

WILLIAM & MARY

BOARD OF VISITORS

RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

NOVEMBER 16, 2023

MCNEER HALL – RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. John P. Rathbone, Chair
Mr. Brian P. Woolfolk, Vice Chair
Mr. Stephen J. Huebner
Ms. Barbara L. Johnson
Ms. Anne Leigh Kerr

Ms. Ardine Williams
Dr. Daniel Franke, faculty representative
Ms. Kylie McCoy, student representative

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. S. Douglas Bunch
Ms. AnnaMaria DeSalva
Ms. Cynthia Hudson
Hon. John E. Littel

Mr. Courtney Malveaux
Hon. Charles E. Poston, Rector
Ms. Laura Keehner Rigas
Mr. J.E. Lincoln Saunders

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dr. Debbie L. Sydow, RBC President
Dr. Kim Boyd, RBC Vice President and Chief Research & Innovation Officer
Dr. Tiffany Birdsong, RBC Chief Academic Officer
Mr. Justin May, RBC Chief Enrollment Management Officer
Ms. Stacey Sokol, RBC Chief Business Officer
Mr. Eric Kondzielawa, RBC Chief Operating Officer
Mr. Jeff Brown, RBC Chief Development Officer
Ms. Charita Matthews, RBC Chief Information Officer
Mr. Scott Newton, RBC Athletic Director
Ms. Melissa Mahoney, RBC Comptroller
Mr. Terelle Robinson, RBC Associate Director of Government Relations & Student Life
Ms. Katelinn Davis, RBC Associate Director of Development
Mr. Derek Wright, RBC Senior Videographer/Producer
Mr. Ruopeng Wu, RBC STAC Student Worker
Mr. Jeff Britt, RBC Foundation Board, Chair
Ms. Carrie Nee, W&M University Counsel
Mr. Kent Erdahl, W&M Director of Internal Audit
Mr. Michael J. Fox, W&M Secretary to Board of Visitors
Ms. Jessica Walton, W&M Deputy Secretary to Board of Visitors
Mr. Anthony Vittone, Chief Operating Officer of DroneUp
Mr. Gerrit Smith, Executive Assistant to RBC President
RBC Administrators and Students

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Mr. John P. Rathbone, Chair, called the Richard Bland College (RBC or “the College”) Committee meeting to order at 9:15 a.m., introduced members of the Committee, and provided an overview of the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Recognizing that a quorum was present, Mr. Rathbone asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2023, meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Stephen J. Huebner, seconded by Ms. Barbara L. Johnson, and approved by voice vote.

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Debbie L. Sydow, President of RBC, delivered opening remarks and welcomed Board members to the Richard Bland College campus. She then invited Mr. Anthony Vittone, DroneUp Chief Operating Officer, to provide an update on the DroneUp Flight Academy at RBC.

Mr. Vittone introduced himself and then reported that DroneUp continues to grow, now employing about 400 employees in six states. He spoke about the DroneUp program at RBC and the work DroneUp is doing to instruct students on the use of drone technology. He also mentioned that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) gave approval to establish a three-mile testing corridor at RBC that will include night operation simulation. Mr. Vittone stated that DroneUp has become part of the RBC community and that his company has participated in numerous events by providing presentations and drone flight demonstrations. A discussion ensued regarding FAA regulatory oversight and the future of autonomous drones.

Mr. Rathbone requested the timeline for construction of the permanent DroneUp R&D facility at RBC. Mr. Vittone reported that construction is expected to begin within the next twelve months.

President Sydow invited Dr. Kim Boyd, Vice President and Chief Research & Innovation Officer, to provide an update about the RBC lab school. Dr. Boyd referenced a handout provided in the pre-read materials called “Find the Future You at RBC.EDU.” Dr. Boyd noted that regardless of funding, the College intends to engage students and prioritize their academic success in STEM fields. President Sydow commended Dr. Boyd and other RBC team members for their work with local school districts in developing a competitive lab school application. A discussion ensued regarding the partnerships RBC has with Petersburg and other localities.

President Sydow invited Ms. Stacey Sokol, Chief Business Officer, to provide an update on the SACSCOC Fifth Year report. Ms. Sokol stated that on October 15 the College was notified by SACSCOC that RBC is in the review period. SACSCOC will review 21 core requirements. She spoke about key due dates, the role of RBC’s Institutional Effectiveness Committee (IEC) chaired by Dr. Tiffany Birdsong, Chief Academic Officer, and the collaborative process the College will use in preparing the report. Ms. Sokol noted that Dr. Matt Smith, Assistant Provost for Institutional Accreditation & Effectiveness at W&M and former RBC Director of Institutional Effectiveness, has been an excellent resource to RBC. Mr. Huebner asked how the Board could support RBC, and Dr. Birdsong stated that the IEC Committee will share drafts or components of the drafts for stakeholder feedback.

President Sydow invited Mr. Jeff Brown, Chief Development Officer, to provide an update on the legislative process and provide information related to the Sutherland Fund resolution. Mr. Brown provided a brief overview of what will be taken to the General Assembly in 2024. He then gave a brief history of the Sutherland Fund and its namesake, which was established in 1974 with a gift of \$49,963 from James W. and Carolyn M. Sutherland. As of June 30, 2023, the Fund’s market value is \$468,395. Over the past 50

years, the College has withdrawn funds only four times. RBC has reinvested the Fund's income rather than withdrawing funds on an annual basis. Mr. Brown then spoke about the use of the requested \$183,000 disbursement from the Fund, which include website development, social media support, communications specialist position and major gifts consultant. President Sydow recognized Mr. Jeff Britt, RBC Foundation Board Chair, who spoke further about the intended use of the funds before a discussion ensued. A motion to approve **Resolution 1**, Use of James W. and Corolyn M. Sutherland Fund in Support of Richard Bland College, was made by Ms. Anne Leigh Kerr, seconded by Mr. Huebner, and approved by voice vote.

REPORT FROM THE STUDENT AND FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES

Professor Dan Franke and Kylie McCord did not give oral presentations at the meeting but referred the Board to their written statements provided in the Board materials.

ATHLETICS PANEL Q&A

Dr. Birdsong introduced Scott Newton, RBC Athletics Director. Mr. Newton spoke about the reinstatement of Statesman Athletics in 2014 and the growth that has occurred over the past decade. He noted that at 176 student-athletes this fall, the program has reached a record high and that 90 percent of athletes are staying in residence halls. Dr. Birdsong emphasized that academics come first for RBC student-athletes as is reflected in their high GPAs, which is a point of pride for the program. Then Mr. Newton engaged in a Q&A session with a panel of student athletes and coaches. The student-athletes were Shelby Godfrey, Matthew Boyd, and Martin Kawa. The two coaches on the panel were Mr. Andrew Lacey and Mr. Ryan Tierney. The student-athletes and coaches talked about why they chose to come to RBC and how RBC supports athletes. A discussion ensued regarding scholarship opportunities for RBC athletes.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Rathbone adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.