

Dear R-MWC Trustee:

We forward for your consideration the attached letter from former President Robert Spivey. He, too, is in favor of PEC's mission to keep R-MWC a woman's college. You will note that, while his letter was sent to Ginger Worden before September 9, his email indicates that PEC's research has strengthened his arguments against coeducation. We hope that our documents have likewise caused you to reevaluate your earlier decision.

Ellen Reid Smith
President, Preserve Educational Choice, Inc.
board@preserveeducationalchoice.org

From: RA Spivey
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2006 5:22 PM
Subject: R-MWC

Ellen--

I am attaching a copy of the letter that I wrote to Ginger Worden, Interim President of Randolph-Macon Woman's College.

Please use as you see fit in your leadership of efforts to reverse the decision by the R-MWC Board of Trustees to become co-educational.

After my conversation with you and the opportunity of reading the two documents "What Every Trustee Should Know" and "20 Reasons Why You Should Change Your Vote," I would change the letter only by omitting the qualifications, such as the second paragraph and the twice-repeated phrase "from my limited knowledge" and state more firmly our opposition to the decision, both the process and the result.

Thank you and others for your determined, insightful efforts to continue the story of Randolph-Macon Woman's College.

Bob Spivey

(please see Dr. Spivey's letter on next page)

ROBERT A. SPIVEY

3545 Gallagher Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32309
August 26, 2006

Virginia Hill Worden
Interim President
Randolph-Macon Woman's College
2500 Rivermont Avenue
Lynchburg, VA 24503-1526

Dear Ginger,

First, thank you for your cordial and informative phone call Saturday two weeks ago about the forthcoming September decision by the Board on the College's becoming coeducational.

Because of our distance in time and place from R-MWC, my comments can only have so much weight. Please know that they are meant to give perspective for your reflection and consideration.

Second, three observations color my understanding of the distinctiveness of Randolph-Macon Woman's College: 1) R-MWC as "Respected, Mature Women with Class," 2) Shirley Strickland's classic lecture on "Girls, Ladies and Women," and 3) the College's emphasis on "education in the singular," as derived from its name, Woman's.

Third, I would mention several perceptions regarding the strategic planning process.

From my perspective, it appears that the advice of the consultants has been overvalued. Such is the case not only in the weighing of positive responses from former women's colleges but also, and more important, in the promise of marketing currency for the College's identity with "Global Honors." Such distinction can only come from a major, if not massive, infusion of resources...and over a period of decades.

From my limited knowledge, there does not appear to have been sufficient regard for the constituency of the College. Of course, the Board has the authority and responsibility to make this kind of decision, and from what I read the Board has extended itself in seeking understanding and agreement. But the perception is that faculty, students and alumnae have not been fully informed or heard. Another way to elaborate this concern is to ask, Why the seeming rush to decision? Is there a crisis other than that of the selection of a new president? It does seem odd, from my limited knowledge, that the

financially strongest of the four Virginia women's colleges is the first to advance coeducation as the solution.

Finally, and indeed crucial for the decision, does the mission of the College, one dedicated to the education of women, continue? If mission is accomplished, then the way is open for coeducation. If not, and I judge that such is not the case, I know of no better place and community – by temperament, by facilities, by tradition, by faculty, student and staff excellence – to work for the best possible undergraduate education for women.

I urge then reconsideration or at least some degree of patience in the decision-making.

Thank you again for calling me, for your leadership, and for listening.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Spivey

P.S. Alas, I cannot get my mind around the subject of a name change and wonder whether the decision on that critical matter has to come so soon on the heels of the coeducational one.