



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TRUSTEE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 2, 2024**

**OPEN SESSION
AGENDA**

- I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**
- II. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - A. Ark and Dove Award – Recommendations
 - B. New Trustee Candidates – Status of Candidate Search
 - C. Board Survey – Update on Questionnaire
- III. INFORMATION ITEMS**
 - A. Minutes from October 13, 2023
- IV. MOTION TO CLOSE SESSION**
- V. MOTION TO CONCLUDE OPEN SESSION**



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
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**OPEN SESSION
MINUTES**

Date of Meeting: October 13, 2023

Status of Minutes: Approved

Committee Chair: Paula Collins

Committee Members Present: Board Chair Susan Dyer; President Tuajuanda Jordan; Arthur "Lex" Birney/Zoom; Donny Bryan '73; Gail Harmon/Phone; Danielle Troyan '92; Ray Wernecke; John Wobensmith '93/Zoom.

Committee Members Absent: None

Staff Member: David Taylor

Trustees Present: Peter Bruns; Kristen Greenaway; Sven Holmes; Talib Horne '93; Melanie Rosalez '92/Zoom.

Others Present: Betsy Barreto; Mary Broadwater; Carolyn Curry; Brandon Engle/Zoom; Katie Gantz; David Hautanen; Jerri Howland; Paul Pusecker; Dereck Rovaris; Jeff Byrd; Ann Marie Brady/Zoom; Jennifer Falkowski/Zoom; Kaylah Lovitts.

Executive Summary: Committee Chair Paula Collins called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. A quorum was noted. The agenda included three discussion items including the Ark and Dove Award; upcoming trustee vacancies; and a possible board survey. She also complimented the successful new trustee orientation held the previous day (October 12).

The Order of the Ark and Dove is the highest honor presented to individuals for distinguished service to the College. Nominations are accepted from October through April; the President and Executive Council review the nominees and recommend a final candidate to the Board for approval in May for presentation in October. Chair Collins asked that trustees (and anyone associated with the College) to consider candidates and forward to the President with an explanation as to why this candidate is deserving; a giving record/money is not a factor in the selection.

Chair Collins noted that while the Board expects no new vacancies in 2024, there could be as many as five in 2025, due to the expiration of terms. The terms of Sven Holmes, Peg Duchesne, and Lex Birney expire in 2025; Gail Harmon will step down having served since 2007; Carlos Alcazar, who began his term in May 2014, will also step down. The first terms of Ray Wernecke, Judy Fillius, and Chair Collins all conclude; they are eligible for a second term and have expressed an interest in doing so.

Currently, there are at least three very good prospects with whom we are having conversations and will discuss in closed session at another time; we seek candidates who are willing to invest the time, bring expertise, gravitas, and enthusiasm to advance the College mission.

Chair Collins distributed a matrix of skill sets that the Board should possess; in addition to professional skills and experience, the Board needs a particular focus on increasing diversity which is essential to best serve the citizens of Maryland; people of Hispanic and Asian heritage are the fastest growing demographic.

Trustee Wernecke had a candidate in mind and will convey to Chair Collins. President Jordan reminded trustees to not limit ourselves to just local geography; we should seek candidates beyond this area. Of our 23 governor appointed trustees, some 70% are from Maryland.

Chair Collins commented that as part of the Middle States assessment currently underway, Standard VII asks that the Board conduct regular self-evaluations and act to address issues. While actions do occur and processes are in place, conducting a periodic survey to complement existing activities has been suggested to strengthen the review process. Trustee Wobensmith provided a sample survey which Chair Collins adapted and circulated as an example for further discussion. Any instrument would be reviewed by counsel; this is a "thought piece" for preliminary review. Such a survey tool is standard in the private sector and increasingly in college board governance as well. All survey responses would be anonymous (to encourage straightforward answers) and could be forwarded to the attorney to record, review, and compile.

Trustee comments suggested a survey would prompt candid and shared awareness as to how to do better as a board; Chair Dyer concurred and said we should move ahead with this idea, get feedback, and discuss at the next meeting (February).

There being no further business, Chair Collins asked for a motion to adjourn; Boad Chair Dyer made a motion; trustee Bryan seconded; on a unanimous vote, the meeting concluded at 9:15 a.m.