

**Attachment D**  
**Foundation Communication Letter**

## REPORT DATE

To the Board of Directors  
Fitchburg State University Foundation, Inc.

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Fitchburg State University Foundation, Inc. and FSU Foundation Supporting Organization, Inc. (collectively referred to hereinafter as the "Organization") for the year ended June 30, 2019, and have issued our report thereon dated REPORT DATE. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit, and certain other matters related to the audit.

### *Our Responsibilities under U.S. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and Government Auditing Standards*

As stated in our engagement letter dated May 31, 2019, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement, and to express an opinion about whether the consolidated financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Our audit of the consolidated financial statements does not relieve you or management of your responsibilities.

Our responsibility for the supplementary information accompanying the consolidated financial statements, as described by professional standards, is to evaluate the presentation of the supplementary information in relation to the financial statements as a whole and to report on whether the supplementary information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the consolidated financial statements as a whole.

As part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the Organization. Such considerations were solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of the Organization's compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of consolidated financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit.

We are responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures specifically to identify such matters.

We gave consideration to the non-audit services provided to the Organization during the period of our engagement, which may reasonably be thought to bear on independence, in reaching the conclusion that our independence has not been impaired in accordance with professional standards.

### Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

We performed the audit according to the planned scope and timing previously communicated to management in our meeting about planning matters in June 2019.

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements; therefore, our audit involves judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested.

Our audit included obtaining an understanding of the entities and their environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. Material misstatements may result from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the entities or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the entities. This letter communicates any significant findings as a result of 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 Fitchburg State University Foundation are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. As discussed in Note 1, Fitchburg State University Foundation adopted the Financial Accounting Standards Board's Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2016-14, Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958) – Presentation of Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Entities as of and for the year ended June 30, 2019. The requirements of the ASU have been applied retrospectively to all periods presented as if the policy had always been there.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the consolidated 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 consolidated financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. We found no such accounting estimates affecting the consolidated financial statements to be particularly sensitive during our audit.

The consolidated financial statements 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.

### *Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements*

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. The schedule attached to the management representation letter summarizes uncorrected misstatements of the consolidated financial statements. Management has determined that their effects are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the consolidated financial statements as a whole. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to the consolidated financial statements taken as a whole.

### *Disagreements with Management*

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the consolidated 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 REPORT DATE.

*Management 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 consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Organization's consolidated 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 Organization'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*

This information is intended solely for the information and use of the Boards of Directors and management of Fitchburg State University Foundation, Inc. and FSU Foundation Supporting Organization, Inc. and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,