

## **CUWMA Board of Trustees Meeting**

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

1776 Ventures

1133 15<sup>th</sup> St., NW, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor

Washington, DC 20005

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

### **Minutes**

#### **Present**

Dr. Steve Knapp (Vice Chair)  
George Washington University

Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz  
Gallaudet University

Major General Frederick M. Padilla  
National Defense University

Mr. John Garvey  
Catholic University of America

Dr. Ángel Cabrera  
George Mason University

Dr. James Lyons, Sr.  
University of the District of Columbia

Dr. John Cavanaugh  
Consortium of Universities

#### **Staff**

Eric Smulson, VP for Public Affairs and Sr.  
Advisor to the President, Georgetown  
University

Dr. Scott Beal, CUWMA

Ms. Grayson Taff, CUWMA

Ms. Sally Kram, CUWMA

Gallaudet Interpreters

#### I. **Call to order**

President Knapp, acting as chair in President Kerwin's absence, called the meeting to order at 10:05.

#### II. **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the December 16, 2014 meeting were moved and approved unanimously.

#### III. **NCAA Workshop Proposal**

Dr. Cavanaugh reported to the Board that the NCAA had approached the Consortium about providing a workshop to Consortium member athletic programs and student health directors around the issues of mental health and student athletes. The NCAA initiative entitled "Mind, Body & Sport" would act as a mechanism for the NCAA to gather feedback

and provide information to Consortium member athletes and athletic programs. The program was described as a daylong workshop including guidance on life-skills, transition from high school to college for student athletes and mental health concerns unique to student athletes.

After a brief discussion about the strength and weaknesses of participating in such an effort, the Board agreed to explore the matter for more details as to the focus of the program given previous similar NCAA-Consortium member collaboration.

#### IV. State Authorization Update

Dr. Cavanaugh informed the Board of his intention to attend the Maryland State Legislative Session as it debated the matter of distance learning reciprocity by Maryland. Dr. Cavanaugh was hopeful the Maryland law would pass since it is one of the most expensive states in which to offer distance learning programs. Dr. Cavanaugh reported that the prospect for passage was good as opposition against the proposal in the two previous legislative sessions has ebbed. Dr. Cavanaugh also reported that the Virginia state legislature was also fairly advanced in their adoption of a state reciprocity statute. Finally, Dr. Cavanaugh reported that the situation regarding distance learning in the District of Columbia was unchanged.

#### V. Economic Development

Dr. Cavanaugh briefed the Board about the Consortium's support of an urban sustainable agriculture program with the University of the District of Columbia as the lead institution. UDC is the only urban land grant higher education institution in the country and is the only one focused on sustainable urban agricultural. To promote the project, Dr. Cavanaugh reported that he had met with the Intergenerational Finance Group (IFG) to discuss financing for the project in Ward 8 in an effort to create jobs there. To finalize the project, the Consortium will submit a formal proposal to the IFG. As another part of the project, Dr. Cavanaugh met with representatives of the International Incubator at the University of Maryland. The incubator is focused on attracting international companies wanting to get a foothold in the United States. Dr. Cavanaugh had conversations with companies from Romania and China regarding the sustainable agriculture project. As a result, the project will very likely locate in Prince Georges County via the connection with the incubator. Locations in the District of Columbia are also under consideration.

#### VI. Federal Issues

##### *Bipartisan Task Force on Federal Regulations*

Dr. Cavanaugh reported on President Kerwin's work on a bipartisan taskforce on federal regulations. The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (The HELP Committee) was holding on hearing on February 24th on the task force recommendations. One of the goals of the taskforce is to clear up confusion between the Clery Act and other

crime reporting requirements. The task force has also addressed some lack of clarity in Title IV provisions. Finally, Representative Virginia Foxx (R-NC) and Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) have introduced legislation to bar the White House from issuing a higher education score card in final form.

#### *Teacher Preparation Regulations*

Dr. Cavanaugh reported that work on the teacher preparation regulations was not going well. The current proposed system bases the ratings for higher education teacher education programs on how well K-12 students performed on standardized tests. If students from a specific school did poorly on the tests, the ratings of the education schools that had trained the teachers would decline. The end result, might be a structural disincentive for teachers (and the schools that train them) to take jobs at high-risk schools with low-performing students.

The Board discussed the challenges posed by the new regulations. Dr. Cavanaugh observed that higher education organizations are uniformly opposed to the regulations which were the result of negotiated rulemaking process that did not conclude successfully. The likelihood of passage of the new regulations was high which is why higher education groups were seeking to defund the effort to operationally block implementation of the new regulations. Final action was expected shortly.

