

BOARD OF VISITORS
Student Affairs Committee
President's Conference Room
December 7, 2007
10:20 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.

MINUTES

Mrs. Viola M. Madison called the meeting to order at 10:23 a.m. Roll call indicated that the following Committee members were in attendance and that a quorum was present:

Committee Members Present

Mrs. Viola M. Madison
Mrs. Virginia M. Board
Mr. Stanley Green, Jr.

Committee Members Absent

Mr. Donald W. Seale

Other Board Members Present

Mr. Bobby N. Vassar, Rector
Ms. Renitalynette K. Anderson
Mr. Gary T. McCollum
Mr. Wade W. Perry, Jr.
Dr. Lauren R. Tucker

Members of NSU Staff Present

Dr. Carolyn W. Meyers, President
Mr. Larry Curtis, Vice President for Student Affairs
Ms. Pamela F. Boston, University General Counsel & Special Assistant Attorney General
Mr. Marvin C. Clemmons, Sr., Coordinator, Assistive Technology
Mrs. Beverly B. Harris, Director, Disability Services/ADA Coordinator
Mrs. Sharon Hoggard, Acting Executive Director of Communications and Marketing
Mr. Marty Miller, Director of Athletics
Dr. Adebisi Oladipupo, Vice President for Research and Technology
Dr. Delanyard Robinson, Faculty Athletics Representative
Mrs. Terricita Sass, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management
Mr. Curtis E. Wall, President of the Faculty Senate
Mrs. Sandra Williamson-Ashe, Special Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs
Ms. Deloris H. Smith, Recorder

Members of Student Body Present

Ms. Keisha Kirkland, President of the Student Government Association
Mr. James Watson, Student

1. Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Board motioned, seconded by Mrs. Madison and unanimously voted by the Committee, to approve the minutes of the August 31, 2007 meeting with the following corrections:

- On page 8, last paragraph, line 10: “*retention* rate for six years” was changed to “*graduation* rate for six years.”
- On page 8, last paragraph, line 12: The word “composite” was placed in front of “SAT”.
- On page 9, paragraph 7, line 2: additional words were added after “transferred to Norfolk State from TCC” to read “transferred to Norfolk State from TCC through the Passport Program.”

Mrs. Madison welcomed everyone to the meeting. She asked Mr. Curtis to proceed with the reports. Mr. Curtis called upon Mrs. Beverly Harris and members of her staff to give the report regarding Student Disability Services.

Prior to the reports, Mrs. Sass stated that at the last Board meeting Mr. Stanley Green asked about our Gates Millennia Scholars. She said that we have two scholars this year, but only one could be present today. She said that the Gates Foundation would pay for these students to attend the institution of their choice, and they chose Norfolk State. Mrs. Sass introduced to the Committee Mr. James Watson, a second year Millennia Scholar, and asked him to say a few words. Mr. Watson provided personal background information about himself. He said that he is an optical engineering major and is enrolled in the DNIMAS Program. He informed everyone that of 42 scholarships that he applied for, he received 11—one of which was the Gates Scholarship. He said that he has learned a lot about life and interacting with people while attending Norfolk State. Mrs. Sass said that Mr. Watson would be supported by the Gates Foundation through his Ph.D. studies as long as he maintains the academic requirements.

Information Items

Student Disability Services

Mrs. Beverly Harris, Director of Disability Services/ADA Coordinator, began her report by introducing a member of her staff to the committee—Mr. Marvin Clemmons, Coordinator of Assistive Technology. She stated that Mrs. Marian Shepherd, Coordinator for Supporting Students through Disability Services, is unable to be present because she is proctoring an exam for students in the lab today.

Mrs. Harris began her report by informing the Committee of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) that was signed into law in 1990. She read to the Committee what the law stipulated. She continued her report by providing the following information:

- Norfolk State University began providing services to students with disabilities in December, 1997. The Disability Services Department was established at that time with fourteen students. In order to move forward with organizing the program, membership in

professional organizations were identified locally, statewide, and nationally, and training was initiated for faculty, students, staff and administrators.

