

**1524 Carr Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27608**

December 6, 2006

Board of Trustees
Randolph-Macon Woman's College
2500 Rivermont Avenue
Lynchburg, VA 24503

To the Trustees of Randolph-Macon Woman's College:

As alumnae of Randolph-Macon Woman's College, we write to ask you to reconsider your decision to adopt the Strategic Plan and transform Randolph-Macon into a co-educational institution. Each of us has studied the material produced by the College, and we remain unconvinced of the need for this drastic action. More important, given the intense feelings by a majority of alumnae, we believe that there is no way you can succeed on the path you are currently taking.

At the Raleigh alumnae meeting this past Thursday, Ginger Worden spoke eloquently about what led to the vote on September 9. A vast majority of alumnae at the meeting, however, expressed concern and, in some cases, outrage at the process and the decision. The following summarizes what alumnae expressed at the meeting:

- Transforming Randolph-Macon into a co-ed institution with a new name effectively ends *our* college and the strong feelings we have had for it. The new institution will not provide women with the exceptional environment formerly provided by R-M.
- If alumnae had been adequately advised of the financial and recruiting difficulties of the College, we would have responded with increased giving and recruitment assistance. As it was, only one alumna (other than representatives from the College) recalled being personally solicited for the recent capital campaign. Many were shocked that the Admissions Office would believe that placing new student forms in College publications or in reunion packets could substitute for direct telephonic requests for assistance.
- A majority of alumnae oppose any attempt to de-accession any part of the Maier Museum collection.
- Alumnae do not understand why the Board refuses to supply more complete information about the assumptions and data A & S used to project the demise of R-M as a single-sex school. Because you have withheld this information, alumnae no longer trust you or your decisions.

- Alumnae fervently believe that Kathleen Bowman was a failure, that the Board of Trustees should have removed her before she drained the resources of the College, and that strong new leadership could put Randolph-Macon back on course as a vibrant woman's college. We do not understand how many of our sister institutions, against which we were very favorably compared in the past, have outstripped us and will survive.

At the end of the meeting on Thursday, only one alumna, other than the representatives of the College, was in favor of the co-ed decision. A & S's assumptions about alumnae fallout from your adoption of the Strategic Plan were flat wrong.

Since the meeting, we have learned that Lyn McWhirter Fraser, a '65 alumna and well-respected finance author and professor, has reviewed Randolph-Macon's finances and has stated that she does not "think the revenue projections will be achieved and that in ten years the operating deficits will be significantly larger than those the College is currently experiencing." Lyn apparently has shared that view with you, but to no avail. It appears that you are not only going down a path toward failure, but you are doing so with full knowledge of the eventual outcome.

Through the years since each of us graduated from Randolph-Macon, we have been willing to make whatever contributions we could to insure the viability of our college. We did so because we had a firm commitment to the value of a single-sex education, and that commitment derived from a realization that Randolph-Macon was key to our development as thinking women and to our pursuit of a life more abundant.

We want to continue that rich tradition for future generations of women. That is our commitment. It is not a commitment to a new co-ed school no matter what its name.

We urge you to have the courage to reverse your decision to go co-ed. If you do, we will stand with you. Otherwise, our college disappears and to paraphrase a former trustee, we will also disappear.

Sincerely,

Jamie Boyce '02
Mary Jane Evans Bryant '59
Eliza (Liza) Rucker Hager '69
Susan Prescott Little '69
Nancy Cobb Lilly '52
Elizabeth (Betsy) Gordon McCrodden '66

Melissa Peden '60
Claire Bledsoe Pratt '69
Marcy Wiggs Romary '92
Louise Scott (Scotty) Steele '59
Kathleen (Kathy) Nowack Worm '82