May 5, 2020

Dear PGCC Community:

The Board of Trustees is tremendously proud of the way the community has transitioned to working, teaching and learning remotely. While this has been a challenging time for us all, we have kept the focus on our students and how to best support them to achieve their aspirations. Thank you to the faculty, staff and the administration for this herculean effort. Because of you, as this extraordinary semester comes to an end, our students are moving closer to fulfilling their dreams.

Last month I wrote to you indicating that we were extending the work of the Presidential Search Committee until the College returned to regular operating protocol. Noting the criticality of your opportunity to meet and assess finalist candidates during a campus visit, the Board concluded that we would await a return to normalcy. I write to you today to advise you that circumstances have changed that decision. Currently, the search for the best talent in American higher education is extremely competitive. To ensure that we are not disadvantaged in this competitive environment, we have determined that it is in our best interest to proceed with the campus visits while continuing to comply with Governor Hogan’s COVID-19 pandemic orders and guidance. We remain committed to active faculty, student and staff engagement in assessing finalists, therefore we are planning for the leadership of key stakeholder groups to meet and interview each finalist while ensuring appropriate social distance. We have determined that we can also achieve broad engagement through the convening of a virtual town hall meeting to allow each candidate to present to the community and engage in dialogue with you, our key stakeholders. We will solicit your feedback post the virtual town hall meeting. The finalists will also meet with President Dukes and participate in a Board interview. We will, of course, work to ensure that the finalist campus visits are in compliance with the guidance of local, state and federal authorities.

We anticipate proceeding with finalist campus visits beginning the week of May 11, 2020. As you might imagine, there are several logistical and technical considerations we will need to work through. As soon as practical, we will confirm the exact dates and time. Do check the PGCC Presidential Search webpage for updates.

The Board anticipates selection of the ninth president after completion of the cycle of campus visits. We have consulted our stalwart, President Charlene Dukes, who has reaffirmed her commitment to remain at the helm until her successor is available. We extend our ongoing thanks and appreciation to Dr. Dukes for her extraordinary tenure of accomplishment and the stellar leadership she has provided during this unprecedented period in our history.
I also, again, take this opportunity to commend and thank Trustee Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms, Presidential Search Committee chairwoman and the Search Committee. Their work to identify the next leader for PGCC has been exemplary. Thank you as well to the College Community and external stakeholders for your active engagement and invaluable contributions.

We will provide updates as the circumstances dictate. In the interim, be well and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Sidney L. Gibson
Chairman, Board of Trustees