- The Student Counselors-In-Residence (CIR) Program was developed. It was comprised of social science majors who assisted students in the classroom with their homework and test taking.
- Faculty and student handbooks were researched, developed, designed and distributed to include guidelines, policies and procedures.
- The Supporting Students with Disability Services Support Group was created so that students could identify with other individuals with disabilities and feel more at home.
- Grant proposals were written beginning in 1998 and granted through the Department of Rehabilitative Services and Title III. As a result, the Assistive Technology Laboratory opened in November, 1999. In the fall of 2002, two full-time positions were identified and filled—Coordinator of Supporting Students through Disability Services and Coordinator of the Assistive Technology Lab. In the fall of 2005, these positions moved from grant status to E&G positions.
- From 1997 to the spring of 2000, the enrollment increased by 87.80%, serving more than 123 students with disabilities.
- Members of the staff have participated in research projects nationally and continue to participate in the community on numerous committees and boards.
- In the classroom, students in the program are provided interpreters, note takers, assistive technology, extended time on tests, etc. Across campus they are provided escorts, transportation, accessible classrooms, and priority registration when properly registered with Supporting Students through Disability Services.
- Students are awarded scholarships.
- DeAnna Smith, a program participant, is a DNIMAS scholar. She recently returned from a national science conference in Washington, DC where she presented research on a contraceptive for males. A blind student in the program was an honor student during his undergraduate studies. He is now enrolled in the master's program at the university.

Mrs. Harris concluded her presentation by stating that as ADA Coordinator, it is her responsibility to maintain and make available, upon request, institutional compliance documents in cooperation with legal counsel and the administration, and respond to and be the primary contact regarding ADA.

Assistive Technology Program

Mr. Marvin Clemmons gave an overview of Assistive Technology at Norfolk State in a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights follow.

- Assistive technology was defined by the Technology-Related Assistance Act of 1988 (Tech Act) and the Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1990 (IDEA). The latter one targets the public school system whereas the former looks at higher education and other entities. Assistive technology is defined as “any item, piece of equipment, or product system--whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized--that is used to increase, maintain or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.”

- Assistive technology includes a large range of high and low technology devices. They tend to be electronic and computer based.
- Assistive technology benefits disability students as follows: it increases their independence; enables them to compensate for deficits; enhances their self-confidence; allows more participation in all settings; and enhances their quality of life.
- Assistive technology service is defined as “any service that directly assists an individual with a [learning] disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device. People use assistive technology services for cognitive disabilities, learning disabilities, limited hand use mobility, speech, hearing and vision.
- Mr. Clemmons cited some of the issues that students have (auditory/listening, visual processing, mathematics), and some of the tools used to assist students with these issues (pressure-sensitive paper for auditory and listening issues, etc.). Items used everyday (highlighters, index cards, headphones, etc.) target issues such as organizational skills, memory or some cognitive issues, managing personal information, time management, or staying on task.
- Technological things (multimedia interactive videos, interactive videodiscs, hypermedia) are used alone or in combination to help a student, depending on the disability of the individual. Telecommunication and distance learning is a new area being used to help people with disabilities.

Statistics

- There are approximately 50 million people in the United States with disabilities. This is of interest to Norfolk State because this population is a resource for new student recruitment.
- The total number of people aged 16-64 with disabilities is 33 million.
- The total number employed is 18.5 million.
- People with disabilities are the largest minority in the United States.

These statistics were obtained from the Department of Labor as well as the U.S. Census Bureau.

Mr. Clemmons reviewed the contents and statistics in a chart regarding adults with disabilities. He said that the data in the chart is from 10 years ago when assistive technology was first developed in the Department of Disability Services. Statistics reported for adults using assistive technology 10 years ago was only for the hearing impaired and mobility challenged. It does not refer to the nontraditional population that is returning to college to retool. Many young people are returning from the current war that is underway. The Disability Services Department is readying itself for the influx of those with disabilities.

