



July 4, 2025

Dear Rector Sheridan and Members of the Board of Visitors:

We write to you as Deans of the Schools and members of the University's executive leadership team. As Deans, we serve as the chief academic, strategic, financial, development, and communications leaders of our respective schools. It is our responsibility to ensure and sustain the excellence of the University's core teaching, research, practice, and service missions for those within our charge, now and in the future. We do so in partnership with a host of stakeholders, from fellow University leaders, to our faculty and staff, to our students and their families, to our cherished alumni, to the broader community.

Since the news of President Ryan's resignation last Friday, we have heard confusion and alarm among all these stakeholders. Faculty and staff are asking valid questions that have not been answered. Some donors are withholding pledges, and fundraisers had to suspend operations on the last days of the fiscal year and at the end of a multi-year capital campaign. New hires are rethinking joining our ranks. Students and their families are unsure what the current situation means for them. While these sentiments are not universal, these expressions of concern and uncertainty have no precedent in our collective memory.

As we move forward from this point, we express our interest in working with the Board to foster trust, communication, and effective governance. We respectfully request that you:

- Provide as full an accounting as possible of the events of the past week, including the terms of any resolution reached with the federal government.
- Ensure that the selection processes for both interim and permanent presidents are conducted with integrity and include representatives from faculty, staff, and student governance groups, as well as the Deans.
- Identify interim and permanent leaders who have the recognized distinction in teaching, research, and service to support academic excellence and unfettered inquiry at an institution of our stature and aspiration.

We wish to underscore that the level and number of leadership transitions now underway create significant risk and instability. We can be your partners in supporting the very best outcomes for our students, our patients, and the broader University community.

We remain of the view that this University is something very special: a public institution that offers both world-class research and creative activity and a world-class education, open to all and affordable to every admitted student in the Commonwealth. We want our University to be known for all the right reasons, and we invite you to work with us toward that goal.

We offer to meet with you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Christa Davis Acampora
Buckner W. Clay Professor and Dean
College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences

Marianne Baernholdt
The Pew Charitable Trusts Dean and Professor
School of Nursing

Philip E. Bourne
Stephenson Founding Dean and Professor of Data Science
School of Data Science

Amanda P. Cowen
Interim John A. Griffin Dean and
Arthur B. and Claudia Cohen Bicentennial Professor of Commerce
McIntire School of Commerce

Gregory B. Fairchild
Isidore Horween Research Professor of Business Administration
Dean and CEO of UVA Northern Virginia

Malo André Hutson
Dean and Edward E. Elson Professor
School of Architecture

Leslie Kendrick
Dean and Arnold H. Leon Professor of Law
School of Law

Melissa M. Lubin
Dean and Professor
School of Continuing & Professional Studies

Stephanie Rowley
Dean and William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Education
School of Education and Human Development

Ian H. Solomon
Dean and Professor of Practice in Public Policy
Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy

John M. Unsworth
Dean of Libraries and University Librarian

Jennifer L. West
Dean and Saunders Family Professor of Engineering
School of Engineering and Applied Science