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TODAY'S EDITION

See page 2 for
FDI short-course
information.

Funding Choices Face General Assembly

By Ralph Byers, director of
government relations

This year's General Assembly session issues are being overshadowed by the state budget. Governor Mark Warner's introduced budget contains a mix of tax increases, on such items as sales tax and income tax on high-income individuals; and tax decreases, such as continued phasing out of the car tax and sales tax on food. In the end, Warner's budget provides about \$1 billion in new spending, and \$500 million in budget reductions. As reported in *Spectrum* in the January 23 issue, the governor's proposal would provide \$144 million in new funding for higher education over the

GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE

two years of the biennium.

Senator John Chester (R-Fredericksburg) has introduced a proposal that would increase the state's revenues even more, and provide more funding for education and other essential state services. Senator Chichester's proposal would provide \$200 million for higher education over two years. Chichester's proposal has garnered the support of a

majority of the state Senate.

At the same time, the Republican leadership in the House of Delegates has consistently rejected the need for additional state revenue, contending that revenue growth from economic recovery will provide sufficient funds for state services. They also argue that

(See GENERAL ASSEMBLY on 4)

Charter University Legislation Introduced

By Charles W. Steger

The legislative session is now in full swing. There are several appropriation bills we have been watching. Governor Mark Warner has proposed legislation that would provide up to \$144 million for Virginia higher education across the 2004-06 biennium. Additionally, Senator John Chichester has introduced other legislation that addresses higher-education funding, albeit in different ways. [Editor's note: See January 23 *Spectrum* and General Assembly Update adjoining.] While not endorsing any specific plan, we have made clear the need for adequate funding. These are welcome and necessary first steps in closing the under-funding gap of higher

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

education.

The state has determined that higher education needs an additional \$400 million annually to achieve "base-adequacy" funding. Virginia Tech's share of the shortfall exceeds \$40 million, more than the operating budget of our College of Engineering. We have witnessed the unfortunate impact: fewer teachers, larger classes, fewer course offerings, less flexibility, and less responsiveness to the marketplace.

These new funding proposals are good news. However, in light of the state economy, current state revenue forecasts, and other demands on the state budget including K-12 education, it is unlikely that the state can

(See PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE on 4)

Pamplin College of Business reaccruited

By Sookhan Ho

The Pamplin College of Business has maintained its accreditation with AACSB International—the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business for undergraduate, master's, and Ph.D. programs in business and accounting.

A five-member peer-review team led by Purdue University's business dean examined the college's previous and current five-year strategic plans, recent annual reports, and data concerning enrollment, admission, curriculum, faculty, and college organization. During a two-day visit to the college last October, the team met with Richard E. Sorensen, dean of the Pamplin College of Business, and other college administrators, faculty and staff members, and senior university officials.

The team's recommendation, to extend accreditation for an additional six years, with another maintenance review in the fifth year, was accepted by AACSB's maintenance of accreditation committee and ratified by the association's Board of Directors. The reaccruidation, Sorensen said, was "a reaffirmation by others of the overall high quality of our programs."

The team commended the college on its strengths and effective practices, including information technology and international programs, experiential learning opportunities such as the SEED student-investor group and various leadership programs, its Business Technology Center, and its faculty's "impressive research output, teaching prowess, and overall commitment to the college and university."

The college's leadership, the team's report noted, "must be commended for the manner in which it planned for and executed

(See PAMPLIN on 4)

Child care a high priority; campus survey planned

By Clara B. Cox

The availability of child care for the university community was identified as a major issue on campus during a recent AdvanceVT workshop on faculty women in science and engineering that was held at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center.

The workshop, conducted as part of the \$3.5-million institutional-transformation grant awarded the university by the National Science Foundation's (NSF's) ADVANCE program, attracted more than 170 faculty members and administrators. AdvanceVT is the name of the program established by the university under the grant.

Peggy Layne, program coordinator of AdvanceVT, said that work is under way to design a survey for the university's faculty and staff members and graduate students to gather information on the child-care issue. "Our plan is to distribute the survey some time in February, and we will use the input from that survey to more clearly define the needs and evaluate alternative solutions," Layne said.

She said information would also be sought from local child-care providers as AdvanceVT studies the issue and develops recommendations.

