



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
RICHMOND

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
9<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING  
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LACEY E. PUTNEY, CHAIRMAN  
ROBERT P. VAUGHN, STAFF DIRECTOR

October 21, 2008

Mr. Thomas Rosenthal, Rector  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Office of the Board of Visitors  
910 West Franklin Street  
Box 842512  
Richmond, Virginia 23284-2512

Dear Mr. Rosenthal:

On behalf of the House Appropriations Committee, I want to thank you for taking the time to attend our October 20, 2008 meeting and for your remarks regarding the degree awarding process at Virginia Commonwealth University. As you undoubtedly observed, the members of the Committee feel very strongly about the inappropriate actions taken by certain VCU administrators and faculty that lead to the improper awarding of the degree to Mr. Monroe.

Based on both VCU's own report and the investigation completed by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, Mr. Monroe failed to meet any of the university requirements for a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS) degree. Clearly, this degree was not earned.

I, along with several other members of the Committee concur with Delegate Phillips' observation that the Board of Visitors has the "inherent authority" to revoke an unearned degree. In light of that view, I would request that you and the Board of Visitors reevaluate the decision not to revoke Mr. Monroe's degree. I would respectfully request that you provide the Committee with the legal analysis and opinions which would otherwise support the Board's position that it lacks the legal authority to revoke an unearned degree.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lacey E. Putney".

Lacey E. Putney  
Chairman

Cc: Members, House Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell