

DRAFT

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
DAVIDSON COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
April 16, 2004**

The Trustees of Davidson College convened in Plenary Session at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, April 16, 2004, in the Sprinkle Room of the Knobloch Campus Center. The meeting was called to order by Chair John F. McCartney and opened with prayer by Mr. James R. McNab, Jr.

The following Trustees were present:

Robert L. Avinger	John E. McKinley, III
Frances Watt Baker	James R. McNab, Jr.
John M. Belk	Wallace B. Millner
Sarah Porter Boehmler	W. Olin Nisbet, III
Elizabeth R. Brooks	Robert B. Norris
Ann B. Clark	Patricia A. Rodgers
Debbie Dillon Darden	John B. Rogers, Jr.
J. Roy Davis, Jr.	Arthur Ross, III
Paul W. Davis, III	Thomas W. Ross, Sr.
Beverly S. Hance	Ruth G. Shaw
Lawrence M. Kimbrough	Mitzi Short
Elizabeth E. Kiss	Stephen B. Smith
S. Sherburne Laughlin	Amelia Crittenberger Taylor
Paul R. Leonard, Jr.	Todd S. Thomson
Ross W. Manire	Robert F. Vagt
William N. Mathis	David Waddill
John F. McCartney	Kenneth D. Weeks, Jr.
Mackey J. McDonald	Carolann Connor Willingham

The following Trustees were absent:

Carlos E. Alvarez	S. Taylor Glover
Edward L. Baker	Kevin R. Hanna *
Lowell L. Bryan	James G. Martin
M. Erwin Carter	Katherine B. Morris
Kenneth Crews	Laura Taft Paulsen
Elisabeth C. Ervin	Stephen L. Salyer
William Wyche Fowler, Jr.	

* Attended committee meeting

Mr. McCartney welcomed the new members to the Board of Trustees, and administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Millner and Mr. Thomson. The minutes of the February 7, 2004 meeting were unanimously approved.

Earlier in the day, the Board had participated in an issues session regarding the respective roles of the faculty, staff and the President in the admissions process.

President Vagt stated that the time normally devoted to the President's Report would be used by Mr. David Holthouser, Director of the Physical Plant, for a discussion of the issues that will affect Davidson's long-range planning. Mr. Holthouser had previously presented this material to the Campus and Facilities Planning Committee and subsequently to the Executive Committee, who requested that it be shared with the full Board.

Prior to Mr. Holthouser's presentation, Mr. McDonald reported for the **CAMPUS AND FACILITIES PLANNING COMMITTEE**. The Chambers Building renovation is progressing extremely well and will finish a year earlier than originally planned. The soccer and baseball stadium projects are underway. He explained that today's presentation is designed to help the Board begin to consider longer term issues, particularly those resulting from changing student expectations, changing faculty and program needs and changes happening in the community that surrounds the College.

Mr. Holthouser first looked at changes within the campus boundary. Students arrive with expectations for more private space, more amenities and 24-hour per day services. Faculty and program needs are expanding, particularly with regard to research space and technological needs. The median year in which the buildings were constructed is 1957. Ongoing maintenance of these buildings will continue to be important. In all of

its activities, the Physical Plant will be attentive to energy efficiency and environmental stewardship.

Next, Mr. Holthouser discussed outside influences that affect the campus. These outside influences include increasing regulation and oversight by regulatory agencies and insurance companies; increasing concerns about crime in the surrounding area and the need for additional security; changes in utility providers and rates; increasing housing costs in the Town of Davidson; the effect that Town planning considerations may have on campus expansion; community expectations regarding access to campus facilities; increasing real estate development surrounding the campus; and the expansion of mass transit.

Mr. McDonald concluded by stating that decisions related to these issues cannot be postponed indefinitely. The Committee, together with the administration, will need to determine priorities and develop plans for the future.

