

THE HISTORIC TRIANGLE COLLABORATIVE
8:00 to 9:00 a.m. April 18, 2016
William & Mary Alumni House, Pollard Room

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Members present:

David Cromwell, Phil Emerson, Clyde Haulman, Bryan Hill, Ruth Larson, Neil Morgan, Taylor Reveley, Karen Riordan, Jeff Wassmer. Sandy Wanner and Susan Dickerson also attended.

Members absent:

Marvin Collins and Mitchell Reiss

Discussion

Sandy opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Host Update

Taylor told the group that the General Assembly was very generous to William & Mary on the capital side and granted funding to begin the first two phases of the College's art project and College infrastructure improvements. More than 3,000 admitted students and their parents recently visited campus for a day of kicking the College's tires. Some of them had already signed on in W&M's Class of 2020; others were still making up their minds.

William & Mary just experienced the first year in post revolution history that philanthropy provided more of its budget than the State, which likely will continue. The College has embarked on a very aggressive campaign to raise \$1 billion. No public university as small as W&M has ever tried to raise that amount; and no public or private university has tried to do so without having a medical or engineering school, usually both. The College expects to have raised \$575 million by the end of June. Another key objective of the current campaign is to raise the percentage of undergraduate alumni who participate in annual giving to 40%. Once that's done, only Princeton, Dartmouth and Notre Dame will have higher rates.

Neil asked the College's official position on the size of the student body. Taylor said the College was opposed to growing the undergraduate student body beyond its current size – 6,000. There is continued State pressure to admit more in-state students. More than 60% of W&M's undergraduate applicants are from out of state, however, and they pay materially higher tuition than in-state students. The State caps William & Mary's out-of-state undergraduates at 35%.

Three top priorities

Members discussed the March 2015 Economic Diversification Study recommendations and which recommendations the group should make as its top three priorities. The Mega –Region concept was listed as the top priority given the location of Williamsburg between Richmond

and Hampton Roads. The group recognized that the three Economic Development Directors from the three localities were tasked with many of the report recommendations, and the group asked that it host them to receive an update on progress. David suggested that the group consider a retreat to discuss the key strategies and then nail down tactically how the group intended to make progress toward the achievement of those strategies.

Phil expressed concern over the group pushing tourism under a bracket. He said he thought the area was in a vulnerable place in the market. If the area continues to lose ground in tourism, the tax base is going to continue to need diversification.

The group agreed to host the Economic Development Directors at the May meeting and to hold a retreat in June.

VTC Board Vacancy

The group discussed the vacancy on VTC board and that the Board had lacked representation from the Historic Triangle for some time. Members agreed to pursue as quickly as possible. Members planned to contact Del. Monty Mason on this item.

Next Meetings:

May 16th – TBA

June 20th Retreat – TBA

July – no meeting