The Richmond Scholars Program (RSP) administers various merit scholarships to undergraduates, each of which has a minimum award equivalent to full tuition. In addition, some scholarships include awards of room and board. It includes the Oldham Scholars (T, R & B), Artist Scholars (Tuition), Boatwright Scholars (Tuition), Robins Science Scholars (T, R & B), and Science Scholars (Tuition). A number of Richmond Scholars also participate in the Oliver Hill Scholars Program. The Richmond Scholars Program is managed by a director who also chairs the Richmond Scholars Steering Committee. Most members of the Steering Committee serve on the RSP selection committees. The RSP Steering Committee meets at least twice a year (fall and spring), responding to issues that concern the Richmond Scholars Program throughout the academic year.

Membership: Jennifer Cable (chair and ex officio), Tina Cade (ex officio), Cindy Deffenbaugh (ex officio), Gil Villanueva (ex officio), Jim Davis, Julie Laskaris, Ori Belkind, Cindy Bukach and Doug Hicks

The Steering Committee met on September 22 with the following agenda items:
- Review student concerns related to the requirement that a cumulative GPA be met in order to maintain the scholarship.
- Review RSP programming for 2011-12
- Review updates regarding the Richmond Scholars Program Richard L. Sharp Viewpoint Lecture Series for 2011-12
- Undertake early planning for the finalist visit (this would later be revised)
- Outline broad issues concerning stipend requests
- Revisit discussion concerning low yield for RSP in 2010-11 cycle

In December 2011, following the conclusion of classes, the RSP Steering Committee engaged in lengthy electronic discussion about the RSP minimum cumulative GPA policy. Though we determined to proceed according to the existing policy (last revised 01/4/2011), the Steering Committee decided to review the policy at the spring meeting. The Steering Committee will hold its final meeting on May 7 in order to discuss the issues that were raised in December and to determine if changes to the minimum cumulative GPA policy are required.

Agenda items for the May 7 meeting include:
- Evaluate changes made to the RSP finalist visit during 2011-12
- Evaluate changes to the interview process (from in-person to Skype) and the successes/challenges experienced throughout the interview week
- Review the overall yield for Richmond Scholars, entering in fall 2012 (class of 2016). As of the date of this report the yield is slightly higher than projected and we have exceeded our target goal of 45 Richmond Scholars for the class of 2016.
Consider the involvement of the Steering Committee in additional activities surrounding recruitment and yield in the Richmond Scholars Program; how might Steering Committee members further contribute to our recruitment and selection process?

Revisit the minimum cumulative GPA policy

I would like to sincerely thank the members of the Richmond Scholars Program Steering Committee for their exceptional service throughout the academic year. This year brought a number of changes to the Richmond Scholars Program and the members of the Steering Committee were unstinting in sharing their time and expertise.

Respectfully submitted, April 26, 2012

Jennifer Cable
Chair, Richmond Scholars Program Steering Committee
Director, Richmond Scholars Program