Ms. Brooks reported for the **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**. William Eskeridge '73 was on campus for lectures and discussion on April 1-3, 2004. Plans are well underway for Reunion Weekend which will be held April 23-25, 2004. The Alumni Summer College mailings were mailed to alumni in early April. The Alumni Board met on February 7, 2004, following the February 2004 Trustee Retreat, and passed a resolution concerning Trustee representation on the Board, and asked that it be shared with the full Board. Mrs. Brooks read the resolution, which is attached to these minutes as Exhibit A.

Mr. McCartney reported for the **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**. The Committee reviewed the discussions from the February 2004 Trustee retreat, and authorized Mr. McCartney to form an *ad hoc* committee to examine the issues raised at the retreat. Mr.

Tom Ross has agreed to chair the committee, which will report its progress and recommendations to the Board. Other members of the *ad hoc* committee include Ms. Brooks, Ms. Darden, Mr. Hanna, Mr. Leonard, Ms. Morris, Dr. Rogers, Dr. Art Ross, Mr. McCartney and President Vagt.

Dr. Kiss reported for the **ACADEMIC AND EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE**. The Committee reviewed the most recent list of faculty grants, which exceed \$1.5 million to date in this fiscal year. The Committee will present a list of tenure candidates and new appointments during Executive Session.

Mr. Manire reported that the **ATHLETICS POLICY COMMITTEE** heard a report from NCAA Faculty Representative Dr. Susan Roberts. The Committee is appreciative of the faculty's role in interviewing prospective coaches. Leigh Ann Hoskins '04 and Justin Porter '04, Davidson's first Bryan Scholarship winners, were awarded graduate school scholarships by the Southern Conference. During Executive Session the Committee reviewed comparative financial information for other colleges in Davidson's conference. The Committee will consider meeting by teleconference prior to our October meeting.

Mr. Waddill reported for the **FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE**. The Committee reviewed asset allocation of the endowment and looked at three scenarios for future performance: a high growth economy, moderate growth and no growth. The Committee discussed local area housing costs, and welcomed Vice President for Business and Finance Karen Goldstein to Davidson.

Mr. Belk reported for the **COLLEGE RELATIONS COMMITTEE**. The *Let Learning Be Cherished* campaign stands at \$226 million towards a goal of \$250 million.

Trustee participation stands at \$67 million towards a goal of \$71 million. Mr. Belk thanked the Trustees who hosted campaign events. The College held a total of forty-two campaign events, all of which were attended by President Vagt. The Committee approved a draft of a new Fund Agreement, which has two significant changes from past donor agreements: the right of the College to draw income from a fund that is below historical gift value, and the right to alter the original use of funds in unusual circumstances. The Committee also heard a report from Mr. Kim Hodgson, Director of WDAV.

Dr. Weeks reported for the **ANNUAL FUND**. He reminded Board members to make their yearly contributions. The Annual Fund stands at \$4.3 million towards a goal of \$6 million.

Mr. Roy Davis reported for the **CAMPUS AND RELIGIOUS LIFE COMMITTEE**. Each Trustee was given a copy of the Senior Class Survey for the Class of 2003. The Committee heard reports from students who had led "Alternate Breaks," a program that sponsors service work trips during spring break.

Dr. Peter Krentz, vice chair *pro tem* of the faculty, reported that the faculty, at its April 6, 2004 meeting, had passed a resolution that criticized the action of the President in admitting a student who was deemed not admissible by a majority of the members of the Faculty Committee on Admission and Financial Aid. He explained that the resolution was a criticism of the President's actions, but was not intended as criticism of President Vagt. The faculty, according to the resolution, considered the President's action to be a circumvention of the established admissions process. Dr. Krentz expressed support for the process by which the Faculty Committee on Admission and Financial Aid takes a

close look at candidates with an academic rating of less than 7.0, who are nevertheless being considered for admission. He said that the faculty believes that the Faculty Committee on Admission and Financial Aid should have the final authority on whether those students are admitted. He suggested that the Trustees set in motion a process that brings together faculty, administration and Trustees to consider carefully the admissions process and to ensure that the Faculty Bylaws and the Constitution clearly and consistently address the issue.

