

New College Institute
Board of Directors Meeting
January 26, 2017

The Board of Directors of New College Institute met Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in Senate Room 2 in the Virginia Capitol Building in Richmond, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Delegate Les Adams, Mr. Bob Burger, Ms. Tanya Foreman, Dr. Weldon Hill, Ms. Naomi Hodge-Muse, Delegate Danny Marshall, Delegate Charles Poindexter, Senator Bill Stanley, Ms. Treney Tweedy, and Ms. Janice Wilkins.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Gracie Agnew and Senator Emmett Hanger

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Leanna Blevins, NCI Executive Director; Mr. Charles Guthridge, Public Affairs Consultant; Mr. Morgan Guthridge, Public Affairs Consultant; Ms. Christina Reed, NCI Finance Director; Ms. Mandy McGhee, NCI Fiscal Coordinator; Ms. Carrie Nee, Office of the Attorney General; and Ms. Melanie Ingram, Executive Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Ms. Janice Wilkins, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:18 p.m. Chairman Stanley joined the meeting at 3:28 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Ingram called the roll and noted the presence of a quorum.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 9, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

On motion by Delegate Marshall, seconded by Delegate Poindexter, the minutes of the December 9, 2016 meeting were approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Dr. Blevins provided the following updates.

a. Academic Update

- Met with multiple academic and some industry partners in January along with Senator Stanley and Delegate Marshall.
- Discussions continue with Averett University to offer a Bachelor of Applied Science degree.

- Beginning Fall 2017, Longwood University will offer hybrid courses in Martinsville for teachers to earn an endorsement in Library Media PreK-12 or earn a Master of Education in School Librarianship.
- Plans are underway to offer a cyber security workshop for industries
- Met with the Rural Center Director regarding partnering with them to deliver Telemedicine options to multiple regions represented by the Rural Center.
- Discussions and planning of an Open House for NCI's Center of Advanced Manufacturing are underway.

b. Staffing Update

- The vacant Telemedicine position has been advertised and interviews conducted.
- Advertisement for the Chief Academic Officer/Associate Director job (Dr. Blevins' former position) will begin soon.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Senator Stanley reported the execution of a five-year employment contract with Dr. Leanna Blevins as Executive Director. This contract was reviewed and approved by Virginia's Office of the Attorney General.

Board members and NCI staff were thanked for traveling to Richmond for the board meeting to accommodate the schedules of NCI's legislative members.

Senator Stanley briefly described his contacts and activities since the last board meeting in December, 2016.

- a. Future direction of New College: Continuing to work diligently to determine NCI's future by working with the organizations/colleges/universities listed on the agenda.
- b. College brand and marketing: Once plans are in place, want to see an aggressive marketing campaign.
- c. Harvest Foundation: He and Dr. Blevins recently met with current Harvest Foundation leadership. Senator Stanley viewed the meeting as positive; miscommunications were cleared up; and he anticipates the reinstatement of the original Challenge Grant.
- d. New College Foundation: Will continue work to mend this relationship
- e. Danville Community College (DCC) and Patrick Henry Community College (PHCC): Discussions of an Advanced Manufacturing applied science degree program have been held with leaders of both community colleges. Cyber Security offers yet another opportunity for NCI to partner with DCC and PHCC. Will continue to seek areas for further collaboration that do not compete with the community colleges but rather fill gaps to provide a cutting edge education for all students.
- f. Averett University: Met with Dr. Tiffany Franks, President of Averett, to discuss ways to enhance NCI's relationship with Averett.
- g. University of Virginia: Met with Dr. Teresa Sullivan about building upon current relationship with UVa. This was a positive meeting.
- h. Virginia Tech: Met with leadership to talk about engineering and other ways to partner.

- i. Longwood University: Senator Stanley has met with Longwood's president, W. Taylor Reveley, IV. President Reveley has been asked to provide a proposed plan for NCI's future by the end of the General Assembly Reconvene session (April).
- j. Old Dominion University: There is language in the budget amendment to require Old Dominion University to provide access of its program portfolio to NCI through the Online Virginia Network. Cyber security is also a topic of discussion.
- k. George Mason University: There is language in the budget amendment to also require George Mason University to provide access of its program portfolio to NCI through the Online Virginia Network. Cyber security is also a topic of discussion.
- l. Budget Amendment: Senator Stanley asked Delegate Marshall to review a budget amendment related to NCI's future planning presented to the 2017 General Assembly (a copy is attached to these minutes). This language amendment discusses programs, facilities, and future planning at New College.

A copy of the amendment was distributed to each member and Delegate Marshall read the document aloud. Delegate Marshall explained this language amendment resulted from a discussion he and Delegate Poindexter had with Delegate Chris Jones, Chair of the House Appropriations Committee. Following their discussion, Delegate Chris Jones and members of his staff drafted the language amendment. Senator Stanley added that Senator Hanger (who was not present at the meeting) and also Delegate Poindexter supported the amendment.

Senator Stanley then introduced NCI's newest board member, Tanya Foreman. Ms. Foreman briefly described her background as a native of Henry County and her current position as Education Manager of Eastman in Kingsport, TN. She is familiar with the Kingsport Center for Higher Education and encouraged the board to schedule a trip to its campus.

Delegates Marshall and Poindexter left the meeting at 3:55 p.m. due to other scheduled legislative meetings.

Senator Stanley also reported he has had discussions with the Wendell Scott Foundation regarding a potential partnership for NCI and the Foundation's "Steer into STEM" program.

Senator Stanley initiated a discussion of filling the position of Chief Academic Officer recently vacated by for appointment of Dr. Blevins as Executive Director. On motion by Senator Stanley, seconded by Ms. Foreman, approval was given to Dr. Blevins to hire a Chief Academic Officer in compliance with the hiring policies and procedures of Virginia's Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM).

NEXT MEETING DATE

Senator Stanley stressed the establishment of an action plan for NCI's future within a 12 to 18-month timeframe. To meet this aggressive goal, board meetings will need to be held more frequently than usual. He suggested that members plan to meet in March, May and July. Committees will need to ramp up their meeting schedules as well. As Chair of the Educational Outreach Committee, Delegate Adams will plan a meeting of this committee soon to begin an outreach and branding initiative.

Senator Stanley again expressed thanks to the NCI staff members for their continued dedication and loyalty.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Hill asked for permission to contact the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to learn more details of the establishment of the Kingsport Center for Higher Education. Permission was granted by Senator Stanley.

Senator Stanley encouraged members to consider corporate partners with which NCI can work to develop student scholarship opportunities.

Ms. Ingram was asked to distribute a Doodle poll to all members to find a date (preferably after March 18) for interested members to visit the Kingsport Center for Higher Education as well as schedule the board's next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.