The workshop featured small group discussions on issues such as leadership development, work/life balance, campus climate, mentoring, faculty recruitment, faculty retention, the role of department chairs, and issues specific to research and non-tenure-track faculty members and graduate students. Each discussion group identified and prioritized issues of special concern for women faculty members and suggested ways that the AdvanceVT program can address those issues.

The workshop also featured presentations by Joseph Bordogna, NSF deputy director, and Alice Hogan, NSF ADVANCE program manager. Other presentations were made by Patricia Hyer, associate provost for academic administration and principal investigator on Tech's ADVANCE grant; Mark McNamee, vice president for academic affairs and provost;

Catherine Eckel, professor of economics; Nancy Love, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering and co-principal investigator of the Tech grant; Beate Schmittmann, professor of physics; Karen Thole, professor of mechanical engineering and co-principal investigator of the Tech grant; Karen DePauw, vice provost for graduate studies and dean of the Graduate School; and Layne, Eckel, Love, Schmittmann, and Thole are ADVANCE professors.

Virginia Tech is one of 18 universities to receive NSF Institutional Transformation grants that focus on designing new approaches to improving the climate for women in U.S. academic institutions and to facilitate women's advancement to the highest ranks of academic leadership in science and engineering programs.

More information about AdvanceVT, including copies of workshop presentations and a summary of the issues identified in the workshop, is available at www.advance.vt.edu.

University migrates supercomputer to Apple's new Xserve G5

By Lynn Nystrom

Virginia Tech made supercomputing history in the fall of 2003 when it created the most powerful supercomputer at any university in the world in record time. Now the university has announced plans to migrate its cluster of Power Mac G5 desktop computers to Apple's new Xserve G5 rack-mounted 1U server.

Xserve G5, the most powerful Xserve yet, delivers over 15 gigaflops of peak double-precision processing power per system and features the same revolutionary PowerPC G5, 64-bit processor used in Tech's cluster of 1,100 Power Mac G5s—the world's third-fastest supercomputer.

"The Power Mac G5-based cluster validated our belief in the large-scale cluster architecture, the radically different communications technology, the 64-bit G5

processor and Mac OS X as a large-scale scientific computing platform," said Erv Blythe, vice president of information technology at Virginia Tech. "We know that the Xserve G5 cluster node running Panther Server will deliver even more impressive cost/performance numbers at our Terascale Computing facility due to its server-optimized architecture, CPU density and ground-breaking performance and innovative management tools."

"Virginia Tech shocked the world of high performance computing by building the world's third fastest supercomputer based on the 64-bit performance of the PowerMac G5; it was a tremendous feat," said Philip Schiller, Apple's senior vice president of Worldwide Product Marketing. "Now they are advancing their breakthrough Terascale Computing

(See UNIVERSITY on 4)



VARADARAJAN

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

Friday, 6

Black History Month Event, 7 p.m., 126 Squires.

Saturday, 7

Music Event, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Audubon Quartet.

Tuesday, 10

Black History Month Event, 7 p.m., Black Cultural Center, 126 Squires.

Wednesday, 11

Black History Month Event, 7 p.m., Black Cultural Center, 126 Squires.

Thursday, 12

Black History Month Event, 6 to 8:30 p.m., 234 Squires.

Friday, 13

Pay Date for Faculty and Staff Members.
Black History Month Event, 3 to 4 p.m., DBHCC conference room A.

Black History Month Keynote Address, 5 p.m., DBHCC auditorium; 6 p.m., reception, DBHCC East Dining Room: Belle Whelan.

Saturday, 14

Music Event, 8 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Chamber Music.

Sunday, 15

Music Event, 3 p.m., Squires Recital Salon, Chamber Music.

Monday, 16

Washington's Birthday Holiday for Staff Members. University Council, 3 to 5 p.m., 1045 Pamplin.
Horticulture Garden Winter Seminar Series, 6 to 8 p.m., 409 Saunders.

Tuesday, 17

Faculty Senate, 7 to 9 p.m., 32 Pamplin.

Wednesday, 19

Staff Senate, noon, 1810 Litton Reaves.

TA Event, 8 p.m., Squires Studio Theatre: "Ear, and I, and Silence." (February 19 through 21 and 24 through 28).

Thursday, 20

Music Event, 7:30 p.m., Squires Recital Salon: Vanbrugh Quartet.