Miss Katharine Hubbard, SGA president, reported on Student Government Association activities. The Red Bike program has been turned over to Davidson Outdoors, and each freshman hall is being assigned one bicycle. "April at the Lake" encourages students to enjoy the Lake Campus and is being co-sponsored with Patterson Court Council. SGA members are working with the Admission Office to telephone admitted students and encourage them to enroll at Davidson. Ms. Hubbard discussed the SGA's three goals: accountability and accessibility; the opportunity for students to communicate with the administration; and an evaluation of the Activities Tax Council equipment policy.

Mr. Millner reported for the **BOARD OF VISITORS**, and read the list of new members. Mr. Charles Fonville and Mr. James Vann have been elected as lifetime members. Mr. Sam Tallman is the chair-elect of the Board of Visitors. The Board of Visitors will meet May 6-7, 2004, and will include a discussion of the responsibilities of Board membership, a keynote address by Dr. Holmes Rolston on the environment, and a review of the academic environmental concentration at Davidson. The meeting will conclude with a State of the College address by President Vagt.

The Board then went into Executive Session with Dr. Clark Ross, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty, remaining. Mr. McCartney reported that the **NOMINATING COMMITTEE** met this morning. He encouraged Trustees to provide suggestions of new trustees to the committee no later than July 1.

Dr. Kiss, on behalf of the **ACADEMIC AND EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE**, proposed the following new appointments to the faculty for 2004-2005:

Barak Kushner, Assistant Professor of History
B.A. (Brandeis), M.A., Ph.D. (Princeton)

Jane E. Mangan, Assistant Professor of History
B.A. (Vassar), M.A., Ph.D. (Duke)

Gerardo Marti, Assistant Professor of Sociology
B.A. (Pepperdine), M.A., Ph.D. (University of Southern California)

Samuel Sanchez-Sanchez, Assistant Professor of Spanish
B.A. (University of Huelva, Spain), M.A., Ph.D. (expected) (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

Kathleen J. Turner, Director of Oral Communication and Professor of
Communication Studies
B.A. (summa cum laude) (University of Kansas), M.A., Ph.D. (Purdue)

Tara Villa, Instructor in Music
B.A. (cum laude) (Franklin and Marshall), M.M. (Penn State)

Angela L. Willis, Assistant Professor of Spanish
B.A., M.A., Ph.D. (University of Texas at Austin)

The Committee's recommendation was unanimously approved.

Next, on behalf of the Committee, Dr. Kiss recommended that the following faculty members be granted tenure, effective August 1, 2004:

Daniel W. Aldridge III
Came to Davidson in 2000 as Assistant Professor of History
B.A. (Michigan State), J.D. (Northwestern), Ph.D. (Emory)

Karen K. Bernd

Came to Davidson in 1998 as Assistant Professor of Biology
B.A. (cum laude) (Franklin and Marshall), M.A., Ph.D. (Princeton)
Phi Beta Kappa

Michael E. Dorcas

Came to Davidson in 1998 as Assistant Professor of Biology
B.A., M.S. (University of Texas at Arlington), Ph.D. (Idaho State)

Timothy H. Gfroerer

Came to Davidson in 1999 as Assistant Professor of Physics
B.S. (summa cum laude) (University of the South), M.S. (Georgia Institute
of Technology), Ph.D. (Dartmouth)

Vivian Shen

Came to Davidson in 1998 as Assistant Professor of Chinese
B.A. (Shandong University), M.A., Ph.D. (University of California, Los
Angeles)

Mark A. Smith

Came to Davidson in 1998 as Assistant Professor of Psychology
B.A. (magna cum laude) (Lenoir-Rhyne), Ph.D. (UNC Chapel Hill)

H. Gregory Snyder

Came to Davidson in 2000 as Assistant Professor of Religion
B.S. (Seattle Pacific), M.S. (Columbia), M.Div. (magna cum laude),
S.T.M., Ph.D. (Yale)

Erland P. Stevens

Came to Davidson in 1998 as Assistant Professor of Chemistry
B.S. (Duke), Ph.D. (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

David R. Wessner

Came to Davidson in 1998 as Assistant Professor of Biology
A.B. (cum laude) (Franklin and Marshall), Ph.D. (Harvard)
Phi Beta Kappa

John N. Yukich

Came to Davidson in 1998 as Assistant Professor of Physics
B.A. (summa cum laude) (Kenyon), Ph.D. (University of Virginia)
Phi Beta Kappa

The Committee's recommendation was unanimously approved.