Mrs. Madison asked Mr. Clemmons if he expected the numbers to rise as a result of the war. Mr. Clemmons' answer was “yes.” Dr. Tucker stated that she was thinking the same thing and that it seems like a real opportunity to serve that population because of some of the struggles they are having. Mrs. Harris stated that she and disability service providers all across the state are already focusing attention on the population of individuals who will be coming back from the war. Traumatic brain injuries (TBI) will be one of the major disabilities for them, and the department is preparing itself to service them. Dr. Tucker

commented that because this is such a very specific target market, the university could possibly do a direct marketing program for these individuals. Mrs. Sass stated that Mr. Clemmons is on the Joint Recruiting Team, and they have talked about how to develop a marketing program for these individuals. She said that there are some things that have to be checked on because we have to be very careful how we prepare something specific to someone with disabilities. Mr. Clemmons did a presentation for the Joint Recruiting Team and talked with the group, and we want a specific marketing piece for them.

Mrs. Madison asked if the university has sufficient counseling services to accommodate an influx of disability people coming in from the war. Mrs. Harris responded that her office collaborates with the university's Counseling Center. Depending on the disability (depression, bipolar, etc.), if the Counseling Center sees them first, they refer them to Disability Services for the classroom assistance that they may need. If Disability Services sees them first, they are referred to the Counseling Center for any counseling that they may need. She added that with the influx of individuals with disabilities, both Counseling Services and Disability Services will need more assistance.

Mr. Curtis said that persons coming in from the military receive counseling through the VA and veterans clubs, so they have subsidiaries to help them. Mrs. Madison asked if we have a veterans club. Mr. Curtis responded that we have 300 veterans that are certified, and we have a veterans club as well as a Director of Veterans Affairs.

Disability Services Department Statistics

- Number of students served: 1,057
- Individual contacts: 3,757. A contact is "meaningful interaction with a student in helping him with his academics."
- Consultations: 167

Mr. Clemmons displayed websites where additional information could be obtained on the topics he has presented.

Mr. Green wanted to know how individuals with disabilities are recruited. Mrs. Harris responded that she and her staff attend "College Day" events at different universities and high schools both in-state and out-of-state as well as locally. A major recruitment tool is the NSU website. She said that her department is on the front page of the website. This visibility enables her area to get email from all across the country. Organizations to which the department belongs also provide assistance towards this effort. Mrs. Sass added that Admissions recruiters carry information regarding disability services with them when they go out to recruit.

With reference to recruitment, Mr. Clemmons said that Norfolk State was the first institution in the state to have an assistive technology lab and currently serves as a model for institutions across the country. Mrs. Harris clarified that we were the first institution in the state to have an assistive technology lab "in place." All of students can use the lab, but the software, adjustable tables, etc. are geared towards students with disabilities, and members of the staff

are available to help students with the technology. Disability Services has stations in other labs across campus that students can use; most universities just have a station in a lab.

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Mrs. Madison asked Mrs. Harris about the size of her staff. Mrs. Harris responded that there are three, including herself. They are the only paid positions. She gave their names and titles and a brief statement of the responsibilities of Mrs. Shepherd, who was unable to come to the meeting today. Students in the Counselors-In-Residence Program assist them with various obligations throughout the day. Mrs. Madison asked Mrs. Harris if the staff was sufficient. She replied that it is not and explained the work schedule. She said that ideally, she would like for both Mrs. Shepherd and Mr. Clemmons to have an assistant.

Mr. Green asked if scholarships are available for students with disabilities. Mrs. Harris responded that unfunded scholarships (\$3,000) are available for them.

Mrs. Harris invited the Committee to visit the Assistive Technology Laboratory located in the library.