SEMINARS

Friday, 6

MSE, 3:30 p.m., 100 Hancock: Louis Guido.

Tuesday, 10

Osteopathic Medicine, noon to 1 p.m., Vet Med graduate conference room: Beverly Rzigalinski, UCF.

Friday, 13

Geosciences, 3:30 p.m., 4069 Derring: Paul Ragland.
MSE, 3:30 p.m., 100 Hancock: Michel Barsoum, Drexel University.

Friday, 20

Geosciences, 3:30 p.m., 4069 Derring: Kerry Sieh, California Institute of Technology.
MSE, 3:30 p.m., 100 Hancock: Robert Pond Jr., Loyola College.

BULLETINS

Diggs Award nominations due

Nominations for the 2004 Diggs Teaching Scholar awards are due Friday, Feb. 13.

The Diggs Teaching Scholar Awards honor teachers who forge exceptional, mutually beneficial connections between a department's academic mission and the teacher's own pedagogy. Three Diggs Teaching Scholars are selected annually. These individuals make a presentation about an aspect of their teaching at the annual Diggs Roundtable, a public discussion devoted to pedagogical and curricular issues at Virginia Tech. In addition, they become part of the Diggs Teaching Scholar Association and participate in diverse activities aimed at enhancing the university's teaching/learning environment. Individuals teaching at all instructional levels at Virginia Tech are eligible.

More information is available from Terry L. Papillon at 1-8319, at Terry.Papillon@vt.edu or at www.diggs.vt.edu.

Chefs to present *Valentine's Voyage*

Faculty and staff members and students, are invited to "A Valentine's Voyage," the 2004 Chef Series Premier

Event. On Friday, Feb. 13, Shultz Dining Center will be transformed into the restaurant of a luxurious cruise liner. The evening will begin with a reception featuring hors d'oeuvres, live music, and mocktails and will begin at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. and will be accompanied by the music of the Jake Dempsey Trio. Diners will be served a gourmet, four-course, served-plate dinner prepared by Virginia Tech's award-winning culinary staff.

For more information, call Lori Greiner at 1-8068 or e-mail lgreiner@vt.edu.

ODK accepting applications

Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership honor society, is accepting applications for membership through February 20. Qualifications for students include being a junior, senior, or graduate student, having a minimum 3.0 GPA overall and excelling in at least one of the following areas: scholarship, athletics, campus/community service, social/religious activities, campus government, journalism, speech, mass media, and creative/performing arts.

Faculty and staff members are requested to encourage qualified students to apply. ODK is also accepting nominations by ODK members for faculty, staff, and alumni members. Contact Nicki Cantrell at cantrell@vt.edu for more information. Student applications are available in 319 Squires, and on web site www.filebox.vt.edu/org/odk/.

Faculty Women's Club luncheon set

The Virginia Tech Faculty Women's Club Winter Luncheon will be February 19, at Custom Catering in Blacksburg at noon. Holly Scoggins, director of the Virginia Tech Horticulture Garden will present the program, "Perennial Gardens."

Membership in VTFWC is open to women and wives of administration, instructional, research and Extension faculty members. Retirees, wives or widows of retirees, and mothers and mothers-in-law of faculty members are welcome.

For more information, contact Louise Ridenour at 951-3833.

Whelan second keynote speaker for Black History Month celebration

Belle S. Whelan, Virginia's secretary of education, will deliver a keynote address on the theme "Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*," during the university's observance of Black History Month.

The landmark 1954 Supreme Court decision outlawed "separate-but-equal" educational facilities. Whelan will present "Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas" on Friday, Feb. 13 at 5 p.m. at the Donaldson Brown Hotel and Conference Center auditorium. A reception will follow at 6 p.m. in the East Dining Room at Donaldson Brown. Numerous events will be held through February 28.

Whelan became the first African-American female to serve as president of a

two- or four-year public institution in Virginia when she accepted the position of president of Central Virginia Community College in Lynchburg in 1992. From 1998 to 2002, she was president of Northern Virginia Community College, the second-largest community college in the nation.

Several other events are scheduled during the Black History Month celebration, including a concert by the Grammy Award-winning ensemble, Sweet Honey in the Rock, on Monday, Feb. 16 at 8 p.m. in Burruss Hall auditorium. Call the Women's Center at 1-7806 for more information.

