

# WILLIAM & MARY

BOARD OF VISITORS

RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

APRIL 20, 2022

RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Victor K. Branch, Chair

Mr. Brian P. Woolfolk, Vice Chair (*remote via Phone*)

Ms. Barbara L. Johnson

Hon. Charles E. Poston

Ms. Lisa E. Roday

Dr. Karen Kennedy Schultz

Ms. Ardine Williams

Dr. David McCarthy, Faculty Representative

Ms. Thulani Jayasinghe, Student Representative

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ms. Cynthia E. Hudson

## **OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Hon. John E. Littel, Rector

Mr. John P. Rathbone

## **OTHERS PRESENT**

Dr. Debbie L. Sydow, RBC President

Ms. Lashrecse D. Aird, RBC Chief of Staff

Dr. J. Tyler Hart, RBC Provost

Mr. Jesse Vaughan, Chief Communications and Marketing Officer

Dr. Thom C. Addington, RBC Chair of the English & Humanities Department

Mr. Thomas R. Frantz, Partner at Williams Mullen and DroneUp Board Member

Mr. Steven Hahn, Higher Education Consulting Senior Director for Huron Consulting Group

Dr. Sharon Rauch, Executive Director of Global Student Success Program

Mr. George Martin, Partner at McGuire Woods

Ms. Ramona Taylor, RBC Legal Counsel

Ms. Carrie Nee, W&M University Counsel

Mr. Kent Erdahl, W&M Internal Audit Director

Mr. Michael J. Fox, Secretary to Board of Visitors

Ms. Lisa Pond, Executive Assistant to the RBC President/FOIA Officer

Ms. Jessica Walton, Deputy Secretary to Board of Visitors

Ms. Mia Wallace, RBC Student

Mr. Nelsar Castillo, RBC Student

Ms. Maddie Joiner, RBC Student

Ms. Sangjae Lee, RBC Student

Ms. Jasmine Hickson, RBC Student

Ms. Gabby Sylstra, RBC Student

Ms. Rylie Harris, RBC Student

## **INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

Mr. Victor K. Branch, Chair, called the Richard Bland College (RBC) Committee meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Mr. Branch welcomed those in attendance and thanked the Student Representative, Ms. Thulani Jayasinghe, and Faculty Representative, David McCarthy, for their work throughout the year.

Mr. Branch noted that Mr. Brian P. Woolfolk had notified the Rector that he was unable to attend the RBC Committee meeting in person. He said Mr. Woolfolk is unable to attend due to a family member's

medical condition that requires him to provide care. He requested to participate in the meeting electronically from Fort Washington, Maryland. Pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and Section III.D of the Board bylaws, Mr. Branch moved that the Committee approve use of electronic participation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lisa E. Roday and passed by voice vote.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Recognizing that a quorum was present, Mr. Branch moved that that Committee approve the RBC Committee meeting minutes from February 10, 2022. The motion was seconded by Ms. Roday, and unanimously approved by voice vote.

### **REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. Branch called on Mr. Jesse Vaughan, Chief Communications and Marketing Officer. Mr. Vaughan provided an overview of the newly formed division at RBC, the Creative Service Group, which is responsible for telling the story of RBC. He highlighted four billboards installed along I-95 promoting RBC and several television commercials, including one that features actor Blair Underwood.

Mr. Branch called on Dr. Debbie L. Sydow, RBC President, who provided an update on the spring semester and announced that RBC will host its first in person admission fair since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic on April 23, and Commencement for the Class of 2022 will take place at Virginia State University in May. Dr. Sydow also provided an overview of the meeting agenda.

President Sydow introduced Mr. Steve Hahn, Senior Director with Huron Consulting Group (“Huron”), who presented the findings of a study conducted by Huron to identify high-value opportunities and an implementation plan to enable the execution of stronger more deliberate partnerships with both regional and virtual high schools to support the growth and development of the student pipeline. He highlighted multiple pathways to RBC, identified in the study, which include virtual high school partnerships, lab school concepts, dual enrollment, and traditional partners. Mr. Hahn spoke about RBC’s competitive advantage in growing its student pipeline and proposed areas of investments RBC should consider regarding its growth strategies. Lastly, Mr. Hahn recommended RBC pursue the four following areas of growth: (1) invest in a lab school, (2) invest in RBC infrastructure, (3) pursue a partnership with the Virtual Virginia Academy, and (4) mature the model.

A discussion ensued regarding lab schools and home-schooled students.

Dr. Sharon Rauch, Executive Director of RBC’s Global Student Success Program, reviewed the findings of a recent Navitas perception survey regarding the value of pathways for a post-COVID generation. She talked about the duration of school closures across the globe, and the readiness and expectation of students entering college effected by limited access and/or closures during the pandemic. Dr. Rauch presented the results of the survey on how the pandemic had a negative effect on learning and mental health. Lastly, she reviewed next steps for international students who did not achieve full potential because of COVID-19.

