

New College Institute
Board Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2010
10:00 a.m.
Room 303, King Building

The Board of Directors of New College Institute met on Wednesday, November 3, 2010 in Room 303 of the King Building.

Attendance:

Delegate Ward Armstrong, Mr. Jay Edelen, Ms. Elizabeth Haskell, Mr. Mark Heath, Mr. George Lyle, Delegate Danny Marshall, Delegate Don Merricks, Ms. Amanda Redd, Senator Roscoe Reynolds, Mr. Rob Spilman, and Dr. Eugene Trani.

Also present were Dr. Leanna Blevins, NCI Associate Director; Dr. Barry Dorsey, NCI Executive Director; Mr. Charles Guthridge, Public Affairs Consultant; Mr. Morgan Guthridge, Public Affairs Consultant; Mr. William H. Leighty, Executive Director of the 2012 Commission; Mr. Paul Toms, President of the Harvest Foundation Board; Mr. Charles Toothman, NCI Fiscal and Human Resources Administrator; and Ms. Melanie Ingram, Assistant to the NCI Executive Director

Call to Order and Welcome

Chairman Rob Spilman called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. Chairman Spilman reported that the 2012 Commission announcement was the sole purpose of the meeting.

Roll Call

Ms. Ingram called the roll and announced that a quorum was present.

2012 Commission Report Presentation

Chairman Spilman introduced Mr. Paul Toms, President of the Harvest Foundation Board.

Mr. Toms thanked the Commission members for the eight months they devoted to the endeavor. He expressed special thanks to Dr. Eugene Trani and Dr. John Casteen as co-chairs of the Commission along with Executive Director Bill Leighty. Each member was individually thanked and recognized.

Dr. Eugene Trani was then introduced to share the Commission's recommendation.

Dr. Trani presented the following three options considered by the Commission for NCI's future.

1. Remain in its present form,
2. Become a free-standing college,
3. Become a branch campus of one of Virginia's existing public colleges or universities.

He reported that it quickly became obvious to Commission members that the best, most expedient way to get NCI to the next level of development would be for it to become a branch campus of an existing college or university in Virginia.

Dr. Trani emphasized that the Commission's report is very much in keeping with Governor McDonnell's Commission on Higher Education Reform, Innovation, and Investment. He offered his sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to this effort.

Mr. Bill Leighty, Executive Director of the 2012 Commission, was then introduced to provide a more detailed look at the report.

A PowerPoint presentation was viewed which included background of the formation of the Commission and the history of New College Institute. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

After completion of Mr. Leighty's presentation, Chairman Spilman announced that an exploratory team including Robert H. Spilman, Jr., chief executive officer, Bassett Furniture Industries, Inc.; Eugene P. Trani, Ph.D., president emeritus, Virginia Commonwealth University; Allyson K. Rothrock, executive director, The Harvest Foundation; and Charles M. Guthridge, legislative advisor to NCI, will be appointed to consider the recommendations and begin to evaluate and explore the branch-campus possibilities. The committee will endeavor to bring a report back to the NCI board at scheduled future meetings.

As president of the Harvest Foundation, Mr. Toms noted that Harvest's board and staff embrace the Commission's report with great enthusiasm and pledge their unequivocal support for the development of New College Institute into a branch campus of one of Virginia's state-supported colleges or universities.

Dr. Eugene Trani recommended that the New College Institute's Board accept and approve the 2012 Commission's report. On motion by Delegate Danny Marshall, seconded by Delegate Don Merricks, NCI's Board unanimously accepted and ratified the report.

A Question and Answer period session was then held.

On motion by Mr. Lyle, seconded by Ms. Haskell, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

New College Institute 2012 Commission

Presentation of Final Report

November 3, 2010

About the Commission

- Formed in April 2010 by the Harvest Foundation
- Charged with exploring future options for NCI
- Composed of leaders in education, business and government
 - Commission was engaged, innovative and spirited
- Staffed by the Performance Management Group
- Held 4 meetings and had extensive discussions
- Recommendation is a unanimous

Executive Summary

- NCI is unique
- NCI's Mission is Compelling
- NCI's Accomplishments to date are notable
- The future of NCI requires more investment
- The recommended manner of providing those investments is affiliation with a four-year public institution

The Regional Economy

- Disadvantages:
 - Unemployment for region is high
 - 20% for Martinsville
 - 14% for Henry County
 - Wages rates are 60% of statewide average
 - Post secondary educational attainment rates are low

The Regional Economy

- Advantages:
 - Strong awareness of economic and demographic issues both locally and within the state
 - Recent (2010) high school graduation rates now exceed or are comparable to statewide averages
 - Statewide average 85.5%
 - Martinsville 89.8%
 - Henry 83.2%
 - Increasing high school graduation rates increases the pressure to provide post secondary education in the area

History and Background of NCI

- Longstanding desire to increase post secondary educational opportunities
- NCI created in 2006
- Opened doors one year early for the 2007-2008 academic year
- 413 students for the 2009-2010 academic year
- 135 graduates to date

How NCI Operates

- Not a degree granting institution
- Enrolling students must have completed their first two years prior to admission
- Post graduate programs also available
- Concentrates on “high need” curriculum

Future of NCI

- Opportunities for NCI
 - Governor's Commission on Higher Education Reform
 - 100,000 degrees initiative
 - Expanded need for rural education outreach
 - Governor's Commission on Job growth and Economic Development
 - NCI offers an opportunity to serve as an incubator site for new ideas

Recommendation

- NCI should concentrate its efforts on affiliation with a Virginia four-year public higher education institution
 - Advantages to NCI:
 - Increased name recognition and public awareness
 - Advantages of larger institutions administrative support
 - Increased ability to streamline transfer agreements
 - Ability to have a “mentor” to steer the efforts

Recommendation

- NCI should concentrate its efforts on affiliation with a Virginia four-year public higher education institution
 - Advantages to Four-Year Institution:
 - Ability to participate in Harvest Foundations \$50m commitment
 - Ability to create an “epicenter of innovation and creativity” for new education ideas
 - Contribute to the Commonwealth and the Institution’s economic development commitment

Questions?