

**Comments by Charles W. Steger, President of Virginia Tech,
to the Virginia Tech Review Panel**

May 21, 2007

Introductory Remarks and Overview of Virginia Tech's Presentation

Colonel Massengill and distinguished members of the panel. I am pleased to have this opportunity to welcome you to the campus of Virginia Tech. During the past week, we have been working with representatives of Tri Data Corporation, to develop our portion of the agenda, which I hope will be helpful to you as you pursue this most difficult task. I might note that your visit to our campus coincides with our first day of summer school. Although our student population over the summer is only about one-fourth of what it is during the regular year and our teaching faculty who are on 9-month appointments are not here, you can get some sense of the vehicular and pedestrian traffic flow on a typical Monday morning at Virginia Tech—as April 16 was before the shootings began.

To begin, I would like to introduce to the Panel Mr. Lenwood McCoy, who has agreed to serve as the liaison between the university and the Review Panel to ensure that the Panel receives a thorough response to all requests for information. Mr. McCoy retired several years ago after more than 35 years with the university, during which he served in a variety of roles, including Director of Internal Audit and University Controller. He will ensure that all your requests are met.

As you will hear during the presentation, we have devoted our energies over the past month primarily to helping those families who lost their sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, as well as the victims who survived. Let me note here that out of respect for these families, the university has denied requests by the media and others to enter Norris Hall. We made an exception to enable the Panel to tour the building this morning because of its relevance to your work. We will continue to restrict access until the families who indicate a desire to do so have had an opportunity visit the building. At the appropriate time, access will be provided to the media and other members of the public.

Our presentation to the Panel today is in four parts:

1. Existing systems for emergency warning and building security.

2. What the university knew about Mr. Cho prior to the event. What steps were taken prior to the incident.

Let me take a moment here to explain that disclosure of certain information is complicated by the laws that relate to what information can and cannot be shared with the public, as well as what can be shared between various units within the university.

As many of you know, the Attorney General's Office serves as the university's legal counsel. Ms. Heidbreder is our University Legal Counsel and a Special Assistant Attorney General. As such, she is charged with providing me legal advice on behalf of the Attorney General. We will provide all information we can within the law.

3. What transpired in the Emergency Policy Group when advised of the first shootings in West Ambler Johnston Hall and immediately thereafter.

4. What is being done for support and healing of the families as well as the broader university community.

In addition to the Emergency Policy Group, there is also an Emergency Response Resource Group, which works in parallel to ensure necessary resources are deployed to whatever group or part of the university is in need. They were able to respond in hours, and in some cases minutes, to provide counseling, meals for the 500 increased security personnel, etc. We will provide some detail as to what has been done later this morning. I have also appointed a task force to provide to me by the end of this month a recommendation for an interim memorial that can be put in place in a short time. Subsequently, a proposal for a permanent memorial will be developed.

As we work to recover from the events of April 16, we also want to learn from them. Two After-Incident Reports are being developed for each of the shooting incidents. And as noted in my comments to you in Richmond last Thursday, we have established three working groups that will focus on: 1) telecommunications; 2) security infrastructure- locking systems, alarms, etc.; and 3) the interface between counseling services, judicial affairs, academic affairs, and the legal system.

This is being said to note that what we will share with you today is what we know to the best of our knowledge at this point in time, but as our own internal review and examination continues, other facts

may come to light. Therefore, what we offer today is preliminary in nature and might be revised based on the emergence of additional information. We will certainly keep you apprised as additional information becomes available.

That concludes my introductory remarks, and I would be pleased to answer any questions the Panel might have.

If there are no (further) questions, I would like to call upon Mr. Jim McCoy, from our Office of Capital Design and Construction, to provide an overview of the systems in place.