Because of time constraints, Mr. Curtis had to end to the Disability Services report. However, he said that Mrs. Harris and her staff would be invited to attend the Committee meeting again to answer any further questions that members of the Committee would like to ask. He said that many people are unaware of the large number of services they are providing. In addition, it is a very expensive program to operate. The department must have the resources—readers, note takers, equipment, etc.—to support these students. The university is mandated, by law, to provide these services for students with disabilities.

Mrs. Madison thanked Mrs. Harris and Mr. Clemmons for their reports and stated that they might invite them to report to the Committee again. Mrs. Harris indicated that they would be happy to return.

Mr. Green wanted to know if students in the program graduate and where they go from here. Mrs. Harris responded that they have students graduating every year and that they have a fantastic graduation rate. Mr. Clemmons said that their retention rates are higher than the average. Eighty-eight percent of their students are on the honor roll or on the dean's list, and they have master level graduates. Mrs. Harris indicated that she could get the statistics for the committee and provide the information the next time they come to the meeting.

Enrollment Management Report

Mrs. Sass provided the following information regarding the Enrollment Management Department in a PowerPoint presentation:

- The enrollment for the fall of 2007 was 6,155. Last year we had 6,238; thus, we are 83 below where we were last year. With this 83, we saw a major decline in the number of graduate students this year. There was also a 62 non-headcount number in our first-time freshmen.
- Seventy-three (73) freshmen were sent home because they could not meet their financial obligations for various reasons; thus, the anticipated number was not met. Mrs. Madison asked if these freshmen were part of the 300 students cited at the last meeting who ran into financial difficulty. Mrs. Sass responded that they were. She said that the funds available to assist students financially were primarily focused on graduating seniors to help with the graduation rate; thus, they did not have enough funds to help freshmen in need.

Mr. Green inquired about the students who were sent home because they could not meet their financial obligations; i.e., they come, bring everything with them, then are told that they have to leave. He wanted to know if we could let them know about the costs, etc. before they get here. Mrs. Sass explained that they are sent the information, and we talk with parents. Unfortunately, a number of students are able to get here but do not have the financial resources to stay. She said it is a financial literacy component. Many of our students are the first generation going to college, and they, and their parents, do not realize how much it actually costs to go to college. Staff work to develop a plan. Retention is impacted if the student cannot return for the second semester.

- The FTE enrollment for the fall of 2007 is 5,004.
- The retention rate has increased to 70%. Our all-time high is 71%. Mrs. Sass said that she is optimistic that we will exceed 70% next fall.

Freshman Admissions Data

Mrs. Sass gave a brief overview of a chart containing freshman admissions data. The enrollment rate for 2005 was 30%; in 2006, 33%. We were able to enroll 995 freshmen. She explained some of the initiatives undertaken to increase the numbers (contacting and talking with students; conducting follow-up) and spoke of challenges with the Admissions Office (staff turnover) that impacted the numbers to some degree. We fell 1% below where we were last year but are ahead of where we were in 2005.

Mr. Vassar asked if this reflects the implementation of our audit procedures to ensure that we don't have accounts receivables. Mrs. Sass responded that the procedure remains the same; i.e. they must pay and take care of financial business.

Mrs. Sass said that one of the things that concerned her was that the number of applications increased (to 4,656), but we actually had fewer students who could come. A number of students could not be accepted based on their high school curriculum rigor, SAT scores, etc. The interest is there, but it has to be with students who can actually be accepted and go through the process. She said that we want to make sure that we bring in students who have a high probability for success.

Mrs. Board asked if we enrolled more males. Mrs. Sass responded that we enrolled fewer males. This resulted in one of the male residence halls (Phyllis Wheatley) being converted to a residence hall for females because of the numbers. This problem is not unique to Norfolk State; it is a national trend.

