**Tift College of Education Board of Visitors**

President’s Dining Room – Macon Campus

Friday, March 18, 2022

Meeting Minutes

**Board Members Present**

Dr. April Aldridge, Ms. India Barnes, Dr. Eliza Braden, Ms. Amanda Buice, Dr. Margaret Ciccarelli, Mr. Jason Downey, Mr. John Hines, Dr. Jeff Jackson. Dr. Phil Lanoue, Mr. Ernie Lee, Dr. Jonathan Patterson, Dr. Mark Scott, Dr. Torian White, and Ms. Karen Yarbrough

**Others in Attendance**

Dr. Sharon Augustine, Dr. Jeff Hall, Dr. Tom Koballa, and Dr. Loleta Sartin

**Welcome**

Dean Koballa welcomed members to the inaugural meeting of the Tift College Board of Visitors at 3:05 p.m.

**Introduction of Board Members**

Board members introduced themselves, sharing their connections to Mercer University and the Tift College of Education.

Mr. John Patterson, Executive Vice President for University Advancement, visited briefly with the Board. After thanking Board members for their service to the University and Tift College, he described the work of his office. His remarks highlighted the potential efforts of the Board in opening doors to funding opportunities that support education students and College programs and initiatives.

**College Leadership, Organization, and Programs**

Dean Koballa presented a brief history of Mercer's education programs. Beginning with the establishment of a School of Pedagogy in 1894, he went on to describe Mercer's merger with the Atlanta Baptist College in 1972 and the Tift College in Forsyth in 1986 that led to education programs being offered in Atlanta and through the Liberal Arts College of Continuing Education at multiple sites. Koballa concluded his presentation by discussing how a vote by the University Board of Trustees in 1995 established a new School of Education, with Dr. H. Anne Hathaway as its founding dean and the renaming of the School of Education to the Tift College of Education in 2001. The Tift College of Education currently offers undergraduate and graduate programs on the Atlanta and Macon campuses and two regional academic centers in Henry County and Douglas County.

Koballa discussed the Tift College of Education's mission, vision, identity, and conceptual framework and then introduced the College's administrative structure and the associate and assistant deans in attendance. He also explained the organization of the College's 18 undergraduate and graduate degree programs and multiple content and instructional endorsement programs, and how the programs are clusters to support four career-oriented statements:

-I want to become a teacher,

-I want to upgrade my Georgia educator certificate,

-I want to advance my career in P-12 educational leadership, and

-I want to advance my career in higher education.

Dean Koballa also briefly shared information about multiple College initiatives that focus on research, service, or both research and service as their focus. He identified two showcase experiences on the meeting's agenda that reflect the initiatives.

Dr. D. Scott Davis, University Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, met briefly with the Board. Dr. Davis described Tift College as one of twelve University schools and colleges and its contribution to the mission of Mercer University. He spoke to the significance of Tift College to provide initial and advanced programs in teacher and educational leader education. Before leaving the meeting, Dr. Davis responded to questions about the university's different units, including the Medical School's three locations in Macon, Savannah, and Columbus.

**Board of Visitors Purpose and Organization**

Dean Koballa stated that the purpose of the Board is "to support the Tift College of Education philanthropically and through beneficial partnerships" and went on to introduce a proposed committee structure for the Board. The proposed Board committees include:

-Membership Committee – to lead the effort to identify and qualify new Board members,

-Development Committee – to assist in findings and opening doors to fundraising opportunities, -Partnership Committee – to assist with developing, maintaining, and growing partnerships, and

-Executive Committee – to work directly with the Dean to establish meeting dates, meeting agendas, etc.

Karen Yarbrough recommended combining the Membership Committee and Executive Committee. Phil Lanoue seconded this recommendation. Koballa agreed to act on this recommendation and meet with Board members to discuss their committee preferences.

Koballa also proposed four membership levels for consideration by the Board, with the Board members in attendance identified as Sustaining Members and serving for two-year renewable terms. The other three membership levels discussed by Koballa are:

-Ex-Officio Members – the College and University leadership,

-Honorary Member – provide substantial and distinguished service to the College but are unable to commit to sustaining membership, and

-Emeritus Members – former members of the Board who have served at least two terms.

**Showcase Experiences**

Dr. Susan Cannon and graduate student Ms. Ashlee Lee presented the Equity Tools in Elementary Mathematics Project highlights. The work reported on by Dr. Cannon and Ms. Lee was conducted through the College's STEM Education Innovation (SEI) Lab.

Drs. Sara Luke and Deana Ford demonstrated their uses of a virtual simulation tool to support the learning and metacognitive development of the College's teacher education students.

The inaugural meeting of the Tift College of Education Board of Visitors concluded at 5:15 p.m. The Board meeting was following my dinner in the President's Dining Room.