A special meeting of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Commonwealth University was held on Saturday, October 5, 1974, at 8 a.m. at the Islander, Gwynn Island, Virginia.

Present were Drs. Blanton and Gwathmey; Messrs. Dabney, McGehee, Norris, Obenshain, Scott, Seaborn and Shumate; Mesdames Satterfield and Stone; Dr. Willett; and Mrs. Price. Absent were Messrs. Morgan, Sheffield and Taylor and Mrs. Thalhimer.

Dr. Blanton called the meeting to order. The Board reviewed the qualifications proposed by the joint meeting of the Presidential Search Assistance Committee and the Presidential Selection Committee (Board of Visitors). Following a discussion, the following desired qualifications for a new president of VCU were adopted:

**Administrative Ability**

- Experience
- Planner
- Sensitivity of service functions of administration
- Delegate with accountability
- Organization structure
- Understanding of government and other outside influences
- Understanding of university governance
- Understand, appreciate and desire periodic review and evaluation by the Board of presidential function
- Belief in participatory management
- Faculty in decision making
- Responsive to faculty and students (speaks for as well as with)
**Communications**

Represent at legislative level  
Interpersonal relationships  
Interdisciplinary relations  
Relate to the community -- geographic and educational  
Listener and responsive  
Literate and eloquent  
Persuader not hatchet  
Warm and friendly  
Press relations  
Labor relations  
Ability to work with diverse groups  
Ability to translate our mission to community  
Personal characteristics - age  
A political sensitivity  
Doctorate, if academician  
Visibility to total university

**VCU Mission**

Understand  
Articulate  
Implement  
Believe in  
Willing to change and adapt [our mission and its urban orientation]

MCV identity preservation  
Continue to pull together campuses  
More aggressive community outreach  
Uniqueness and individuality of our mission  
Commitment to our mission  
Able to appreciate and encourage faculty who are committed to our own particular educational needs -- not just elitist  
Dedicated to equality and human rights  
Affirmative Action for its own sake

**Health**

Vitality  
Physical -- statement from each candidate; examination of last several candidates  
Emotional  
Stable family relationship
Integrity and Deep Human Understanding

Good human being
Compassionate
Honest
Fundamental, cultural and historical values

Flexibility - Bold, Innovative Leadership

Open to experimentation in role and approach

Academic Understanding

Understand a university - in part
- in total
Serve needs of students
- available, visible, mediator
- able to relate
- the off-campus student
- keep it cool
- young at heart
Understand academic freedom
Encourage an active student body
Awareness of the extracurricular problems of the students
Health sciences appreciation
Hospital tie-in
Health sciences background
previous contact and work experience with;
not necessarily a health professional

Stature

Public image
Represent VCU at national, state or local level
Attainment
National reputation
Relates to national, regional and state agencies

Financial Skills

Financial understanding and appreciation
Fund raising
Budget processes
- derivation
- articulation
- implementation
At this time, Dr. Blanton turned the meeting over to Dr. Willett. Following a discussion on the use of advertisements in the search for a new president, it was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Presidential Search Assistance Committee would handle any necessary advertising.

There was a discussion on what information should be released to the press. Dr. Blanton and Dr. Willett both indicated that they felt a general statement of qualifications should be released to the media; but, at the same time, the press should be told that there would be no discussion of individual candidates. The Board agreed to leave relations with the press to the discretion of Drs. Blanton and Willett.

Dr. Willett stressed to the Board the need for confidentiality concerning candidates and also that the term "applicant" should not be used to describe candidates. He continued that we want to avoid offering this job to a candidate who turns it down because of premature publicity.

Dr. Blanton reported to the Board that Southern Illinois University had apologized to the VCU Board for the press situation at SIU.

Dr. Willett reported that a list of over 200 colleges and associations had been compiled for the purpose of inviting nominations. Dr. Willett asked Board members to be thinking of people they know that might be considered as candidates but who may not be nominated through other channels.

It was suggested that the University of Virginia committee which handled the search for Dr. Hereford be contacted for possible ideas. VPI&SU may also be able to assist us.
Dr. Willett informed the Board of the procedures being set up to handle nominations. Duplicate files on candidates will be set up, with a set of files located on each campus. Dr. Willett indicated that in the final stages of the search it may be necessary to bring three or four candidates back to the campus for the entire Board to interview. It is hoped that at least one Board member would accompany any site visits that might be made to other campuses.

The Board was in agreement that efforts would continue to pull the two campuses together toward a unified university.

A discussion was held on the administrative structure of the University. The Board concurred that they are comfortable with the present provost system but will remain open to suggestions on organization from the new president.

Dr. Blanton and Dr. Willett had a meeting with Governor Godwin on the salary of the new president. It is hoped that the president will be able to start at the level indicated in Mr. Garber's letter to Dr. Blanton. The Chairman of the RPI Foundation has expressed a willingness to continue with a supplement and home for the new president. However, there is a move on the part of some members of the MCV Foundation not to support supplements for the next president. Dr. Blanton plans to meet with key members of the MCV Foundation to discuss this matter.

There was a discussion on the location of the President's Office. It was moved, seconded and approved unanimously that the President's Office be maintained at 910 West Franklin Street.
It was agreed that Dr. Blanton and members of the administration would assist Dr. Brandt in any way possible in determining meaningful activities for Dr. Brandt as long as he remains as Consultant to the Board.

Dr. Willett expressed the appreciation of the Presidential Search Assistance Committee for the very open and helpful meetings that were held on the preceding day.

Mrs. Satterfield requested that the members of the Board not present be briefed on the need for confidentiality in the selection process.

Mr. Scott stated that a matter had come before the Student Affairs Committee of the Board relating to the recognition of a student gay liberation group. Following a long discussion, the Board agreed not to take formal action until the next regular meeting of the Board when a presentation would be made by Dr. Wilson and Dr. Mathis. It was also requested that a formal ruling from the Attorney General’s Office be made available to the Board.

Following motion made and seconded, the following resolution was unanimously passed:

WHEREAS, Mr. James E. Sheffield has been appointed by Governor Godwin as a Judge of the Circuit Court of the City of Richmond;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Dr. Wyndham B. Blanton, Jr., Rector, writing on behalf of the Board of Visitors, express to Mr. Sheffield the Board's congratulations and the hope that he will continue to serve on the VCU Board.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Approved:

Chairman

Secretary