

**MINUTES**  
June 25, 2003

The Board of Visitors of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University held a special meeting on Wednesday, June 25, 2003, at 2:00 p.m. in the Shenandoah Room on The Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center in Roanoke, Virginia.

**Present**

Mr. Mitchell O. Carr  
Mr. Ben J. Davenport, Jr.  
Mr. L. Bruce Holland  
Mr. William C. Latham  
Mr. John R. Lawson, II\*  
Mr. T. Rodman Layman  
Mr. Jacob A. Lutz, III  
Mr. A. Ronald Petera  
Mr. Thomas L. Robertson  
Mr. John G. Rocovich, Jr.

**Absent**

Mr. Donald R. Johnson  
Dr. Beverly Sgro  
Mr. Philip S. Thompson  
  
Mr. Brian Montgomery  
Undergraduate Student Representative  
Mr. Christian Rieser  
Graduate Student Representative  
Dr. Edd Sewell  
President, Faculty Senate  
Ms. Kim O'Rourke, Secretary to the Board

\*Mr. Lawson joined the meeting via conference call.

Note: Mr. Bruce Smith resigned, leaving one vacancy.

Also present were the following: Dr. Charles W. Steger, Dr. Raymond D. Smoot, Jr., Dr. Lanny Cross, Mr. Larry Hincker, Mr. Jerry Cain, Mr. Dwight Shelton, Ms. Kay Heidbreder, Ms. Sandy Smith, Ms. Sherry Box, faculty, staff, students, and reporters.

The Rector, Mr. Rocovich, called this special meeting of the Board to order at 2:05 p.m. immediately going into Closed Session.

**Motion to begin Closed Session**

Mr. Robertson moved that the Board convene in a Closed Session, pursuant to § 2.2-3711, *Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended*, for the purpose of discussing:

The status of current litigation and briefing on probable litigation involving Virginia Tech, the Big East Conference and the Atlantic Coast Conference.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Lutz and passed unanimously.

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### **Motion to Return to Open Session**

Following the Closed Session, members of the press, students, and the public were invited to return to the meeting. Mr. Rocovich called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Robertson to make the motion to return to open session.

Mr. Robertson made the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Board of Visitors of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University on this date met in Closed Session whereas only business that can be lawfully discussed in Closed Session was so discussed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements from this chapter and only such public matters as were identified in the motion for which a closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting by the public body.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Lutz and passed unanimously.

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Mr. Rocovich called upon President Steger to make introductory comments.

President Steger's comments:

Needless to say, there has been a great deal of discussion of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) expansion and the Big East activities with regard to the sports conference. We are meeting today to think through our options should we receive a formal invitation from the ACC. Given that this is a highly visible activity of the university and has significant long term implications, we wanted to get the Board together to enable members to share their thinking and provide me advice as we move down the process should we receive the specific offer.

I think the Big East is a fine conference. I have over the years and particularly the last months developed a great deal of appreciation and respect for the leaders of those institutions. They are fine individuals. They are exceedingly capable, mature professionals. It is and has been a real pleasure working with them. With regard to the future, Virginia Tech must take into consideration the best interests of this university, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the citizens of Southwest Virginia who are directly affected by the economic engine activities of Virginia Tech.

In looking at the ACC, we note:

- 1) Virginia Tech falls within the current geographic footprint of the ACC. We have tens of thousands of fans that are present there, enthusiastic fans that could and would readily travel to games we are playing in this region. This would also lower the costs for away games.
- 2) Another dimension that has not been discussed extensively, but I think important for us to articulate, is that we have a number of on-going academic ties with a number of the members of the ACC and if I may I will mention a couple (there are dozens) to give you a sense of the compatibility of the institutions with Virginia Tech.
  - a. The Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine – This joint effort has been extremely successful.
  - b. A joint school of biomedical engineering with Wake Forest University – this is moving along extremely well.
  - c. The National Institute of Aeronautics grant that was just provided to us by NASA, which we administer jointly with Georgia Tech, North Carolina State, Maryland, University of Virginia and Virginia Tech.
  - d. I serve on the Board of Governors of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the schools that participate along with Virginia Tech and Battelle Labs are Duke University, NC State, Georgia Tech, University of Virginia and others.

These are a few of the examples of the extensive academic interrelationships.

As we consider the prospect of receiving a formal invitation to join the ACC, I appreciate very much the advice and counsel of this Board because we realize the impacts are significant.

Mr. Rocovich suggested a resolution be put on the table for discussion and then proceed.

Mr. Lutz moved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Atlantic Coast Conference has discussed expanding the number of its member institutions, and

WHEREAS, the ACC has a tradition of outstanding intercollegiate athletic competition and its member institutions hold the highest academic standards and these standards are shared by Virginia Tech, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Visitors believes that it would further Virginia Tech's athletic and academic interests to affiliate itself with the ACC because of the compatibility of Virginia Tech with the ACC member institutions, and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Visitors authorizes Dr. Charles Steger, our president, to negotiate membership with the ACC on mutually agreeable terms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Visitors considers this matter to be an emergency and therefore, waives the normal rule requiring that this Resolution be circulated to the members of the Board of Visitors three days prior to this meeting.

And I so move. Mr. Latham seconded the motion.

In the discussion that ensued, the Board members expressed their enthusiastic support for joining the ACC if the official invitation is extended to Virginia Tech, noting that this has been a dream of many Virginia Tech alumni and supporters for as long as 50 years, since the ACC was established. In response to an inquiry from Mr. Carr, Dr. Steger stated that it was his intention to continue to be forthright with the presidents of the Big East schools and to keep them apprised of Virginia Tech's actions.

Rector Rocovich then called for a vote. The resolution passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Note: General Counsel advised that Mr. Lawson's could not vote as a call in member. However, for the record, it is noted that Mr. Lawson expressed his full support for the resolution.

Mr. Rocovich announced that President Steger, Mr. Hincker and he would be available to talk with the media following this meeting.

Mr. Rocovich called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Lutz made the motion, seconded by Mr. Latham and passed unanimously.

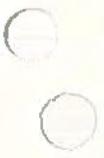
Mr. Rocovich adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

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Dates for the next meeting are August 24-25, 2003.

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John G. Rocovich, Rector '91

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Kim O'Rourke, Secretary



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