

**BOARD OF VISITORS**  
**SACSCOC On-Site Interview Luncheon**

G.W.C. Brown Memorial Hall

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room 141

March 6, 2019

**MINUTES**

Board Members Present:

Ms. Joan G. Wilmer, Rector

Dr. Deborah M. DiCroce, Vice Rector

The Honorable James W. Dyke, Jr.

Members of the NSU Staff Present:

Mrs. April T. Allbritton, Office Manager/Board Liaison

Counsel Present:

Ms. Pamela F. Boston, University Counsel

SACSCOC On-Site Committee Members Present:

Dr. Melissa Canady Wargo, Chief of Staff, Western Carolina University

Dr. Ray Belton, President-Chancellor, Southern University & A&M College

Dr. Steven Sheeley, Senior Vice President, SACSCOC

The luncheon started at approximately 12:20 p.m. followed by introductions.

Comments from the accreditation leaders included:

- NSU's infrastructure and growth is remarkable.
- The Master Plan and Strategic Plan are tied together and complement each other. The university has used leveraging to redefine itself by being extremely successful with securing financing on the capital size. This success can be attributed in part to the Board of Visitors, "as this speaks to the Board's investment in the university."
- Impressed with the caliber of the Board's talent and experience and with the enthusiasm and passion of faculty, staff and students.
- The QEP is a very ambitious, aspirational plan with an estimated cost of \$1M. Dr. Wargo asked for thoughts on how the plan would transition under the new president?

Dr. DiCroce responded that the QEP has been shared with the incoming President. She understands it and is committed to it. Her varied experiences in academic and student life lends to a value added approach. The President and the Board will ensure that the QEP is embedded and operationalized into the institution.

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- Dr. Sheeley extended an invitation to the new president to visit with SACSCOC representatives to network and familiarize her with the process. He asked that the Board communicate to her that SACSCOC is here to help; they are not auditors. Dr. Sheeley will also look to select an on-site committee that is best for her and ensure that she has a meeting with Dr. Wheelan.

Ms. Wilmer stated that she will advise the President's Onboarding Team to incorporate the visit into the onboarding plan.

- Dr. Belton offered to introduce the new president to the network of HBCU leaders.
- The university will not officially receive the SACSCOC decision until December 2019. There is nothing that would hinder the hope for a positive decision. The exit interview with the President and others is tomorrow morning. If there are any recommendations, this will be presented at that time. The university will have five months from tomorrow to write a response.
- The On-site Committee's job is to leave the university in a better position by providing feedback to enhance the institution.

#### **General suggestions:**

- Be sure to always review your audits very carefully.
- As you continue advocacy for funding for new projects, be reminded to request funding to help sustain current facilities over time (R&R dollars and deferred maintenance dollars).
- Have essential conversations regarding enrollment. NSU's enrollment end goal is 7,500 students. You will need to think about how dual enrollment plays into this in regards to your revenue stream.
- Noted that Dr. Stith has done an excellent job with engaging individuals on campus and he is to be commended for his work. It is important to continue to do what is working to have committed faculty, staff and students.

Dr. DiCroce stated the Board was strategic in its selection of the new president. The Board has chosen an individual who understands the balance of relationships, who has the right combination of experience, presence and compassion. The Board is confident that the new president will do the same.

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The luncheon concluded at approximately 1:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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April T. Allbritton, Board Liaison

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Devon M. Henry, Secretary  
Board of Visitors