

BREAKING NEWS:

Released e-mail shows Pres. Nichol aware of \$12M gift pull in Dec. '06

E-mail revelation directly at odds with Nichol's subsequent statements

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In a surprising turn of events, the College has reversed its decision and released the e-mail sent by former President Timothy J. Sullivan to President Gene Nichol on December 20, 2006 regarding the \$12 million pledge revocation by donor James McGlothlin. In the e-mail, Mr. Sullivan states that since the \$12 million gift had not reached "closure," Mr. McGlothlin was "not prepared to give any more money at this time because he is so upset about the removal of the cross from the Chapel." Mr. Nichol has claimed that he became aware of the revocation following a public release of a letter Mr. McGlothlin sent to a former Board of Visitors member in February 2007.

In the October 23, 2007 edition of *The Flat Hat*, Mr. Nichol was quoted saying "The notion that I sent out an e-mail to alumni talking about us having made the \$500 million knowing that this pledge had been revoked is completely false... I think that this is an effort to say that I've been disingenuous on this front, and that's completely untrue." The facts now show otherwise.



File Photo

NICHOL

According to *The Flat Hat*, "Nichol said that he discussed the donation with Sullivan, but that Sullivan did not indicate that McGlothlin planned to revoke the \$12 million pledge." Mr. Nichol further told the publication that "He [Mr. McGlothlin] had written to me and said that would affect his future feelings about the College, but what he didn't say — and what I didn't know — was that would mean this prior pledge ... was being revoked."

Mr. Nichol issued a statement on November 6 in which he largely explained the e-mail's contents but claimed "It was not apparent that the donor sought to revoke a prior estate commitment made in writing and booked to the campaign in 2005." However, the e-mail clearly speaks of the specific \$12 million gift in question. Mr. Sullivan states in the correspondence: "As you know I have been working hard with Taylor [Reveley, dean of the law school] toward a 12 Million dollar gift from Jim to the Law School. I felt that we were making good progress and moving toward closure..." indicating that the pledge had not yet been finalized. Further, in saying "As you know" Mr. Sullivan

The Sullivan e-mail

The following is the e-mail obtained by *The Virginia Informer* on November 13 sent by former President Tim Sullivan to President Gene Nichol on December 20, 2006:

Dear Nick, Greetings from London where we are having a great holiday. I hope things are well with you, Glenn and the girls. I need to tell you about a recent communication from Jim McGlothlin. As you know I have been working hard with Taylor [Reveley, dean of the law school] toward a 12 Million dollar gift from Jim to the Law School. I felt that we were making good progress and moving toward closure, but I talked to Jim who is very upset and angry about the Wren cross, and is not prepared to give any more money at this time because he is so upset about the removal of the cross from the Chapel. I am not sure that I can do anything more to help you with Jim. He is very angry. I have said from the time that you became president that I would help you with anything that you needed, and I was prepared to talk about anything with you. We have not spoken (absolutely your right) but I could have told you where this decision would go. I will do anything that you can think of that would help you at this time — but I have to say that I am so sorry that William and Mary has come to this place. Best — Tim.

indicates that Mr. Nichol was indeed aware of the situation at hand.

Mr. Nichol has not issued a new statement following yesterday's release.

Board of Visitors Rector Michael Powell issued a statement on the reasoning behind the reversal on the release. Mr. Powell explained that he believed some members of the public had already seen the e-mail and that it was "not

fair or appropriate" that the knowledge was limited to a select few. Mr. Powell further explained that both Messrs. McGlothlin and Sullivan had given consent to release the e-mail.

Mr. Powell also stated he felt it was "time to move on" from the controversy and that the BOV "will consider whether anything in this episode bears on the performance of College leadership."