

Attachment C

Fitchburg State University

Foundation Inc. FS – DRAFT AU-C 260

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, 2017, 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 June 8, 2017, 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.

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 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 nonaudit 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, 2017.

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 the Organization are described in Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements. As described in Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements, the Organization changed accounting policies related to debt issuance costs by adopting FASB Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2015-03, *Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs*, in 2017. The effect of this change in accounting policy was not material to the Organization's consolidated financial statements.

We noted no transactions entered into by the Organization during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the consolidated financial statements in the proper period.

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.

Certain consolidated financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosures affecting the consolidated financial statements are the disclosures related to the Organization's investments found in Notes 3 and 5 to the consolidated financial statements and the disclosure of the impairment losses recognized in fiscal 2017 related to real estate properties purchased by the Organization found in Note 6 to the consolidated financial statements.

The 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. Management has corrected all such misstatements. 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

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

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,