

# Chancellor's Cabinet Summary Notes

January 21, 2008

Bowers-Sturgill Conference Room

Members Present: Gil Blackburn, Robin Benke, Sim Ewing, Keith Fowlkes, Roger Hagy, Amelia Harris, Sandra Jones, Gary Juhan, Jim Knight, Marcia Quesenberry, and Rachel Tighe.

Members Absent: David Prior, Sheila Cox-Combs, Rusty Necessary, Ray Spenilla

FOCUSED TOPIC: "Between impartiality and bias: on the importance of judgment." Cabinet members discussed an article by Elizabeth Minnich on the above topic that appeared in the May-June 2006 issue of *Change* magazine. A great discussion was led by Gary Juhan, who also distributed a New York Times article by Steven Pinker entitled "The Moral Instinct."

## Member Updates:

- Sim Ewing reported that Virginia Secretary of Finance Wagner appeared before the General Assembly money committees to report that the Commonwealth is now predicting a shortfall of \$160 – 220 million for Fiscal Year '08; \$441 million shortfall for FY'09; and an additional \$546 million for FY'10. Shortfall will most likely result in additional budget cuts at the College, beginning this spring. If the General Assembly doesn't approve the Governor's recommendation to use the Rainy Day Fund to offset earlier budget shortfalls, additional cuts may be needed. Some forecasters are predicting that the national economic downturn will also affect Virginia's income tax revenue this year.
- Jim Knight reported that the *Fulfilling the Dream* campaign has now raised \$28 million toward the \$50 million goal, with \$1 million raised in December '07. Since the start of the campaign, 74 new funds have been established, of which 36 are scholarships and 17 are for athletics. The College's endowment is \$49.5 million and, under UVIMCO's management, grew 23.7% last year. \$34.9 million of the endowment is for scholarships, which generates about \$1.5 million annually.
- Keith Fowlkes reported that his area is working to double the speed of the College's commodity Internet; the Town of Wise has approved Annenberg Media programming on our Comcast TV station; Microsoft Office work at home licenses are available for \$10 in the bookstore; IT is working on a new Request for Proposals to vendors for a new Student Information System that the College needs by December '08; and new communication and tracking procedures are being implemented.
- Gil Blackburn is working on a grievance policy for the College's general faculty, modeled generally after the University's policy. He is recommending that the grievance "panel" be comprised of one general faculty representative from each of the Vice Chancellor's areas, with one at-large member appointed by the Chancellor. Each panel member would serve for a two-year term; however, the

first sitting panel members would be appointed for staggered terms. Cabinet members concurred with Gil's recommendation.

- Sandra Jones reminded members of the Martin Luther King celebration this evening, with the dinner, march, and program.

Handouts:

"Between Impartiality and Bias: On the Importance of Judgment" by Elizabeth Minnich, *Change*, May-June 2006.

"The Moral Instinct" by Steven Pinker, *The New York Times*, January 13, 2008

Next meeting: February 4, 2008, 8 a.m., Slemp Center Honor Court Room.