A meeting of the Academic and Health Affairs Policy Committee of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Commonwealth University was held on Wednesday, November 11, 2009, at 11 a.m. in the Richmond Salons located in the University Student Commons at 907 Floyd Avenue.

Present were Messrs. Jones (Chair), McCandlish, and Rosenthal; and Drs. Romano and Shapiro. Messrs. Morse and Robertson were absent. Also present were Drs. Rao, Corey, Gottfredson, Huff, Langston, Macrina, Moriaty, Retchin, Sarrett, and Strauss; Mr. Ross; and Mesdames, Balmer, Covington, Lepley, Messmer, Parmley and Stillman.

Mr. Jones called the meeting to order and on motion made and seconded, the Minutes of a Meeting held August 12, 2009 were approved.

The Committee met with members of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Staff Senate Representatives.

A Proposal to Establish Procedures for Degree Revocation was presented. The document establishes the internal processes that must be followed before a recommendation to revoke a non-honorary degree is made to the President of the University and the University’s Board of Visitors. A motion was made to remove footnote number one: “Reference to BOV approval of decision to investigate removed to avoid possible challenge to BOV objectivity at later stages.” On motion made and seconded, the Academic and Health Affairs Policy Committee recommended to the full Board the approval of the proposal to Establish Procedures for Degree Revocation as amended.

A Proposal for a Policy on Course Credit for Active Duty Military Students was presented. The policy will provide students called to active military duty during an academic semester with the opportunity to earn full course credit. On motion made and seconded, the Academic and Health Affairs Policy Committee recommended to the full Board the approval of a Proposal for a Policy on Course Credit for Active Duty Military Students.
A Proposal to Change the Name of the Department of Public Health Management and Policy to the Department of Healthcare Policy and Research was presented. The School of Public Health requested approval to change the name of the Department of Public Health Management and Policy to the Department of Healthcare Policy and Research to provide the department with an identity that will reflect the department’s research direction and to distinguish the department from an existing department in the School of Allied Health Professions. No additional resources are needed. On motion made and seconded, the Academic and Health Affairs Policy Committee recommended to the full Board the approval of a Proposal to Change the Name of the Department of Public Health Management and Policy to the Department of Healthcare Policy and Research.

A Proposal to Change the Identification of the Pre-Professional (Graduate) Certificate Program to the Pre-Medical Health Sciences (Graduate) Certificate Program was presented. The School of Medicine proposes combining the six curricular tracks of the current Pre-Professional (Graduate) Certificate Program and renaming the program to Pre-Medical Health Sciences Certificate Program. No additional costs are required. On motion made and seconded, the Academic and Health Affairs Policy Committee recommended to the full Board the approval of a Proposal to Change the Identification of the Pre-Professional (Graduate) Certificate Program to the Pre-Medical Health Sciences (Graduate) Certificate Program.

A Proposal to Discontinue the Ph.D. in Pathology Degree Program in the School of Medicine was presented. The Department of Pathology conducted a program review of the Ph.D. in Pathology after the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) indicated the degree productivity of the unit did not meet the expected minimum outcome and rejected the institutional request for an exemption. As a result, the dean and administrative staff concluded that the program cannot provide a compelling case for achieving and sustaining the SCHEV requirements. The anticipated date of the closing of the program would take place following the end of the Spring 2013 semester. Accordingly and consistent with VCU policy, the intention is to closely monitor student progress so that the program would be closed no later than the Fall 2014 term. On motion made and seconded, the Academic and Health Affairs Policy Committee recommended to the full Board a Proposal to Discontinue the Ph.D. in Pathology Degree Program in the School of Medicine.

A Proposal to Discontinue the Critical Care Nursing Certificate Program, School of Nursing was presented. In 2002, the School of Nursing created the pre-baccalaureate certificate in Critical Care. At that time, there was a significant need to increase the competency of nursing in critical care and there were no existing courses or learning packages to assist. In 2003, the School stopped offering the Certificate because the need for critical care training was being met nationally by offering an on-line certification preparatory course developed by the National Association for Critical Care. The existing enrolled student needs were met by offering an honors section for the senior level of Adult Health Nursing with no added cost for clinical sections. On motion made and
seconded, the Academic and Health Affairs Policy Committee recommended to the full Board the approval of a Proposal to Discontinue the Critical Care Nursing Certificate Program, School of Nursing.

A Proposal to Change the Names of the Department of Pharmacy to the Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science and the Division of Pharmacy Administration to the Division of Pharmacoeconomics and Health Outcomes was presented. The School of Pharmacy makes the request because the new name is more contemporary and appropriately representative of the activities of the department’s faculty. On motion made and seconded, the Academic and Health Affairs Policy Committee recommended to the full Board the approval of a Proposal to Change the Names of the Department of Pharmacy to the Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science and the Division of Pharmacy Administration to the Division of Pharmacoeconomics and Health Outcomes.

The following items were presented for information: a Report of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; the VCU Medical Center Task Force on Industry Relations Report-Update; and the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Financial Statement Summary Fiscal Year 2009 –Three Months Ending September 30, 2009. A report on Life Sciences was postponed due to time constraints.

On motion made and seconded, the Committee convened into closed session to discuss certain personnel matters involving the performance of identifiable employees or faculty of VCU, and to discuss the evaluation of the performance of departments or schools of VCU where such evaluation will necessarily involve discussion of the performance of specific individuals, and the performance of University departments and schools as related to the Medical College of Virginia Hospitals and the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority, including a report of the Chief Executive Officer, VCU Health System and the Vice President for Health Sciences and a report of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; and to consult with legal counsel and receive briefings by staff members regarding legal matters and actual or probable litigation where such consultation or briefing in open session would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of VCU, as may be necessary, as authorized by Section 2.2-3711 A(1) and A(7) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

Following closed session, on motion made and seconded, the following resolution was approved by roll call vote:

The Academic and Health Affairs Policy Committee of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Commonwealth University hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed session meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the
Academic and Health Affairs Policy Committee of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Commonwealth University.

Roll Call Vote

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Vote:

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0

ABSENT DURING MEETING: 2
ABSENT DURING VOTING: 2

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.