

THIS IS YOUR UNIVERSITY

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Which Location Would Best Serve ALL of You?

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Can you afford -- money-wise and time-wise -- to drive an additional 500 or more miles a month to and from classes?

Can you afford to spend at least an additional hour in transportation time?

Even if your time isn't taken into consideration, an additional 500 miles a month adds up to about \$90 for gasoline alone, over the entire school year -- do you want to spend this?

Wear-and-tear on your car, tires, oil, and incidentals will run this money figure even higher -- do you want to spend this?

Whether you can afford it, or want to, many of you will be forced into these additional expenses if the Ravensworth site for YOUR branch university is rejected in favor of the Herndon site.

However, you, and all of us who are students at the University Center, and who expect to continue our studies at the proposed Branch, can, perhaps, do something about it.

Here is the background:

The problem of providing adequate higher educational facilities for students in the densely populated Northern Virginia area was given long and thoughtful consideration by the General Assembly of our State; these legislators determined that if the educational needs of these students were to be met, additional facilities must be provided.

In acting on the measure which authorized the Northern Virginia University Branch, the Assembly had before it the recommendation of the Virginia Advisory Legislative Council, which declared that "the most economical way of providing higher education for the greatly increased number of students requiring it, and at the same time maintaining standards comparable to those of our present educational plant, is the organization, in densely populated communities, of branches of existing institutions offering the first two years of college education."

Acting on the findings of the Legislative Council, the Assembly passed House Joint Resolution No. 5:

"Authorizing the establishment of a branch of the University of Virginia to be located in Northern Virginia

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"Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 6, 1956  
Agreed to by the Senate of Virginia, February 24, 1956

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"Whereas, there is a great need for the establishment of facilities for higher learning in Northern Virginia, and

"Whereas, the Virginia Advisory Legislative Council has recommended that a branch of the University of Virginia be established in Northern Virginia; now, therefore be it

"Resolved by the House of Delegates of Virginia, the Senate concurring, That the University of Virginia is hereby authorized to establish a branch institution in Northern Virginia, offering two years of collegiate instruction, which branch shall provide instructional facilities only."\*1

A University of Virginia Advisory Council, after passage of the legislation, was directed to select a site for the Branch from among a number of tracts which were offered in the Northern Virginia area as locations for the

\*1 - Dormitory facilities are provided at the parent university in Charlottesville for those students who can afford on-campus living expenses.

University. This Council, originally numbering 13 members but later increased to 19, all of them respected citizens of the area and many of them members of the governing bodies of the several jurisdictions, devoted more than two years of study, many miles of travel, on-site visits, and lengthy deliberations, to the advantages and disadvantages of the various sites. Its membership voted unanimously to recommend a tract which had been offered at Ravensworth, near Springfield:

This Ravensworth offer includes:

1. 75 acres of land FREE with 2,000-foot frontage on Braddock Road.
2. \$77,500 cash contribution by area landholders and citizens.
3. 12,000 square feet of buildings, which at relatively small remodeling cost could be utilized for classrooms in the immediate future.
4. An option to purchase up to 200 additional acres of land at a value set by impartial appraisers.
5. A commitment by the Fairfax County Board to furnish sewer facilities up to \$125,000.
6. Land already cleared and immediately ready for further building.
7. A site within 3 miles of the population center of Northern Virginia and less than 8 miles from the center of Alexandria, Falls Church, and Arlington.
8. A site that encompasses in a 9-mile radius a total population of more than 360,000 people.
9. A site supported by ALL representatives of the jurisdictional governing bodies on the Council.
10. A site on the proposed belt highway which will join all sections of heavily populated Northern Virginia.

This Council was named as an official advisory group by the University of Virginia, and functioned as such. As a part of its lengthy study of the several sites, the Council held several open hearings, at which proponents of competing sites appeared to extol the virtues of these areas. One of

these was a site near Herndon, on behalf of which two separate appearances were made, yet which was rejected by the official group as unsuited to the purposes the legislature intended when it passed the resolution. The Council had been advised by the University on several occasions that the matter of a site was the Council's responsibility.

Yet, after its unanimous report favoring the Ravensworth tract had been made, a three-man subcommittee was named by the University, headed by Judge Bryan of Alexandria with a gentleman from Richmond and a gentleman from Lynchburg.

This subcommittee, after but a few weeks of consideration, and with complete disregard for the unanimous opinion of 19 Northern Virginia political, business, and educational leaders, brought in a report recommending a site near Herndon, which:

1. Is 23 miles from Alexandria and considerably farther from the Southern Fairfax County developments in the Mount Vernon area.
2. Is about 18 miles from the center of Arlington.
3. Is without water, sewer, or many people.