For more information, contact Rosa Jones 1-6023 or go to web site <http://www.mcp.vt.edu/calendars/bhm2004.shtml>.

Faculty Development Institute short courses now being offered

Faculty Development Institute Spring short courses started Monday, Feb. 2 and continue through Thursday, March 25. Nearly 90 short courses will be offered ranging from essential computing skills to using streaming video and dynamic web sites for teaching and learning. Although the presentations are designed for instructional faculty members, all short courses are open to staff members and graduate students. Seating is limited per short course and on-line registration is now open at FDI web site <http://www.fdi.vt.edu/spring/2004/>. Most short courses feature hands-on activities.

This spring, in addition to short courses featuring updated versions of familiar computer software such as Microsoft Powerpoint, Macromedia Dreamweaver, Adobe PhotoShop, and Blackboard, FDI is offering several new short courses that focus on research and teaching. Among our research offerings are short courses on grant writing, finding

funding via on-line databases, collecting survey data via the web, LabView, and the EndNote bibliographic software. There are short courses on e-Portfolios, preventing plagiarism, instructional design, as well as two panel discussions. One panel will offer insight from faculty members who are currently participating in the ePortfolio (VTep) pilot project. The other will showcase faculty members who have developed exemplary web-based learning environments. Additionally this spring, FDI staff members will provide weekly one-on-one help sessions.

For Element K or Atomic Learning on-line tutorials, sign up at <https://www.edtech.vt.edu/learninggateway/>.

For more short-course information, contact Ed Schwartz at 1-4975; ed.schwartz@vt.edu or visit the Spring Short Course site at <http://www.fdi.vt.edu/spring/2004/>.

CAMPUSUPDATE

Ed Tech offers new software tutorials

Educational Technologies has added a new resource to their on-line software tutorials that complements the popular Element K offering. Atomic Learning offers 3000 short movies which show viewers how to perform specific tasks such as working with toolbars in Word or saving a spreadsheet as a web page. The movies cover office, graphics and web-development products from Microsoft, Adobe, Apple and Macromedia.

Both Element K and Atomic Learning tutorials are free to Virginia Tech faculty and staff members and students with a university PID. Registration and more information is at <http://www.edtech.vt.edu/>. (Click on Element K and Atomic Learning Gateway.) The New Media Center, room 1140 Torgersen Hall (1-4826) welcomes Element K and Atomic Learning users.

Event organizers need to notify Visitor Center

By Clara B. Cox

Colleges, departments, institutes, centers, and other programs that hold special events requiring an influx of visitors to campus should notify the Visitor Information Center before the day of the event.

"Visitors must have passes to park on campus, and those attending special events often arrive at the visitor center with little time to spare. They can become irate when the center doesn't have any information about the event and, thus, cannot direct them to the appropriate location," said Kellie Shaver, visitor-center receptionist. "The delays created by tracking down information about an event, plus the time it takes to issue the necessary parking passes, often mean that the visitor arrives late to the event."

Event organizers should contact Shaver at kshaver@vt.edu or 1-3548 with information about events so the visitor center can appropriately assist visitors in the most efficient manner possible.



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
AND STATE UNIVERSITY

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Murphy receives Fulbright Scholar Award

By Lynn Davis

Brian Robert Murphy, professor of the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences in the College of Natural Resources, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture at the Autonomous University of Guadalajara in Mexico during the 2003-04 academic year. Murphy will present special lectures in natural-resource conservation and professional development, and initiate joint research projects with counterpart Mexican faculty members.

At Virginia Tech, Murphy studies and teaches natural-resource education, fisheries management, reservoir ecology, and international conservation. He was president-elect of the National Association of University

Fish and Wildlife Programs from 1999-2001 and was named fellow in the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists in 1994. He also received the Virginia Tech Certificate of Teaching Excellence in 1998 and the Excellence in Education Award from the American Fisheries Society in 1994. Murphy received his bachelor's degree from the University of Detroit, a master's degree from Purdue University and a Ph.D. from Virginia Tech.

Murphy is among the approximately 800 U.S. faculty members and professionals who will travel abroad to some 140 countries during the current academic year through the Fulbright Scholar Program. Recipients of Fulbright

awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement and because they have demonstrated extraordinary leadership potential in their fields.

