

RANDOLPH-MACON WOMAN'S COLLEGE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

September 29, 2005

Dear R-MWC Alumnae,

The Board of Trustees continues to read carefully and discuss the letters we have received from alumnae regarding our decision to close the R-MWC program at the University of Reading. Please find below a statement to the College community from the Trustees regarding the Reading decision.

In addition, I have asked Diane Walker, President of the Alumnae Association and Trustee, to work with the Alumnae Association staff to set up a discussion with interested alums about the Reading program in the larger context of the financial conditions of the College and the strategic planning process that is currently underway.

Thank you so much for your dedication to the College.

Sincerely,

Jolley Bruce Christman, '69
President

RANDOLPH-MACON WOMAN'S COLLEGE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEMORANDUM

TO: Randolph-Macon Woman's College Community – Faculty, Staff, Students,
Alumnae and Friends

FROM: Randolph-Macon Woman's College Board of Trustees

DATE: September 29, 2005

The Board of Trustees of Randolph-Macon Woman's College met in a special session on Tuesday, September 27th to discuss our response to letters received from the Faculty and the Student Government regarding the Board's recent decision to close the Junior Year Abroad Program at the University of Reading. In addition, the Board discussed the content of the many

thoughtful letters received from R-MWC alumnae concerned about the process and rationale behind the Board's decision.

As you are aware, the Board of Trustees' fiduciary responsibility to the College community is to ensure R-MWC's overall financial health and maintain the College's standing as an academic institution of high quality. As a result, tough decisions have been made by the Board of Trustees throughout the College's history and, necessarily, will continue to be made. These decisions are made with the best interests of the institution in mind and with careful analyses of a variety of information provided by staff and other relevant parties.

For Trustees, a primary lesson of the events following our announcement to close Reading has been the importance of engaging all constituencies of the College community in a discussion of the financial challenges facing R-MWC and, indeed, all small liberal arts colleges, particularly women's colleges. The strategic plan being developed must boldly address this larger context and capitalize on the best thinking of the College's various constituencies as well as their good will.

As a result, and in response to the specific requests of the Faculty and Student Government of R-MWC, the Board has made the following decisions:

- Suspend the Board's September 8, 2005 decision to close the University of Reading program, pending further discussions among the Trustees, the Strategic Planning Steering Committee and the College's various constituencies, including alumnae, faculty, staff and students.

- Keep the College's University of Reading program open through academic year 2006-07.

We want faculty, staff, students and alumnae to know how and why decisions are being made. As part of the Strategic Planning process that is ongoing, we will need you all to have accurate, clear information on the position of the College so that we can be successful in ensuring a secure financial future and high academic standing for Randolph-Macon Woman's College.