On the last point, it is doubtful if the Herndon site can ever be adequately sewered, since the effluent from any plant constructed in that area to serve such an installation would have to be dumped into Difficult Run. Difficult Run empties into the Potomac above the point at which the Washington, D. C., Arlington, and Falls Church water supply will be taken from the river, and in addition, has been designated by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors as a watershed to be kept free from pollution. It is certain that the U. S. Corps of Engineers, the Government of the District of Columbia, and the Governments of Arlington and Falls Church, which pipe their water across the Potomac from the District's water supply will unite to oppose such sewage disposal. Many areas of Fairfax County get their water supply through the Falls Church water system, and would also join in this opposition.

Primary reasons given by the Bryan Subcommittee for reversing the unanimous recommendation of the University-appointed Council were that:

1. It will be too close to the proposed Burke Airport, if and when constructed.
2. It does not offer sufficient room for expansion.

As for the noise argument, the proposed Burke Airport, if ever constructed, will be approximately four miles WSW of the Ravensworth tract, which lies between the proposed Burke site and Washington National Airport. It is unlikely that there will be jet traffic between the two airports.

Literally dozens of universities are located in close proximity to major airports. To cite but a few:

The University of California	6.5 miles from Altameta Jet Base
Harvard	5.3 miles from Logan International Airport
Columbia University	5.2 miles from LaGuardia Airport
New York University	4.7 miles from LaGuardia Airport
George Washington University and Georgetown University	2 miles from Washington National Airport

Modern air-conditioned buildings are designed to shut out external noise. It is to be assumed that the buildings of the Northern Virginia Branch will be modern in every respect. Another blow is dealt the argument that proximity to a jet airport of the future is a deterrent to educational processes by the announcement that mufflers have been developed for commercial jets which reduce noise to a level of that produced by a DC-6 conventional aircraft.

However, aside from the fact that proximity to a proposed airport is not a deterrent, it can be shown that this very proximity to such an airport, if established, could be a very real benefit in a number of ways.

1. It would provide easy access to visiting lecturers.
2. It would permit establishment of courses and laboratories for study of aerodynamics and related fields.
3. It would permit rapid exchange of exhibits and other material with other universities.

But we feel that this is "much ado about nothing" since this airport is opposed by our three able legislators on Capitol Hill - Senator Harry Byrd, Senator A. Willis Robertson, and Representative Joel T. Broyhill. It has also been opposed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

As for the second "reason" advanced for the choice of Herndon over Ravensworth -- the question of room for expansion -- we find that in the Sixth Edition of AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES - 1952 - published by the American Council on Education, that all of Georgetown University, all of American University, and two-thirds of Catholic University could be set down side by side in the 275 acres available at Ravensworth, with a few square feet to spare.

These three universities have a student body of 12,011, and the residence halls located on the "two and two-thirds" campuses referred to in the preceding paragraph have a capacity of 2,278 students. The intent of the Assembly in authorizing the Northern Virginia Branch was that it was for education purposes only, not for on-campus living which would require residence halls.

This makes the objection to the size of the Ravensworth trace seem a little ridiculous to us. Doesn't it to you?

Now we come to what YOU can do about it. Here is your chance to be heard. Here is your chance to join with other students to get a college that is centrally located and near all of us. Here is your chance to let the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia know how the vast majority of students of this Northern Virginia Center feel about where their University Branch shall be located.

If you favor the Ravensworth tract -- located within easy distance of 90 per cent of the students -- please sign the coupon below, tear it off, and turn it in to your instructor after the class or during the break. We will place YOUR petition before the Board of Visitors of OUR University.

Students for a CONVENIENTLY LOCATED COLLEGE,

Ben White, Arlington County  
Del Saulnier, Fairfax County  
Joe Duvall, Alexandria  
Clara Allison, Arlington County  
Paul Sameth, Alexandria  
Evelyn Lucht, Arlington County  
Uly H. Gooch, Widewater, Virginia  
Bess W. Andersen, Falls Church  
William H. Rice, Falls Church  
M. Patricia Carey, Fairfax County

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To the Board of Visitors  
University of Virginia

I hereby petition the Board of Visitors to accept the site that was selected by a unanimous vote of the 19-member Advisory Council to the Northern Virginia Center of the University of Virginia for the building of the University of Virginia Branch.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Student - University of Virginia Extension