Mr. McCollum asked if there is a concerted effort to educate those people who do not have the money to get them back in January or next year. Mrs. Sass responded that there is. She stated that she sits down with the parents and a financial aid counselor to try to work out a plan so that they can come back in January or the next fall. They are told what they need to do and that they must complete a FAFSA. She also said that there is information in the high schools regarding this topic, but it is focused on a group of students; it is not reaching “our” students. Mr. McCollum said that he has gotten personally involved in this because it is not reaching the kids who really need the information.

Mrs. Madison said that she frequently hears ads on television about the millions of dollars that are available to students but are not applied for. She asked if we are training our students to help them obtain some of these funds. Mrs. Sass responded said that last year two additional financial aid counselors were hired to work with students. Two workshops on applying for scholarships have been held this semester for our current students. They were conducted last month and this month because the deadline dates for most scholarships will be in January and February. The problem is that many prospective students do not decide to apply for college and aid until the late spring or early summer; thus, the time to apply for scholarships has already passed. Once a student is an applicant on our VIP page, we send them information regarding the resources they need to use if they are thinking about going to college.

Dr. Tucker asked about the television ads regarding loans and wanted to know what they are all about because they seem to be easy to get. Mrs. Sass explained that with the regulatory oversight of offices and companies , it is much easier for companies to try to get new students to take out loans with them rather than with large companies such as Sallie Mae. These companies are charging students higher interest rates than Sallie Mae or a federal direct loan would charge them. It is very easy but there is a lot of fine print. She said that the university does not endorse these companies to avoid encouraging students to get into a lot of debt. However, if students choose these lenders, we will work with them.

Mrs. Madison asked if anyone from the university goes to the high schools to counsel the students. Mrs. Sass responded that financial aid and admissions counselors go to the schools every week to provide assistance with completing the FAFSA, etc. The schools visited are posted on SpartanNet, and the counselors know when they are coming.

Freshmen Profile

- 995 first-time freshmen
- 880 mean SAT—down by three from the national average
- 2.77 mean high school GPA (an increase)
- 60% women (62% in previous fall class, but those men are not living on campus; they are commuting)

- 78% living on campus (an increase over last year)
- 72% Virginia residents (a decrease from last year); had more out-of-state freshmen this year than last year

Mr. McCollum asked if any freshman who wanted to live on campus could do so. Mrs. Sass responded that they could. She explained that in the beginning, there were students whose parents chose not to enroll them because they had to be housed at a local hotel temporarily while awaiting a space on campus. All of the hotel residents were moved to the campus by the second week of school.

Freshmen Retention

- There is an increase in the number of students who are moving from freshmen to the sophomore level; is up from 20% to 22%.
- The 30% in our attrition rate is declining.
- Students who were not retained had higher composite SAT scores than students who were retained. They came in academically prepared by an SAT measure. The high school GPA was 2.77 for those who stayed; it was 2.67 for those who did not stay. These are good students; however, good students have to go to class, and they have other challenges and adjustments that they have to make. Dr. Tucker asked if these were students who were not retained for academic reasons. Mrs. Sass responded that they were. Dr. Meyers commented that these students do not realize that it is not upper high school here, that they have to study harder and differently, and that the competition is a lot keener. They don't realize that it is college.
- Domicile, in-state and out-of-state, did impact our retention rate. For students living on or off campus it was about the same; however, in-state students did fare better.
- Mrs. Sass provided information about the Retention Committee, which has been in operation for almost three months. She said that the six Retention Committee topics shown in her report have been re-grouped as follows:
 1. Advising and curriculum review/Best and worst practices in teaching/First year experience
 2. Customer service and environment
 3. Financial counseling and planning

This committee has representation from the entire campus. Mrs. Sass said that there are two co-chairs, and she serves in an ex-officio capacity. She will be reporting on this in January to inform the campus community of some of the things they have been doing and some of the recommendations for mid-spring.

