



WILLIAM & MARY

CHARTERED 1693

BOARD OF VISITORS MEETING
RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 26, 2024
MATOAKA WOODS ROOM - SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. John P. Rathbone, Chair
Hon. Jill Holtzman Vogel, Vice Chair
Mr. W. Taylor Franklin
Ms. Barbara L. Johnson

Hon. Thomas K. Norment, Jr.
Dr. Daniel Franke, Faculty Representative
Mr. Sergio Perez, Student Representative

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Kendrick Ashton, Jr.
Ms. AnnaMaria DeSalva
Mr. Robey W. Estes
Mr. Stephen J. Huebner

Ms. Jennifer Tepper Mackesy
Mr. Courtney M. Malveaux
Hon. Charles E. Poston, Rector
Ms. Laura Keehner Rigas

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dr. Debbie L. Sydow, RBC President
Dr. Kimberly Boyd, RBC Vice President and Chief Research & Innovation Officer
Dr. Tiffany Birdsong, RBC Chief Academic Officer
Mr. Justin May, RBC Chief Enrollment Officer
Ms. Stacey Sokol, RBC Chief Business Officer
Mr. Eric Kondzielawa, RBC Chief Operating Officer
Mr. Jesse Vaughan, Jr., RBC Chief Marketing & Communications Officer
Dr. Bryan Shelly, RBC Chief Institutional Effectiveness Officer
Mr. Thomas Travis, RBC Director of Campus Safety & Chief of Police
Mr. Scott Newton, RBC Athletic Director
Ms. Melissa Mahoney, RBC Controller
Ms. Carolyn Day Pruett, RBC Associate Director of Development
Mr. Gerrit Smith, Executive Assistant to RBC President
Mr. Nathan Moberley, RBC Counsel
Mr. Jeff Palmore, Principal at Capitol Square Strategies
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
Ms. Candice Vinson, W&M Staff Liaison
RBC Administrators & Students
W&M Staff

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Mr. John P. Rathbone, Chair, called the Richard Bland College (RBC or “the College”) Committee meeting to order at 10:21 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Recognizing that a quorum was present, Mr. Rathbone asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2024, meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Thomas K. Norment Jr., 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 reported on Rector’s Day, which took place at RBC on September 19 and included a successful ribbon-cutting event for the new Academic Innovation Center. She also provided an overview of the agenda, including action items, and noted that each resolution would be addressed in staff reports.

Dr. Kimberly Boyd, Vice President and Chief Research and Innovation Officer, reported about future College initiatives to reach underrepresented and undeserved students. The College plans to create a virtual mobile marketing and communication vehicle to reach first generation and non-traditional adult learners. Dr. Boyd also shared that the College will conduct outcome mapping to improve student persistence and completion rates.

Dr. Tiffany Birdsong, Chief Academic Officer, provided an academic affairs update. Two new faculty members joined RBC in August. Dr. Andrea Beyer is a new Biology faculty member and Mr. Lee Smith is a new English instructor. Dr. Birdsong reported that two faculty members retired this past summer. She also noted that the College is planning to expand microcredentials in response to market demand. Dr. Birdsong provided an update on RBC’s quality enhancement plan (QEP), and she introduced a project being undertaken by faculty about the future of artificial intelligence in higher education.

Mr. Justin May, Chief Enrollment Officer, provided information about the fall 2024 incoming RBC class. He reported that both full-time and part-time enrollment has increased and shared future enrollment growth opportunities.

Mr. Jesse Vaughan, Chief Marketing & Communications Officer, provided an overview of current and future projects of the RBC Creative Services Group. Mr. Vaughan shared a recent marketing video that spotlights the successful RBC Women’s Volleyball team. Ms. Johnson commended the RBC marketing team for the consistently high quality of their marketing materials.

Ms. Stacey Sokol, Chief Business Officer, provided an update on the RBC workforce and the College’s Six-Year Plan. She also shared audit updates and noted that the FY23 APA audit is complete and all findings from that audit have been remediated. The OSIG Cybersecurity audit found no vulnerabilities. She informed members that Internal Audit provided recommendations for the SACSCOC Follow-Up Report.

Ms. Melissa Mahoney, Controller, delivered a financial report. She noted that residential housing occupancy is at full capacity. Also, Ms. Mahoney reported that expenses are currently under budget, but she expects those to rise in the November report.

Mr. Eric Kondzielawa, Chief Operations Officer, reported that the Innovation Park Ad Hoc Committee convened in September for its first meeting. He also reported that the AIC officially opened on September 19. Mr. Kondzielawa then invited Mr. Thomas Travis, Director of Campus Safety and Chief of Police, to provide an update on the College's 2024 Emergency Operation Plan (EOP). Chief Travis provided a summary of the EOP.

Mr. Jeff Brown, Chief Development Officer, shared information about the role of the RBC Foundation Board and its directors. More than half of the Foundation Board members are RBC alumni. Mr. Brown then introduced Carolyn Day Pruett, Associate Director of Development, a new member of the RBC Development team. Ms. Pruett shared plans for the development of an RBC Sports Park and the start of a \$14.2 million capital campaign to raise funds for the Sports Park. Mr. Scott Newton, Athletics Director, noted the significant impact the Sports Park will have on Statesman Athletics, the College, and the community.

Mr. Jeff Palmore, Principal at Capitol Square Strategies, provided a government affairs update. Mr. Palmore reported that the Virginia Secretary of Education's Evaluation and Recommendations for Richard Bland College was finalized and distributed this summer, and the report recommended a new independent board for the College. Mr. Palmore shared that legislation for an independent board is currently being drafted for the 2025 Assembly session.

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Dr. Daniel Franke, faculty representative, reported that Dr. Adam Zucconi, Associate Professor of History, is acting Chief Academic Officer while Dr. Birdsong is on professional leave as an American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow at Randolph Macon College during the 2024-25 academic year. Dr. Franke provided an update about the research he conducted over the summer, and he provided highlights of Faculty Development Week at RBC. He also shared that faculty and students are very excited about the opening of the new Academic Innovation Center.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mr. Sergio Perez, student representative, introduced himself to Committee members. Mr. Perez is studying computer science and plans to become a software engineer or work in the field of artificial intelligence. He reported on RBC "Welcome Week" events and fall Student Assembly elections.

Dr. Sydow introduced Mr. Nathan Moberley, RBC's new counsel from the Attorney General's office. Dr. Sydow expressed appreciation for Mike Melis who served as College counsel while the position was vacant.

ACTION MATERIALS

Mr. Rathbone brought forth and requested action on the following resolutions:

- **Resolution 8:** Instructional Faculty Vacancies

- **Resolution 9:** Workforce Planning and Development Report 2024
- **Resolution 10:** RBC Emergency Operation Plan
- **Resolution 11:** RBC 2024-2030 Six-Year Plan
- **Resolution 12:** Retirement – Elizabeth Rescher
- **Resolution 13:** Retirement – Laura Camp

Mr. Rathbone requested a motion to approve **Resolutions 9, 10, and 11** as a block. The motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Norment and approved by voice vote.

Mr. Rathbone then requested a motion to approve Resolution 8. The motion was made by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Norment and approved by voice vote.

Mr. Rathbone then requested a motion to approve **Resolutions 12 and 13** as a block. The motion was made by Mr. Norment, seconded by Ms. Johnson and approved by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Rathbone adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.