

WILLIAM & MARY

BOARD OF VISITORS

RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

APRIL 20, 2023

ALAN B. MILLER HALL, BRINKLEY COMMONS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. John P. Rathbone, Chair

Mr. Brian P. Woolfolk, Vice Chair

Mr. Stephen Huebner

Ms. Barbara L. Johnson

Ms. Anne Leigh Kerr

Mr. J.E. Lincoln Saunders

Ms. Ardine Williams

Dr. David McCarthy, Faculty Representative

Mr. Noah Wilson, Student Representative

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Kendrick F. Ashton, Jr.

Hon. John E. Littel

Mr. C. Michael Petters

Hon. Charles E. Poston, Rector

Mr. S. Douglas Bunch

Ms. Laura Keehner Rigas

Dr. Karen Kennedy Schultz

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Debbie L. Sydow, RBC President

Dr. Tiffany Birdsong, RBC Chief Academic Officer

Mr. Justin May, RBC Chief Enrollment Officer

Dr. Thom Addington, Chair, RBC Languages & Humanities Department

Ms. Stacey Sokol, RBC Chief Business Officer

Ms. Melissa Mahoney, RBC Acting Controller

Mr. Eric Kondzielawa, RBC Chief Operating Officer

Dr. Kim Boyd, RBC Vice President & Chief Research and Innovation Officer

Mr. Jeff Brown, RBC Director of Special Projects & Operations

Mr. Gerrit Smith, Executive Assistant to RBC President

Mr. Ben Thoreson, Student Success Manager

Ms. Carrie Nee, W&M University Counsel

Mr. Kent Erdahl, W&M Director of Internal Audit

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

Ms. Jessica Walton, Deputy Secretary to Board of Visitors

Members of W&M Executive Leadership

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Mr. John P. Rathbone, Chair, called the Richard Bland College (RBC) Committee meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Recognizing that a quorum was present, Mr. Rathbone asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2023, meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Stephen J. Huebner, seconded by Ms. Anne Leigh Kerr, and approved by voice vote.

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Debbie L. Sydow, President of RBC, asked RBC staff to introduce themselves, provided an overview

of the agenda, and then delivered opening remarks. President Sydow reported on Founder's Week (April 10-15) events RBC, including a spring fling, partners reception, and jazz concert held on campus. She further reported that the FAME "earn and learn" program continues to thrive; five new industry partners were added to the program this year with a total of fourteen regional manufacturing partners providing paid apprenticeships for RBC students. Dr. Sydow also reported that RBC set new dual enrollment records this year with nearly 1,600 students enrolled and twenty-one dual enrollment partners. She also provided updates on the DroneUp partnership, Governor Youngkin's dual enrollment enhancement funding for RBC, and a STEM lab school initiative. Dr. Sydow stated that with passage of a ground lease resolution by the Executive Committee at the end of March, the Foundation Board will meet on April 27 and is expected to take action to assume the oversight role in developing RBC's Business Innovation Park. Dr. Sydow also spoke about the success of RBC student athletes and expressed her appreciation for faculty and student board representatives in attendance.

Dr. Tiffany Birdsong, Chief Academic Officer, reported on academic affairs, including an update on programs that prepare learners for entry into employment or further education fields of economic importance to the RBC region. She then introduced Mr. Justin May, Chief Enrollment Officer. Mr. May provided an update on recruitment and admissions. He stated that RBC has seen an increase in enrollment from students in the local market. Mr. May reported that RBC recruitment efforts continue to expand into the Northern Virginia and Tidewater areas.

Dr. Thom Addington, Chair of the Languages & Humanities Department, reported on the student experience at RBC. He stated that the strategic goal of RBC is to refine recruitment, admissions, and course registration processes to remove barriers for students beginning their educational journey. Dr. Addington emphasized that an important strategic goal of RBC is to provide an unmatched student experience. He also provided an update on the Promise Scholars Program. Dr. Addington then introduced Ben Thoreson, Student Success Manager. Mr. Thoreson provided an update on RBC's learner mentor program.

Ms. Stacey Sokol, Chief Business Officer, provided an overview of her department's organizational structure, including human resources, financial operations, and institutional effectiveness and compliance. Ms. Sokol thanked the outgoing Chief Business Officer, Paul Edwards, for his service to RBC. She also provided an update on departmental objectives. Ms. Sokol then introduced Ms. Melissa Mahoney, Acting Controller. Ms. Mahoney discussed financial indicators and investments at RBC.

Mr. Eric Kondzielawa, Chief Operating Officer, provided a capital update on the status of Academic Innovation Center construction, which is approximately 50% complete. The project is proceeding on time and on budget.

Dr. Kimberly Boyd provided an update on grants and sponsored programs. She reported on attending the National Science Foundation's EPIIC workshop in Atlanta, Georgia, earlier in April. Dr. Boyd provided an overview of the RBC Technology Innovation & Partners (TIP) project. She noted that the goal of the project is to build a strong science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) academic-industry consortium. Dr. Boyd also reported on an upcoming study abroad trip to Madagascar later this summer.

Mr. Jeffrey Brown, Director of Special Projects & Operations, reported on the RBC and RBC Foundation endowments. He noted that RBC students received unprecedented financial assistance

during the current fiscal year and that all scholarships awarded have been need-based. President Sydow thanked Mr. Brown and Katelinn Davis, Associate Director of Development, for their efforts in organizing the successful Founder's Week events that occurred earlier this month.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mr. Noah Wilson, Student Representative, thanked President Sydow and Rector Poston for their support during his time at RBC, and he thanked the board for allowing him to serve as student representative. Mr. Wilson and four other 2023 RBC graduates – Ms. Kylie McCoy, Ms. Giselle Villalta, Mr. Sean-Patrick Pendleton, and Mr. Thomas Larus – shared their student experiences at RBC and their future plans.

Mr. Charles E. Poston, Rector, said as a Board member it is a highlight to hear from students such as the ones who spoke and the positive interactions, he has had with RBC students.

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Dr. David McCarthy elected to refer the Board to his written report.

ACTION MATERIALS

Dr. Sydow provided an overview of all action items.

Mr. Rathbone brought forth **Resolution 4**, FY24 Operating Budget Proposal and **Resolution 5**, FY24 Tuition and Fess and asked for a motion to approve as a block. Motion was made by Ms. Ardine Williams, seconded by Ms. Kerr, and approved by voice vote.

Mr. Rathbone brought forth **Resolution 6**, Academic Curricula and **Resolution 7**, Academic Curricula and Degree and asked for a motion for approve as a block. Motion was made by Ms. Kerr, seconded by Mr. Huebner, and approved by voice vote.

Mr. Rathbone brought forth **Resolution 8**, Academic Promotions and **Resolution 9**, Fill Vacancy in the Professional Faculty and asked for a motion to approve as a block. Motion was made by Mr. Huebner, seconded by Ms. Kerr, and approved by voice vote.

Mr. Rathbone brought forth **Resolution 10**, Recognition of RBC Women's Basketball Team and asked for a motion to approve. Motion was made by Ms. Kerr, seconded by Mr. Huebner, and approved by voice vote.

Mr. Rathbone brought forth **Resolution 11**, Honorary Degree for Mr. Thomas L. Walker and asked for a motion to approve. Motion was made by Ms. Kerr, seconded by Mr. Huebner, and approved by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Rathbone adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.