Undergraduate Unmet Need 2006-07

- There were 1,781 in-state students who still had a need gap. A total of \$7 million is needed to close this gap. The average per student is \$3,900.
- There were 500 out-of-state students who had a need gap. A total of \$3.7 million is needed to close this gap. The average per student is \$7,400.
- Graduate students also have unmet needs (1.3 million for in-state and \$223 thousand for out-of-state).

Mr. Green asked if the state provides anything. Mrs. Sass responded that additional state funds are already included in what has already been given. This is what is left over after we have given everything we can give. We still need \$7 million for our in-state students in order to close the gap.

This concluded Mrs. Sass' report.

Student Government Report

The following are highlights from Ms. Kirkland's report:

- The SGA conducted a "Stop the Violence Extravaganza" in conjunction with the campus police. Students were invited to attend a cookout for this event so that they would feel comfortable interacting with the police. The turnout was very good despite inclement weather.
- During Freshman Transition Week the SGA co-sponsored various activities with Residential Life/Housing and Student Activities. They included a trip to Kings Dominion for freshmen (Mr. Curtis provided the transportation); the first annual Red Carpet Ball; and a forum entitled "College: Loving Your Reputation."
- Student Government Open House Week was held during the first week of school. The purpose of this activity was to acquaint students with the Student Government Association and make them aware of the purpose and functions of the SGA. Students were also encouraged to become actively involved with the SGA and assist with the numerous SGA activities.
- Three "State of Our Black Youth Seminars" have been held for freshmen in Babbette Smith Residence Hall. These were held to inform them of things happening in the black community that they need to be aware of such as personal appearance, integrity, etc.
- A professional fashion show was held in conjunction with Career Services to demonstrate to students how to dress professionally. Dillard's Department Store provided the clothes for the show. This event was a great success.
- The SGA was actively involved in the university's Health Initiative Program.
- A Town Hall Meeting was held and was very successful. Miss Kirkland stated that she has received great feedback from the meeting. Another Town Hall Meeting is planned for the spring semester.
- General assembly meetings are held bi-weekly for students to come out and express their concerns with the SGA.
- A three-day revival will be held in the spring.
- The annual Valentine Cabaret will be held on the Spirit of Norfolk in February.
- Numerous forums were held to cultivate students.
- A new SGA website has been launched. Due to time constraints Ms. Kirkland was unable to show the new website; thus, Mr. Curtis asked her to do so at the March meeting.

Mrs. Madison asked Ms. Kirkland if students have a dress code. Ms. Kirkland stated that they do not. Mrs. Madison said that she would love to see our young men appropriately

dressed on campus. Ms. Kirkland agreed and stated that this is one reason the SGA holds sessions on how to dress properly. She added that she emphasizes proper dress to the males in her cabinet because they are representatives of young black males and serve as role models. She said that they have done a fine job and have complied with her request. Mr. Curtis cautioned that we are not a private institution; we are a public institution. He said that if we mandated a dress code, students could challenge us and we could run into some issues. Mr. McCollum mentioned our possibly meeting with students and educating them that they have a choice, and in making that choice there is a consequence, maybe unintended, that goes along with it. Mr. Curtis said that when we have Career Fairs, students are encouraged to dress properly to present themselves accordingly to employers for interviewing, etc. Dr. Tucker said that some companies have casual dress on Fridays while some dress casually all week long. She said she thinks it is difficult for young people to negotiate how far to take this. She suggested that when Dillard's comes back again they be asked to focus on how to dress casually professionally.

Mrs. Madison commended Ms. Kirkland on the way she was dressed for the meeting. Dr. Meyers told Ms. Kirkland that she thinks she is doing a fine job and thanked her, on behalf of the university, for working with everyone. She stated that if the Board is interested in a dress code, she thinks it is something we could do if people know upon admission that this is the expectation. She said that all public institutions are not the same. There are thousands of them in this country with different personnel and different requirements and expectations.

This concluded Ms. Kirkland's report.

