

## **MEETING MINUTES OF INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS**

**June 8, 2016**

### **Lowcountry Graduate Center**

#### **Board Members Present:**

Myron Harrington, Jr. – Board of Visitors, The Citadel

Allison Dean Love – Board of Visitors, The Citadel

Brian McGee – Provost, College of Charleston

#### **Board Members Absent:**

Cherry Daniel – Board of Trustees, College of Charleston

Joseph Thompson, Jr. – Board of Trustees, College of Charleston

Barbara Johnson-Williams – Board of Trustees, Medical University of South Carolina

#### **Ex-Officio Members Present:**

Godfrey Gibbison – Dean, School of Professional Studies, College of Charleston

Nancy Muller – Director and Associate Dean, Lowcountry Graduate Center (LGC)

Terrye Seckinger – Board of Directors, South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

#### **Guests:**

Bob McNamara – Dean of the Graduate College, The Citadel, on behalf of Provost

Connie Book

Darlene Shaw – Associate Provost, Medical University of South Carolina, on behalf of Provost Mark Sothmann

Gail Silverman – Adjunct Professor (MS Project Management), The Citadel

Sue Sommer-Kresse – Consultant to the College of Charleston

#### **Welcome**

Brian McGee, Chairman of the Board, opened the session at approximately 10:15 a.m., noting as self-introductions were made that a quorum of the Board was not present. There is no provision in the Consortium Agreement for a designee, hence the designation of guests noted above. Gail Silverman, Esq. was among those guests who introduced herself for possible future use as a meeting facilitator and mediator, should such services be needed. She then excused herself.

#### **Discussion**

The group discussed “takeaways” from the recent visit with University Center Greenville CEO & President David Taylor, noting the following in comparison to the LGC’s governance as defined by the Consortium Agreement and current strategy:

- A more outward view in the mission, focused on expressly serving citizens of the local community, and not affiliated with any specific institution.
- A purposely expanded Board of Directors to achieve a variety of voices, especially from employers, in governance and strategy

- A governance structure that follows “best practices” as typical of 501c3 corporations, e.g., Board term limits, an independent nominating process, use of committees, rotating representation from all participating institutions, etc.
- Freedom and flexibility in accredited program offerings, with a spirit of inclusivity. Accredited graduate and undergraduate programs are offered and may be duplicated.
- Equal status among participating institutions, with respect to fees, rent, services, acceptance of program offerings, etc.
- Reliance on the institutions for their own program development, academic assessment, and marketing.
- A dedicated focus on the local job market, including coursework for completion of a bachelor’s degree, alongside graduate education, in targeted sectors for K-12 teachers, business administration, and nursing (RN to BSN degree), noting identified interests of local employers
- Operating independence, i.e., no separate fiscal agent.
- A sustainable business model, in part because of the volume of students being served due to the inclusivity, equality of institutional status, addition of undergraduate programs etc.
- A unique differentiation between the proximity (< 10 versus > 25+ miles) of LGC versus UCG to public institutions of higher education

### **Actions Agreed**

It was agreed, in conclusion by all present, that Godfrey Gibbison and Nancy Muller will draft a revised governance document with an eye for creating openness, first sharing it with the provosts of the three stakeholder institutions for their concurrence before distributing it to the full Board. Further, it was agreed that input/agreement from the three provosts should occur before the Board meeting scheduled June 29, 2016. Allison Dean Love and Bob McNamara agreed to ask General Counsel Mark Brandenburg at The Citadel to draft another one-year extension addendum for the current Consortium Agreement expiring June 30, 2016, to allow time for a new document to be finalized and agreed to by all parties involved. A goal of three months is sought.

June 16, 2016