report and announced that she has assumed the responsibility as chair of the American Association of Colleges and Universities and has been asked by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to serve on a committee to examine the compensation of the new President.

The President reported that she has been appointed by Dr. Glenn DuBois, chair of the Council of Presidents and chancellor of the Virginia Community College System, to serve on a committee along with Virginia Commonwealth University President Eugene Trani, Christopher Newport President Paul Tribble and James Madison President Linwood Rose to work with the University of Virginia, William and Mary and Virginia Tech to explore ways to enhance legislation regarding chartered university status.

A financial, staffing, and program update on the proposed new college in Martinsville was given by President Cormier. She reported that Longwood, Old Dominion University and Patrick Henry Community College are working on a proposed 2+2 type program. The Governor and the General Assembly will make the ultimate decision.

Concluding her report, President Cormier gave a brief update on the proposal of the Halifax Education Foundation to seek General Assembly approval and funding for the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center to become a freestanding state-supported higher education center.

The Board unanimously approved the Executive Committee's recommendation that the fall elections and annual meeting be changed to June to allow for standing committee assignments to

be made prior to the first meeting of the year which would also make the transitions for new members smoother.

Board approval also was given for an online administrative fee of \$40 per credit hour for students who enroll in online courses. According to the State Council of Higher Education, the fees charged for these classes must exceed all direct and indirect costs of providing instruction to students. Students will pay the same tuition for online classes that they would pay for a regular class on campus. The additional charge of \$40 per credit hour will cover such cost as Blackboard, maintenance of the software and hardware, all costs associated with maintaining the technology used by the classes and training the professors to develop the courses.

A free Speech and Demonstration policy that establishes the time, place and manner of free expression of opinion through demonstrations, marches, etc. was approved by the Board. The university did not have a previous policy.

The Board approved the status of professor emeritus for Dr. Bette Harris, Professor of Health, Recreation and Kinesiology, and Dr. Betty Jo Simmons, Professor of Education, who are retiring at the end of the fall semester. Dr. Simmons, a Longwood alumna and the faculty marshal, has taught at Longwood since 1966, and Dr. Harris since 1979.

Also approved by the Board was the motion to approve a bachelor's and master's degree programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders. These programs will help address the significant shortage of speech-language pathologists in public schools and health settings.

Concluding Board action was the unanimous approval of the creation of a task force to assist the president in increasing Longwood base adequacy funding to the 93rd percentile of Virginia's public institutions of higher education, which is the state average, in the 2005-2006 General Assembly budget. Currently Longwood's funding is at the 81st percentile, which is the lowest for any public four-year institution in Virginia.

Longwood Foundation Board President Rita Smith introduced the Foundation's newly hired chief financial officer, Hazel Duncan. Mrs. Smith reported that according to a preliminary report

by the National Association of College and University Business Officers, the Foundation's endowment did well in 2004. She reported that the endowment increased by 16 percent and the average return was 14.5 percent.

Paula King, president of the Alumni Association, reported that vendors are being reviewed for the Online Community. Ms. King stated that not only will alumni and the Alumni Association benefit from Online Community, but the three Colleges, Athletics, the Career Center and various areas with Student Affairs will also benefit. During the Association's fall meeting, Ms. King said the following Longwood former professors were honored and made honoree members of the Alumni Association: John E. Carr III, James C. Gussett, John S. Peale, Barbara Smith, Camilla Tinnell, Wayne Tinnell and Carolyn Wells.

Dr. Craig Challender, faculty representative to the Board, thanked the Board for its efforts to assist the president in increasing the base adequacy funding for Longwood. Dr. Challender shared with the Board the concern for faculty workload.

Student Government Association President Alicia Moody also thanked the Board for its efforts to increase base adequacy funding. Ms. Moody offered her assistance in assembling a group of students that would be willing to assist in identifying issues related to student retention. She completed her report by reminding Board members of the invitation to attend the Virginia Student Association Conference at Longwood on January 21-23, 2005.

The Board of Visitors will next meet on April 1-2, 2005.