#### *Financial Aid*

Dr. Cavanaugh then briefed the Board about efforts to simplify the federal student financial aid process. Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO) had introduced a one-grant/one-loan “simplification” bill that would in effect eliminate the SEOG program. The Consortium is supporting efforts of higher education organizations to block this approach. Senator Alexander has also supported the revision of the federal FAFSA form to a two-question format. Opponents have pushed back noting that FAFSA data is used for many other purposes which could not occur with a shortened form. Senator Alexander has indicated his willingness to work with higher education advocates on these issues.

#### *Higher Education Tax Deductions*

Finally, Dr. Cavanaugh informed the Board that the federal deduction for higher education donations were not made permanent. As a result, fund collections on individual campuses was down.

### VII. Progress on Strategic Plan

Dr. Cavanaugh reported that efforts to implement the Consortium’s strategic plan were ongoing including:

- A continuing focus on improving academic program linkages. Dr. Cavanaugh raised the issue with the Chief Academic Officers at their March 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. One proposal would use the cross registration program to create linkages similar to those links between Big 10 academic program;

- A renewal of the Consortium’s Microsoft agreement which involves a little more than half of the Consortium’s member in a continuing effort to provide members with collaborative services;
- Ongoing conversations with officials at National Defense University and the National Intelligence University to allow for their use of the Consortium’s cross registration program;
- Ongoing staff efforts to raise the higher education sector’s visibility and community engagement. For example, Dr. Cavanaugh holds office hours at 1776. In addition, staff participates frequently with meetings and initiatives hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Trade. Consortium staff is also working to revise the Consortium’s web site to make it more user friendly and better promote information about the sector;
- Additional program development by the Consortium Research Fellows Program. Dr. Scott Beal reported that several projects are in the “hurry up and wait” phase;
- Additional efforts by Reach for Success to identify additional funding sources; and
- A refocus on Consortium finances. Dr. Cavanaugh is seeking to take cost efficiency steps including revisions to its employee benefits package and an exploration of new rental space once the Consortium’s current lease at 1100 H Street, NW expires.

#### VIII. 1776 Ventures

Dr. Cavanaugh described the 1776 Ventures to the Board noting that American University, Georgetown University and George Mason University are already partners providing direct support to 1776. Other Consortium members, such as the George Washington University, have an indirect relationship. Dr. Cavanaugh supports 1776 on behalf of the Consortium by providing them with “office hours” where he meets with “proof of concept” entrepreneurs.

Dr. Cavanaugh then turned the meeting over to Donna Harris. Donna Harris, co-founder of 1776, presented additional information to the Board. She said that 1776 is based in DC and provides space to 160 businesses. The foundation behind the 1776 concept has supported similar operations in dozens of other cities including Moscow, Berlin, Dublin, and Chicago. Among its activities—1776 runs a business competition that encourages 5,000 companies a year to compete; 1776 has opened an office in Silicon Valley in order to find even more companies; and 1776 continues to seek partners to assist the new start-ups.

Specific to higher education, several 1776 start-ups are tackling higher education operation issues in both institutional matters and student services. Other start-ups are working with institutions outside the classroom such as Ridescout, a transit focused company started by veterans originally based in Austin with a goal of creating a phone-based ridesharing app showing all forms of available ground transit. Ridescout plans to roll out in DC as its first city and 1776 hopes to link the program to universities because transit is so important to college students.

Ms. Harris said that she wants to make 1776 companies available to Consortium members through 1) partnerships on campus where faculty and staff can spend time in 1776 as they

work on class projects; or work to create internships, part-time, or full-time jobs; and 2) entrepreneurial focused programs open to universities such as business plan competitions, entrepreneur-in-residence initiatives.

Ms. Harris closed her presentation by asking the Board to consider 1776 as a partner and a conduit to the District's start-up culture. She said that 1776 would look to universities for mentors and business guidance. In addition, she noted that 1776 can provide important business links for universities such as MedStar's Innovation Institute; Booz Allen's Strategic Innovation Group and General Assembly's computer coding school which are all based there.

In answer to questions, Ms. Harris explained that she picked the name "1776" to reflect her intent to "create a revolution" of start-ups to address basic problems such as education and housing in one of the world's most powerful capitals—Washington, DC. She also explained that any university who wants to participate as an individual member can chose their rate of involvement ranging from \$100 a month (the lowest level) to a larger investment.

Karen Allman with Pearson was not available to make a presentation.

IX. Adjournment

There being no additional business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.