

# WILLIAM & MARY

BOARD OF VISITORS

RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

NOVEMBER 17, 2022

BARN THEATER – RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. John 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.

Mr. S. Douglas Bunch

Mr. James A. Hixon

Ms. Cynthia Hudson

Hon. John E. Littel

Mr. C. Michael Petters

Hon. Charles E. Poston, Rector

Ms. Laura Keehner Rigas

Dr. Karen Kennedy Schultz

## **OTHERS PRESENT**

Dr. Debbie L. Sydow, RBC President

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

Ms. Lashrecse D. Aird, RBC Chief of Staff

Dr. Tiffany Birdsong, RBC Chief Academic Officer

Dr. Kimberly Boyd, RBC Vice President

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

Mr. Paul Edwards, RBC Chief Business Officer

Mr. Eric Kondzielawa, RBC Chief Operating Officer

Mr. Justin May, RBC Chief Enrollment Management Officer

Ms. Lisa Pond, Executive Assistant to the RBC President

Mr. Terelle Robinson, RBC Associate Director of Government Relations

Ms. Stacey Sokol, RBC Director of Online and Continuing Education

Ms. Ramona Taylor, RBC Senior Assistant Attorney General

Mr. Jesse E. Vaughan, RBC Chief Communications & Marketing Officer

Ms. Carrie Nee, W&M University Counsel

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

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

Ms. Jessica Walton, Deputy Secretary to Board of Visitors

Mr. Andrew Cowen, W&M President's Office Intern

RBC Faculty, Staff, and Administrators

## **INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

Mr. Rathbone, Chair, called the Richard Bland College (RBC) Committee meeting to order at 9:58 a.m.

Mr. Rathbone made opening remarks, acknowledged the UVA tragedy, and welcomed participants and board members.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Recognizing that a quorum was present, Mr. Rathbone asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2022 meeting. Motion was made by Ms. Anne Leigh Kerr, seconded by Mr. Stephen J. Huebner, and approved by voice vote.

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

Dr. Debbie L. Sydow, RBC President, made opening remarks, asked RBC staff to introduce themselves, and then provided an overview of the agenda.

Dr. Tiffany Birdsong, RBC Chief Academic Officer, reported on academic affairs, providing an update on the Learner Success Lab with highlights on areas of success.

Dr. Thom Addington, RBC Chair of the Languages & Humanities Department, reported on the student experience, providing an update on the Promise Scholars Program, spring semester registration, and guided pathways implementation.

Mr. Paul Edwards, RBC Chief Control Officer, reported on financial affairs, providing an overview of the FY24 budget development process, and updates on the FY22 audit and shared services consortium.

Mr. Eric Kondzielawa, RBC Chief Operating Officer, reported on buildings and grounds, providing updates on the Academic Innovation Center, the Innovation Park, and DroneUp. In addition, Mr. Kondzielawa provided an update on approved capital projects and those pending approval. Dr. Birdsong spoke to programming related to the Innovation Center.

Ms. Stacey Sokol, RBC Director of Online and Continuing Education, reported on risk and compliance, updating the Board on SACSCOC compliance and the fifth-year interim report timeline. In addition, Ms. Sokol provided an update regarding Title IX.

Dr. Kimberly Boyd, RBC Vice President, provided an update on grants and sponsored programs, reporting on two grants received to date.

Mr. Jeffrey Brown, RBC Director of Special Projects & Operations, reported on development, providing updates on endowment activities, golf tournament, pecan festival, and the Huron Report submitted to the General Assembly on November 1, 2022. A discussion ensued regarding the report, independence, and the legislative process.

Ms. Lashrecse D. Aird, RBC Chief of Staff, provided an update on the equity and inclusion initiative.

President Sydow provided an overview of **Resolution 1**, Appointment to Fill a Vacancy in the Instructional Faculty; **Resolution 2**, RBC 2022 Workforce Planning and Development Report; and **Resolution HC-1**, Authorizing the Grant of Easements Required for Approved Projects, which was introduced by Mr. Rathbone at the request of President Sydow.

Mr. Rathbone requested a motion to approve **Resolutions 1-2 and HC-1 (appended)** as a block. Motion was made Mr. Huebner, seconded by Ms. Barbara L. Johnson, and approved by voice vote.

**FACULTY AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Dr. David McCarthy, RBC Faculty Representative, introduced Dr. Jena Zarling who spoke to the board about the RBC Faculty Newsletter she developed in 2022, entitled Teaching and Learning @ RBC. Dr. Zarling shared an overview of the development of the newsletter, the contributions of faculty, and the topics covered.

Mr. Noah Wilson, RBC Student Representative, spoke to the Board about the happenings and successes of RBC student government. Mr. Charles E. Poston, Rector, recognized Mr. Wilson as a veteran and thanked him for his service.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. Rathbone adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.



**Richard Bland College**  
of WILLIAM & MARY

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE GRANTING OF EASEMENTS  
REQUIRED FOR APPROVED PROJECTS**

**WHEREAS**, §23.1-1301 (B)(2) of the *Code of Virginia* (Virginia Code) grants the Board of Visitors of William and Mary in Virginia authority to grant easements for roads, streets, sewers, waterlines, electric and other utility lines, or other purposes on any of its property;

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Code §2.2-1150(C) grants Richard Bland College ("the College") the ability to convey an easement pertaining to any property the College owns or controls provided the institution meets certain provisions found in Virginia Code §23.1-1002;

**WHEREAS**, the College meets all requirements and provisions as outlined in in Virginia Code §23.1-1002, including to actively contribute to efforts to stimulate the economic development of the Commonwealth and the area in which the institution is located;

**WHEREAS**, Richard Bland College's main campus and surrounding area are real estate primarily titled in the name of the Board of Visitors of William and Mary;

**WHEREAS**, the College has initiated strategic partnerships in fulfillment of its educational mission as contemplated in the 2021 and 2022 Appropriations Act language, including the development of currently unused land for education, research, economic development and other uses that complement and support the mission;

**WHEREAS**, some of these strategic partnerships require electric and other utilities and the College's current easements with utility companies are insufficient to meet the current and expected need; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Visitors, having been presented information on the various strategic partnerships and projects and changes to the land use plan, agrees that conveying utility easements and right of ways would be beneficial and consistent with the College's various future goals and plans:

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that subject to approval as to form needed by the Office of the Attorney General, the Board of Visitors approves and delegates authority to the College's President to grant and convey utility and other easements necessary to support approved projects, including but not limited to easements related to RBC's relationship with DroneUp; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon approval by the Board.