Established in 1946, the Fulbright program is America's flagship international education exchange activity and is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. Since the program was established, thousands of U.S. faculty members and professionals have studied, taught or conducted research abroad, and thousands of their counterparts from other countries have engaged in similar activities in the United States.

University hosts four international Fulbright scholars

By Mark Owczarski

Virginia Tech is hosting four international scholars during the 2003-04 academic year through the Fulbright Visiting Scholars Program.

Diaga Diouf is a research professor on the Faculty of Sciences and Techniques at the University of Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal. Diouf is conducting research on the identification of molecular markers linked to hyper nitrogen fixation in cowpeas.

Mqhele Enock-Hershal Dlodlo is dean of the Faculty of Industrial Technology at the

National University of Science and Technology in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Dlodlo is conducting research on advances toward fourth-generation communication-system applications.

Husni Hammad is an associate professor in the Department of Animal Production, Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Aleppo in Syria. Hammad is conducting research on improving poultry production by genetic engineering.

Francisco Lopez-Suevos Fraguela is a post-doctoral researcher in the Department of

Chemical Engineering at the University of Santiago de Compostela in Spain.

The visiting scholars are among the approximately 800 foreign faculty members and professionals the Fulbright Scholars Program will bring to the United State to teach and conduct research. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement and because they have demonstrated extraordinary leadership potential in their fields.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECOGNIZES EYRE

Former Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine Dean Peter Eyre (left center) is honored for his 18 years leading the veterinary college. Eyre was formally recognized in the Virginia State Capitol with a joint resolution of commendation passed and presented by the House of Delegates and Senate.

EMPLOYMENT

FACULTY POSITIONS

For information on all faculty listings, go to www.jobs.vt.edu.

INSTRUCTIONAL

Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. Instructor. Large Animal Clinical Science.

Department of Building Construction. Assistant/Associate Professor.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Multicultural Academic Opportunities Program. Director.

Budget/Financial Management. Assistant to Vice President. Department of Chemistry. Postdoctoral Associate.

Virginia Tech Transportation Institute. Research Associate. Fraternity/Sorority Life. Assistant Director.

Virginia Bioinformatics Institute. Software Developers.

Virginia Bioinformatics Institute. Research Associates/Software Developers.

University Libraries. Outreach Librarian.

Military Affairs. Assistant Commandant of Cadets.

Northern District Cooperative Extension Sciences. Area Program Coordinator (Warrenton).



NEW PROGRAM UNDER WAY Tarun Sen, associate dean of graduate and international programs in the Pamplin College of Business, welcomes the college's Executive MBA students during orientation at the Northern Virginia Center on Saturday, Jan. 31. The new program has attracted 24 students. Classes, which begin today, will meet Friday and Saturday every other weekend for 18 months. (R. Griffiths)

Ney receives American Fisheries Society award

By Lynn Davis

John Ney, professor of fisheries and wildlife science in the College of Natural Resources, has received the Meritorious Service Award from American Fisheries Society (AFS). The award recognizes his career-long contributions to the society, which represents more than 10,000 fisheries professionals in North America.

Ney has served as the principal book-review editor for American Fisheries Society journals for 24 years, as president of the AFS Education Section, and on numerous American Fisheries Society committees.

State Employee Night at local hockey match

Saturday, Feb. 21 will be State Employee Night at the Roanoke Express hockey match. Reduced-priced tickets will be available to state employees and their families. For more information, call (804) 225-2181.

PAMPLIN

Continued from 1

significant budget cuts in recent years. Though the impact of these cuts has been deleterious, in the absence of solid leadership, they could have been devastating. Dean Sorensen's service and leadership within AACSB has been outstanding and his expertise within business programs is manifested in his school." The team also offered suggestions for improvement.

UNIVERSITY

Continued from 1

facility to gain even more industry-leading price performance benefits by upgrading it to Apple's new 64-bit Xserve G5 cluster nodes."

Srinidhi Varadarajan, assistant professor of computer science in the College of Engineering, is the main architect of the supercomputer called System X. A National Science Foundation CAREER Award recipient, Varadarajan developed a software package called DEjvu that provides a fault-

tolerant software environment so that if any one component in the new supercomputer failed, the queuing system was alerted. Within milliseconds a free node takes over, averting the need to restart a calculation from scratch, a time frame that can potentially represent months.