Athletic Department Status Report

The following are highlights from Mr. Miller's report:

- The certification process is going well and will continue.
- Members of the Department attended a function with representatives from the NCAA last week where we will be applying for additional funds to help improve our academics here for student athletes.
- The basketball season has begun. The men's team started the season with a win over the University of Richmond—one of our biggest wins since joining Division I level competition. We started our conference competition with a win over North Carolina A&T. The men's record is currently 2-4. This year, the MEAC has been more successful outside of the conference than ever before. This means that the gap is narrowing because team play is getting better. He said that competition will be great at the tournament, and he hopes to see everyone supporting the Spartans.
- The football season ended with a record of 8-3 and finished second in the MEAC. The head coach, Pete Adrian, was selected "Coach of the Year" and has done an outstanding job. He is being considered for "National Coach of the Year."

Mr. Green asked what we are doing to retain Coach Adrian. Mr. Miller responded that his contract has been extended by two years. In response to a question by Mrs.

Madison regarding increasing his salary, Mr. Miller said that his salary will be increased. Mrs. Madison commended Coach Adrian for the wonderful job he is doing. She said he is a wonderful coach who is not only interested in the ball playing but is interested in the total athlete; i.e., he wants them to do well in school, to be good people, and to play well.

- A new website was launched for the Athletic Department. It has really changed the way we get information out about athletics at Norfolk State and has really made a difference.

Mr. Miller introduced to the Committee Dr. Delanyard Robinson, who is the faculty athletic representative. He said that he is the liaison between academics and athletics. He attends MEAC and NCAA meetings because athletics and academics go hand in hand. He has been working with us to make sure that we continue the academic success we are having. He said that each month they meet with Dr. Meyers to provide her with a summary of some of the things that have occurred. Mr. Miller said that he wants to be sure that we receive the faculty aspect of what is happening in athletics, so he asked Dr. Robinson to give the Committee an update on something he presented to Dr. Meyers and him.

Dr. Robinson distributed a handout for the Committee to review and said that he would be happy to answer any questions they might have regarding the handout. He called their attention to the last page of the handout. He said that on this page they would find a classification system. It is a classification strength, which came from a book written by Christopher Peterson and Martin Seligman. They developed a classification where we can look at strengths. They have made a very good case for the reintroduction of character topics and issues in education as well as in psychology and other areas. He said it is important for our students to know what their strengths are, to own up to those particular strengths, and to think of ways in which they can exercise those strengths. There is data available to indicate that students who have an opportunity to exercise their strengths on a regular basis--whether in the classroom, in the residence hall, or other aspects of their lives—are happier and more likely to become involved and engaged. Dr. Robinson talked about how students react and are affected once they recognize their strengths. In conclusion, he said that he is excited about some initiatives that have been set in motion and some other things that are planned that will impact the academic success of our student athletes and the entire student body.

Mrs. Madison thanked Dr. Robinson for his report.

Dr. Meyers said that Mrs. Hoggard has a card (entitled “The Norfolk State University Promise”) that will be distributed at the opening spring conference (a copy was passed out to the Committee) and hopefully will be given to every student. The six values on the back of the card were adopted by Norfolk State from the Peterson and Seligman work. Number one is probably the primary domain of the academic

enterprise, but the rest of the activities and programs should support the other five. She said that if anyone has any suggestions for improvement to let them know.

Mr. McCollum referred back to the football program and the great job they have done. He said that he hopes Coach Adrian gets the award he is up for. He made the recommendation that the coaches, players and others in athletics, when out in the forefront, talk not only about the sports programs; they should also talk about the other good things happening at the university when they stand up to be recognized. Mr. Miller said that earlier this year he made a presentation to the president and the cabinet about this same concept--how to use athletics to make the public aware of what's happening at the institution. This concept has been adopted in athletics, and the department has received some benefits from this initiative.

Adjournment

Mrs. Madison asked if there were any other questions. There being no further questions, comments or reports, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Curtis
Vice President for Student Affairs

Viola M. Madison
Chairperson