

# Goddard College

PLAINFIELD, VERMONT | PORT TOWNSEND & SEATTLE, WA

November 18, 2021

Greetings Goddard Community:

The Goddard Board of Trustees is aware of the recent votes of no-confidence received from the Student Council internally and the external Alumni group. Our first action in both incidences was to review the communication. Items voiced as areas of concern were forwarded for resolution and redress consistent with current processes. This has pointed to the need to assure that communication and resolution of concerns are addressed before rising to the level of no-confidence.

We are particularly concerned that some persons in the community are not being informed through existing communication channels and have reached out to the Board and the President as a result. While we cannot promise that 100% of all students, faculty, staff, and community members will be heard at any given point in time, we can assure that communication channels are in place to provide the *opportunity* for all voices to be heard.

The Board takes its governance responsibilities seriously. Included in those responsibilities is assuring a clear understanding of its roles and responsibilities and the creation of a comprehensive communication process with constituents. We see these as areas in need of improvement and are actively working on the development of a system to strengthen communications between the Board and College constituent groups. Concurrently the College Leadership is reviewing existing internal channels. There is room for improvement on all levels.

Our first steps are to assure there is an understanding of the current standards to which the *Board and the College* are held accountable. Failure to comply with standards, laws, and regulations places the College and its students at risk. That is a primary concern of the Board because we stand firm in our support of students. We feel that is the one reality that unifies all of us in purpose, no matter what other challenges we face.

In today's world of communication technology and looking towards the future there are a variety of untapped ways to reach out to an entire population. The Board intends to model the use of such technologies and shared information channels.

Secondly, it is necessary for the Board to gain a deeper understanding of the various Goddard constituents. We want to hear about student concerns through the lens of students, faculty concerns through the lens of faculty, staff concerns through the lens of staff, administration challenges and opportunities through their lens; and the Alumni concerns through the Alumni lens.

Moving forward, space will be held at each Board meeting for constituent groups to bring their voices in during a designated Board town Hall lasting up to two hours. The Board meetings are held three times per year - March, June, and October. We will begin with a student constituent town hall at the March 2022 Board meeting.

Before that time, we will continue to address issues presented to us through current and emerging channels.

Standing in Gratitude,

*Goddard College Board of Trustees*

*Gloria J. Willingham-Toure' PhD - Chair*