The team that built System X, directed by Patricia Arvin, associate vice president of information systems and computing, and Glenda Scales, associate dean in the College of Engineering, will begin the transition immediately. It is expected to be completed by May.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Continued from 1

increases in taxes will inhibit or stall the recovery.

The House Republican leadership recently circulated a document called "Where Do We Go From Here?" which lays out the steps necessary to enact a budget without any tax increases. The document states that the General Assembly will "Need to identify \$1.0 billion in spending reductions."

To balance the budget, the first step recommended in the House document is to eliminate the pay increase for state employees

proposed in Warner's budget for the second year of the biennium (FY06). This would save the state \$105 million. Other items of interest include "Refocus Higher Education funding to address enrollment and tuition issues: \$27.0 million in savings." The document does not specify what this refocusing would entail.

In a final section entitled "How Do We Balance the Budget?", the House document lists, under "other reductions that could be made," the following: "Eliminate the remaining new funding for Higher Education: \$90.0 million."

To summarize, in order to balance the budget without a tax increase, the House of Delegates proposes to eliminate any pay increase for state

employees over the next two years, and also eliminate any new General Fund support for higher education. Other items to be cut include programs in K-12 education, Medicaid reimbursement for nursing homes, reduce funding for the Virginia Retirement System, and eliminate funding for programs such as the Water Quality Improvement fund.

At this writing there appears to be an impasse between the governor and the Senate on the one hand, and the House of Delegates on the other hand, with respect to the need for additional state revenues beyond those expected with no action. The Foundation for Virginia, a bipartisan, non-profit organization

headed by Warner, Chichester, and leaders from business and education, has launched a campaign to support funding for education at all levels. The foundation is sending mailings and taking out newspaper ads encouraging citizens to contact the General Assembly to show their support for increased funding for education. At the same time, various anti-tax groups are organizing campaigns to put pressure on legislators to resist any attempts to increase taxes. The General Assembly schedule requires the House and Senate to adopt their versions of the state budget, including revenues and expenditures, on February 26.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from 1

fully fund higher education in the near future.

Accordingly, we have proposed, along with the University of Virginia and the College of William & Mary, another option for finding or creating revenue sources for our institutions. Our proposal calls for the commonwealth to restructure the administrative and financial relationship with its senior universities, and others if they desire and qualify.

Under legislation introduced this session, an institution of higher education could become a "Commonwealth Charter University." This proposal would provide more local authority to our institutions, allowing us to use our strong reputation to produce additional revenues and promote cost savings. Schools would remain public institutions fully accountable to the state with appropriate oversight and audit controls.

Briefly, the legislation would:

- Provide schools the authority to utilize the institutions' revenue capacity to effectively fund and manage the institution.
- Reduce demand for additional General Fund dollars, which can then be used for other higher-education institutions or other pressing state needs.
- Maintain full accountability to the commonwealth with performance and

accountability measures including new program approvals and a continued commitment to meet agreed-upon enrollment projections.

- Empower Boards of Visitors to set tuition and fees relative to the institutions' cost of education, in accordance with state guidelines.
- Require schools to operate in accordance with agreements (the charter) initially authorized by the General Assembly and governor and approved by the secretaries of Education, Administration, and Finance.

This restructuring initiative evolved from prior successful efforts to decentralize critical administrative responsibilities. The commonwealth and our three universities have benefited from these experiences.

We believe that the charter-university legislation is positive for the state, the schools, and our students. This approach would enable us to use our own resources to address persistent funding shortfalls. New financial resources can be applied to hire additional

faculty members or address long-standing salary inequities and deficient operating budgets. Students will see protection of quality programming, retention of talented faculty members, increased course offerings, and reduced class size.

Considering the long-standing under funding and recent cuts in state aid, tuition can be expected to rise under any scenario that we or the General Assembly might envision. However, we are pledged to devote a substantial portion of these new revenues to student financial assistance.

Over the long term, charter status likely is the best opportunity to address long-standing higher-education under funding. We now have a chance to make significant progress in addressing the need for adequate funding to serve our students.

The charter university legislation has been introduced in the General Assembly, but will be carried over for final consideration in next year's session. A study committee has been proposed to evaluate the legislation. The three universities will begin extensive legislative and administrative reviews to further vet the details for legislators and government administrators.

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