



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

TERRY G. KILGORE

FIRST DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
COMMERCE AND LABOR (CHAIRMAN)
COURTS OF JUSTICE
RULES

September 8, 2016

Dear Rector Goodwin and President Sullivan:

Thank you for your August 9, 2016 letter and your appearance at the August 23, 2016 joint meeting of the General Assembly's finance and appropriations higher education subcommittees.

Though pleased, we were not surprised to learn from that hearing that Virginia's public auditor reported on the legal integrity of the University's funds and the accuracy of his own prior work. The problem, however, was never thought to be Mr. Eric Sandridge's ability to track the fund through several iterations. Instead, our concerns have always been that not only did the public not know about it, much less where to look, but also that clearly neither did your full Board of Visitors nor we as legislators charged with keeping a tight rein on the public's purse.

And no matter what it may be called, we are dumbfounded that the University could have amassed \$2.3 billion and not considered—even for a moment—using that money to hold the line on tuition increases. While perhaps intoxicating to you, the pursuit of a number one national magazine ranking shall never be a legitimate excuse to put Virginia's children second.

It is for their benefit that we cannot agree more with Delegate David Albo's comment about growing the University of Virginia's in-state enrollment: "For the last 10 years, they told us: 'We can't, because we're really broke. We need the money from the out-of-state students.' Now I find out that was all a bunch of bull. They've got the money. They just don't want to do it."

Charlottesville's own newspaper, *The Daily Progress*, summed it up with its post-hearing headline: "Questions on openness linger for UVA and Investment Fund."

Unfortunately for everyone concerned, the Lynchburg *News & Advance* could not have put it more plainly: "A penchant for secrecy does no one, and no institution, any good; the desire to conduct public business in the dark can

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quickly metastasize into a cancer at the heart of an institution, even one founded by history's greatest proponent of liberty."

On this critical issue of transparency, we support and join in each outstanding request for documentation made to date by our colleagues in the General Assembly regarding the fund and tuition. We hope to avoid filing our own actions but will not hesitate should all documents made under legislative request not be immediately forthcoming.

Rector Goodwin and President Sullivan Letter

As Mr. Sandridge rightly observed, the public auditor's job is not to tell a state agency how to spend public money. On the other hand, when that responsibility falls to us, we will not shirk it.

We gather that this month there will be a Board of Visitors meeting and discussion about the University's massive strategic investment fund. As interesting as that conversation may be to some, we have little patience left for charts, graphs, and skillfully crafted stories. We want swift, decisive action, and hope you and your colleagues at every level of University leadership will plainly see its value.

On September 15, your University's Board of Visitors can right a wrong and recapture our confidence by rolling back tuition at least 30 percent, and by freezing that price and expanding in-state enrollment by at least 100 positions annually for the next five years.

Do that, and you will surely improve the strained relationship between the University and the legislature that your opaque actions have created. More importantly, you will earn the gratitude of Virginia families whose greatest longings are for a better future for their children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry G. Kilgore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Terry" and last name "Kilgore" clearly distinguishable.

TERRY G. KILGORE, MEMBER
VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES
FIRST DISTRICT

Cc: Susan Harris, Secretary
All Members of the Board of Visitors