

WILLIAM & MARY

BOARD OF VISITORS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
OCTOBER 25, 2022
VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Charles E. Poston, Chair
Ms. Barbara L. Johnson, Vice Chair
Ms. Ardine Williams, Secretary
Mr. S. Douglas Bunch

Mr. James A. Hixon
Ms. Cynthia E. Hudson
Mr. John P. Rathbone

COMMITTEE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Kendrick F. Ashton, Jr.
Mr. Stephen J. Huebner
Ms. Anne Leigh Kerr
Hon. John E. Littel
Mr. C. Michael Petters

Ms. Laura Keehner Rigas
Mr. J.E. Lincoln Saunders
Dr. Karen Kennedy Schultz
Mr. Brian P. Woolfolk

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Debbie L. Sydow, RBC President
Ms. Carrie Nee, University Counsel
Mr. Kent Erdahl, Director of Internal Auditor
Ms. Lashrecse D. Aird, RBC Chief of Staff
Mr. Terelle Robinson, RBC Associate Director of Government Relations
Mr. Michael J. Fox, Secretary to the Board of Visitors
Ms. Jessica L. Walton, Deputy Secretary to the Board of Visitors
RBC Staff

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Charles E. Poston, Rector, called the Executive Committee meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and welcomed those present. He noted the Committee was meeting by electronic communication means in accordance with the Board's Policy on Conducting Meetings by Electronic Communications.

Mr. Poston noted that the Executive Committee was meeting to discuss Richard Bland College (RBC). He announced that with the resignation of the Honorable Mari Carmen Aponte's from the Board as a result of her appointment and confirmation to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to Panama, he asked Mr. Kendrick F. Ashton, Jr. to serve as the Chair of the Committee on the Student Experience.

RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE REPORT

Mr. Poston called on Mr. John P. Rathbone, Chair of the RBC Committee. Mr. Rathbone said RBC has been asked to submit a report to the General Assembly by November 1, 2022 presenting how RBC can implement a new/innovative model of higher education. RBC worked with an external consultant to compile this report and among their findings was the recommendation RBC have its own independent Board.

Mr. Rathbone called on Dr. Debbie L. Sydow, President of RBC, to provide an overview of RBC's activities and findings related to the report due to the General Assembly.

President Sydow gave an overview of the timeline, activities and stakeholders involved in the compilation of the report due by November 1, 2022. She said that the RBC administration is concurrently working with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and preparing for what needs to take place should the General Assembly pass legislation in 2023 allowing RBC to establish its own dedicated Board. In addition, RBC is also preparing for a brand study and how to engage a new Board on the strategic planning process should the General Assembly take action. Lastly, President Sydow said draft legislative language has been prepared.

A discussion ensued regarding the legislative process, the patrons of the legislation, support of the legislation, role of SCHEV in this process, and whether RBC will need monetary investments should the legislation pass.

CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Williams moved the Executive Committee convene into closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Sections: §2.2-3711.A.1 for discussion of the terms of appointment and performance of the President of Richard Bland College; and §2.2-3711.A.8 for consultation with legal counsel regarding contract, compliance and regulatory matters. Motion was seconded by Ms. Barbara L. Johnson and approved by roll call vote – 7-0 – conducted by Mr. Michael J. Fox, Secretary to the Board of Visitors.

At that time Committee and Board Members, University Counsel, and the Director of Internal Audit entered the closed session meeting at 2:33 p.m.

RECONVENED OPEN SESSION

Following the closed session, the Committee returned to open session at 2:56 p.m. Ms. Williams 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. Cynthia E. Hudson and approved by roll call vote – 7-0 – conducted by Mr. Fox.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Poston adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m.