



Board Members

Organizational History

Richmont Graduate University's mission is to provide Christ-centered education and research that advances God's work of healing, restoration, and transformation in the lives of individuals, churches, and communities. Richmont's legacy began in 1933 when the Chattanooga Bible Institute (CBI) was founded by Dr. James L. Fowle, Reverend H.E. Wright, Mrs. Ellen Poindexter, Mrs. George Elder, Mrs. Mark Senter,



Mrs. Hilda Spence, and Mrs. Howard McCall. From these incredible visionaries, CBI faithfully served the Chattanooga, TN community by providing training, counseling, library resources and support for clergy and laity of all denominations.

In 1973, a group of Christian mental health professionals who explored integrating Christian faith and professional counseling founded the Atlanta Clinical College. After opening a counseling center, they partnered with a major state university to offer advanced professional

training and research within a Christian context at what became known as the Religious Consultation and Research Society before being incorporated as the Psychological Studies Institute (PSI).

For more than 25 years, PSI offered a diploma in Christian counseling through its partnership with Georgia State University. In the fall of 1998, PSI began offering its own Master of Arts in Professional Counseling degree after receiving authorization from the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. In August of 2000, the Chattanooga Bible Institute merged with the Psychological Studies Institute formalizing a working relationship that had begun in 1997. Only three years after the merger in 2003, PSI received accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). In 2008, Psychological Studies Institute changed its name to Richmont Graduate University.

Today, Richmont provides graduate education that prepares compassionate and capable ministers and professional mental health counselors who serve and lead around the globe. Richmont's counselors work within behavioral health centers, homeless shelters, addiction rehabilitation facilities, churches, and other community-based programs that serve uninsured/underinsured populations.

Board Member Qualifications

This is a wonderful opportunity for individuals who are passionate about Richmont's mission and who have a career background or other personal life experience that enhances the overall Board perspective. As the University seeks to expand their Board, they are interested in those with skills in marketing, fundraising, online education, information technology, and facilities/operations management and construction.

The Board is made up of several committees, each with oversight of a specific area, though the Executive Committee has the final approval on all Board related matters. Committees include: Executive, Committee, Committee on Trustees, Academic Programs Committee, Finance Committee, Student Life and Clinical Affairs Committee, and the Development and Marketing Committee.

Ideal candidates will have the following qualifications:

- A “believer” and committed follower of Jesus Christ who subscribes to Richmond Graduate University’s Statement of Faith;
- Enthusiasm for Richmond and its mission;
- Commitment to significant, regular financial support of Richmond through personal giving and through networking in the community within which he/she has influence;
- A schedule that supports Board meeting attendance of not less than 75% and a willingness to be otherwise involved on a reasonable “non-regular” basis;
- Extensive professional experience with significant executive leadership accomplishments in business, government, philanthropy, or the nonprofit sector;
- A schedule that supports Board meeting attendance of not less than 75% and a willingness to be otherwise involved on a reasonable “non-regular” basis.

Board of Trustees Responsibilities

The Board of Trustees is legally responsible for the governance and general well-being of Richmond Graduate University. Board members are accountable for the best possible performance of the University in serving the needs of all its constituencies. The Board has four general functions: 1) Establishment of University Policy, 2) Appointment, Support and Monitoring of the President, 3) Financial Support, and 4) Public Relations.

In addition, Board Member responsibilities include:

- Serving as a trusted advisor to the University President;
- Represent Richmond to stakeholders, acting as an ambassador for the organization, including disseminating information;
- Support of the mission of the University as expressed in the Statement of Purpose;
- Ensuring accurate records of its own meetings;
- Approval of changes and additions to objectives and major programs;
- Authorization of major capital expenditures; disposal of assets; financing plans;
- Granting of degrees and honors;
- Establishment and revision of the Charter and Bylaws and fulfillment of the responsibilities stated therein;
- Engagement of all trustees and assessment of the Board’s own performance;

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