Finally, on behalf of the Committee, Dr. Kiss recommended the following for
promotion to Associate Professor, effective August 1, 2004:

Daniel W. Aldridge III
Karen K. Bernd
Michael E. Dorcas
Timothy H. Gfroerer
Vivian Shen
Mark A. Smith
H. Gregory Snyder
Erland P. Stevens
David R. Wessner
John N. Yukich

Again, the Committee's recommendation was unanimously approved. President Vagt expressed appreciation to Dean Ross for his outstanding work in connection with attracting the new faculty members to the College, and in connection with supervising a thorough tenure process. Dean Ross then left the room.

The Trustees then considered at length the faculty's concerns regarding the President's role in the admission process, as reflected in their resolution. Following extensive discussion, the Board directed the Chair, the Vice Chair and the Chair of the Committee on Admission and Financial Aid to engage the President and the Faculty Committee on Admission and Financial Aid in further consideration of the issues raised by the faculty. In addition, the Board adopted the "Sense of the Trustees" attached to these minutes as Exhibit B, as guidance for the Chair, Vice Chair and Chair of the Committee on Admission and Financial Aid in their discussions.

Following a closing prayer by Dr. Rogers, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Harrison L. Marshall, Jr.
Assistant Secretary

EXHIBIT A

**Resolution of the Board of Directors of the
Davidson College Alumni Association**

WHEREAS, upon matriculation from Davidson College the college putatively bestows upon all alumni all “rights and privileges and honors pertaining to [that] degree”; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws defining membership on the Davidson College Board of Trustees restrict membership to those who are “active members of a Christian Church”; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Davidson College Alumni Association recognizes that there are many members of the Alumni Association who are not “active members of a Christian church” as required for service on the Board of Trustees and are, therefore, prohibited from service upon the Board of Trustees and, furthermore, are barred from direct involvement in governance over the college;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Davidson College Alumni Association unanimously expresses its support for the Board of Trustees in its examination of the requirement that all trustees be “active members of a Christian church” and, as it relates to alumni-elected trustees (i.e. those nominated by the Alumni Board and elected by the alumni body), the Alumni Board encourages the Trustees to remove the Christian church membership requirement thereby opening service on the Board of Trustees to all alumni.

This 7th day of February, 2004.

EXHIBIT B

Sense of the Trustees of Davidson College as
Expressed in Executive Session on April 16, 2004

1. The Trustees acknowledge and thank the faculty of Davidson College for the important role they have played for many years and continue to play in the very successful admission process at the College.
2. The Trustees encourage the faculty to serve the College in the future by continuing their involvement in the admission process.
3. The Trustees acknowledge that determining the admission policy and regulations of Davidson College is their ultimate responsibility. Further, the Trustees recognize the existence of conflict between the College Constitution and the Faculty Bylaws about the roles of the faculty and the College President in the admission policy and process.
4. The Trustees acknowledge and the College attorney agrees that the Constitution of Davidson College provides that the final responsibility for implementation of the admission policy and regulations resides with the College President.
5. The Trustees desire to resolve any confusion that exists and, if possible, to improve the existing admission process. To this end, the Trustees urge the College President and the faculty to work together to develop recommendations to the Trustees for improving the current admission process, including regulations that require notice to be given by the President to appropriate faculty and Trustees before acting on an application for admission and that provide a mechanism for the Trustees to intervene in the event the President is found by the Trustees to have abused his discretion.