### **FACULTY AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Dr. David McCarthy, Faculty Representative, asked if there were any questions regarding his written report. Hearing none he yielded his time.

Ms. Thulani Jayasighe, Student Representative, and the following members of the Class of 2022 shared reflections about why they chose RBC, their college experience and next steps: Mia Wallace, Nelsar Castillo, Maddie Joiner, Sangjae Lee, Jasmine Hickson, Gabby Sylstra and Rylie Harris.

### **ACTION MATERIALS**

Mr. Branch brought forth and requested a motion on the following resolutions:

- **Resolution 1:** Appointment to Fill Vacancy in the Instructional Faculty
- **Resolution 2:** Approval of Academic Promotions
- **Resolution 3:** Retirement of Becky Toombs, Financial Services Specialist
- **Resolution 4:** Honorary Degree – Nakeina Douglas-Glenn
- **Resolution 5:** Adoption of Projects under the Public-Private Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002 (PPEA)

**Resolutions 1-5** were moved as a block by Ms. Ardine Williams, seconded by Ms. Barbara L. Johnson, and approved by voice vote.

President Sydow introduced Mr. Thomas R. Frantz, Partner at Williams Mullen and DroneUp Board Member, and former member of the W&M Board of Visitors. Mr. Frantz provided an overview of DroneUp's history and current operations. He talked about the growth in the drone industry, markets DroneUp is investing in and the need and benefits for a DroneUp hub in the Commonwealth. Mr. Frantz also noted the objectives of a training and R&D facility in Virginia.

A discussion ensued regarding FAA drone rules and regulations,

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Branch moved that the RBC Committee convene into closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Sections: §2.2-3711.A.1 for evaluation of the performance of schools and departments, which will necessarily involve discussion of the performance of the President, Chief Business Officer, Provost and other RBC senior leaders; §2.2-3711.A.3 for discussion of the disposition of publicly held real property where discussion in open session would adversely affect the college's bargaining position or negotiating strategy; and §2.2-3711.A.8 for consultation with legal counsel regarding RBC regulatory compliance. Motion was seconded by Ms. Karen Kennedy Schultz and approved by roll call vote – 7-0 – conducted by Mr. Michael J. Fox, Secretary to the Board of Visitors. Ms. Cynthia E. Hudson was absent from the meeting.

At that time Committee and Board members, RBC President, RBC Legal Counsel, RBC Provost, RBC Chief of Staff, RBC Chief Operating Officer, W&M University Counsel, W&M Director of Audit, Secretary to the W&M Board of Visitors, Deputy Secretary to the W&M Board of Visitors, Mr. Frantz, and Mr. George Martin entered the closed session meeting at 1:27 p.m.

### **RECONVENED OPEN SESSION**

Following the closed session, the Committee returned to open session at 2:10 p.m. Mr. Branch moved

that the Committee certify by roll call vote that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements under the Freedom of Information Act were discussed, and only matters identified in the motion to have the closed session were discussed. Motion was seconded by Ms. Williams and approved by roll call vote – 7-0 – conducted by Mr. Fox. Ms. Cynthia E. Hudson was absent from the meeting.

Mr. Branch brought forth and moved **Resolution HC-1 (appended)**, RBC Master Plan Revisions, for approval by the Committee. The motion was seconded by Ms. Schultz and approved by voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. Branch adjourned the meeting at 2:11 p.m.



### **Resolution to Approve RBC Master Plan Revisions**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Visitors approved a master plan for Richard Bland College in 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, in subsection C.3 of Item 164 of the 2021 Appropriations Act, the General Assembly granted Richard Bland College the authority to “broker agreements between and among educational, industry, and non-profit partners ... to strengthen and streamline educational pathways from high school, to work-based learning, to baccalaureate and advanced degrees that prepare individuals, including nontraditional students and veterans, for entry into STEM-H and other high-demand careers in the Commonwealth”; and

**WHEREAS**, in subsection C. 4 of Item 164, the General Assembly authorized Richard Bland College to “promote the development, delivery, and ongoing assessment of innovative, cost-effective degree programs and stackable credentials, including industry-recognized, competency-based credentials that are aligned with and responsive to the educational and workforce development needs of traditional and non-traditional students, including veterans and military personnel, and advance the economic development needs of employers and industries statewide”; and

**WHEREAS**, the College anticipates updating its planning documents, including its facilities/land use master plan, to include the utilization of strategic partnerships to fulfill its educational mission as contemplated in the 2021 Appropriations Act language and the development of a tract of currently unused land for educational, research, economic development and other uses that complement and support the mission; and

**WHEREAS**, in the interim, the College has revised its 2014 master plan (drawing attached) to utilize the portion designated as “Multi-purpose Use” for temporary education/training site(s) in collaboration with private partners for purposes that align with the strategic priorities articulated in the Appropriations Act.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the president, the Board of Visitors accepts these revisions to the 2014 Richard Bland College Master Plan.



# Richard Bland College Site Concept Plan

