



Trinity

*COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS
AND REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS*

JUNE 30, 2015

TRINITY COLLEGE

***COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS
AND REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS***

June 30, 2015

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

To the Board of Trustees and Management of
Trinity College
Washington, D.C.

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of Trinity College (the "College") as of and for the year ended June 30, 2015, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered its internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the College's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the College's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

During our audits, we became aware of several matters that provide opportunities for strengthening internal controls and operating efficiency. Our comments and suggestions regarding these matters are included in the attached report along with our review of the status of the comments. Since our audit is not designed to include a detailed review of all systems and procedures, these comments should not be considered as being all-inclusive of areas where improvements might be achieved. It is our hope that these suggestions will be taken in the constructive light in which they are offered.

We have already made these comments and suggestions available to management, and we will be pleased to discuss them in further detail at your convenience, to perform any additional study of these matters, or to assist you in implementing the recommendations. Management's responses to our comments and suggestions identified in our audit have not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Trustees, management, others within the College, and appropriate regulatory agencies, if applicable, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Brown, Edwards & Company, L.L.P.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Roanoke, Virginia
October 13, 2015

COLLEGE ASSISTANCE DURING THE AUDIT

We extend our thanks to Barbara Lettiere and Jared Basco, and all the business office staff for their assistance and attention during the 2014 audit engagement.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS RESULTING FROM THE CURRENT YEAR AUDIT

None.

STATUS OF PRIOR YEAR'S COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

1. Estimated Useful Lives of Buildings

Currently, the College has assigned an estimated useful life to each of its buildings of 50 years. Generally accepted accounting principles do not specify or require a certain useful life for buildings, only that the life must be reasonable. The College might consider extending these useful lives to 60 or even 75 years. The impact to the statement of activities would be less depreciation recognized on a yearly basis. A life of 60 or 75 years still remains reasonable and, even then, the buildings would most likely still be in existence after that useful life. This change could significantly impact future operating results.

Status: *Still applicable.*

Management's Response: *After internal conversations regarding this suggestion, we agree with Brown Edwards on extending the useful lives of buildings and based on the experience with campus buildings, we will be changing to a useful life of 65 years. This will take place starting with FY2016.*

2. Calculating Depreciation

We noted the College's fixed asset sub-ledger is maintained in Excel. The calculation of depreciation expense is also completed using these Excel spreadsheets. Although no errors were noted during our audit procedures, the use of Excel to track fixed assets and calculate depreciation expense provides greater opportunity for errors to occur. We suggest the College implement a fixed asset software package and eliminate depreciation calculations by spreadsheet. Doing so would reduce the probability of errors while providing more useful information for management decisions.

Status: *Still applicable.*

Management's Response: *Our previous responses indicated that we would look into the possibility of a fixed asset software package upon completion of the new Academic Center building. Final completion is expected to be in the fall of 2016. In the interim, we will explore the costs and benefits of the Great Plains Fixed Asset module.*

**REQUIRED COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE
CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE**

To the Audit Committee of
Trinity College
Washington, D.C.

We have audited the financial statements of Trinity College for the year ended June 30, 2015, and have issued our report thereon dated October 13, 2015. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and OMB Circular A-133, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter dated June 8, 2015. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the College are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during the year ended June 30, 2015. We noted no transactions entered into by the College during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were the valuation of conditional asset retirement obligations and the valuation of split interest agreements included in contributions receivable. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions, including discount rates and life expectancies, used in determining that the valuation is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Significant Audit Findings (Continued)

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements indentified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. There were no corrected or uncorrected misstatements.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor’s report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated October 13, 2015.

Management’s Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a “second opinion” on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the College’s financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor’s opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the College’s auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other Matters

With respect to the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

This information is intended solely for the use of the Audit Committee, Board of Trustees, and management of Trinity College and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Brown, Edwards & Company, S. L. P.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Roanoke, Virginia
October 13, 2015