Complete and submit this form, along with any supplemental documentation, to the Office of the President by 5:00pm on the seventh day prior to the Board meeting.

Date of Board Meeting: August 19th, 2025

Subject:

Action item to approve the proposal submitted by Tandem Cyber for Managed Security Service Provider (vCISO & Cybersecurity).

Recommendation:

To select and approve the proposal submitted by Tandem Cyber to provide Managed Security Services (vCISO & 24/7 Cybersecurity) to WCJC.

Background and Rationale:

Following the Board's approval in May to initiate a Request for Proposal (RFP) process for a new Managed Security Service Provider (MSSP), we received twenty-one proposals from qualified service providers. Each submission offered a range of capabilities including vCISO services, 24/7 cybersecurity operations including incident response, and ongoing risk management. The evaluation process was rigorous, using detailed assessment criteria including technical expertise, experience and qualifications, service approach, compliance & regulatory experience, reference and track record, and pricing structure.

After a comprehensive review process, Tandem Cyber was unanimously selected as the recommended provider (attached is the evaluation sheet). Tandem demonstrated exceptional strength in strategic cybersecurity leadership, operational maturity, and 24/7 threat monitoring and response. Their approach to integrating with our internal team, proven track record in higher education, flexibility engagement model, and competitive pricing make them the optimal choice to advance our cybersecurity maturity.

Based on this evaluation, we are requesting formal Board approval to proceed with contracting Tandem Cyber as our new MSSP providing both vCISO services and continuous security operations.

Cost and Budgetary Support: FY26-$129,748.00, FY27-$130,447.84, FY28-$131,203.67 – optional: FY29-$141,699.96 Unrestricted Operating Budget

Strategic Priority Alignment: ☐ Student Success   ☐ Community Impact
                                      ■ Resource Optimization   ☐ Institutional Excellence

Resource Person(s):
Kettida Vasiknanon, Vice President of Information Technology
Clarissa Bueno, Director of Purchasing

Signatures:

Originator _____   Date 07/15/25

Cabinet-Level Supervisor _____   Date 7/15/2025

President's Approval: _____

President _____   Date 08/06/25

POLICY DB (LOCAL)
08/01/2020

Wharton County Junior College

RFP - MSSP Cybersecurity Evaluation Sheet

Due Date: 6/19/2025 @ 11:00 AM

Score Date: 6/26/2025 @ 8:00 AM

Bidder information:

	Company Name:	Technical Expertise (20 pts)	Experience & qualifications (10 pts)	Service approach (15 pts)	Compliance & Regulatory Experience (15 pts)	Reference & track record (10 pts)	Pricing (30 pts)	TOTAL (100)	comments
1)	Tandem Cyber	20.00	10.00	15.00	15.00	10.00	30.00	100.00	awareness training, pwd vault, bot mgmt, IRP-tabletop, pen test, S1/defender, tandem verify, 30-on board
2)	OculusIT	20.00	10.00	12.67	11.00	10.00	21.62	85.29	rolling vCISO, some staff are in India. Pricing not including SIEM. SIEM around 100k. Didn't answer other requirements
3)	22nd Century Tech, Inc	20.00	10.00	13.00	15.00	8.67	15.76	82.43	more gov't, no Higher Ed, about 2mo. Transition
4)	Sentinel	13.33	10.00	11.67	15.00	7.00	19.05	76.05	2mo. Transition. Seems like pricing only for product. vCISO will be provided for 36 mo. For 16hr/mo. w/ no pricing
5)	UTRS Infosec, LLC	20.00	10.00	11.67	15.00	8.33	11.28	76.28	2mo transition
6)	Novacoast Inc	16.67	10.00	12.67	15.00	8.67	12.09	75.09	may need to buy plug-in. US, UK, Ireland. Gear toward non-Higher ed.
7)	eSentire Inc.	20.00	10.00	6.67	15.00	6.67	15.39	73.72	quarterly service review

Bidder information:

	Company Name:	Technical Expertise (20 pts)	Experience & qualifications (10 pts)	Service approach (15 pts)	Compliance & Regulatory Experience (15 pts)	Reference & track record (10 pts)	Pricing (30 pts)	TOTAL (100)	comments
8)	Global Solutions Group	20.00	10.00	11.00	15.00	8.33	9.18	73.51	3mo. Transition
9)	LockStep Tech Group	20.00	10.00	8.33	15.00	10.00	9.75	73.08	2-3 mo. Transition
10)	BuzzClan, LLC	20.00	10.00	13.00	15.00	3.33	11.11	72.44	2mo. Transition, no references
11)	Issquared	13.33	10.00	9.33	15.00	6.67	16.12	70.45	SOC in India. vCISO add'l $400/hr. No transition time mentioned
12)	Ferrilli	13.33	8.67	10.00	15.00	6.67	16.01	69.67	price does not include EDR, FW, dashbord, audit rediness. 3mo. Transition
13)	Technuf LLC	18.33	10.00	15.00	15.00	3.33	8.15	69.82	US Brazil, Bangladesh, UK, Canada, Singapore
14)	Alchemy Tech	13.33	6.67	2.67	15.00	8.33	18.82	64.82	no vCISO, no service approach mentioned
15)	Vtech Solutions Inc	20.00	10.00	15.00	15.00	6.67	3.29	69.96	5 wk transition
16)	CyVatar	20.00	10.00	11.67	15.00	6.67	5.22	68.56	no higher ed, 5 wk transition
17)	Howard Tech Solution	13.33	6.67	3.33	15.00	10.00	15.72	64.05	no vCISO, no service approach mentioned
18)	Blueshift Cyber	13.33	6.67	6.67	15.00	1.67	17.79	61.12	no vCISO, no references
19)	DeepSeas	13.33	10.00	11.33	15.00	1.67	10.89	62.22	no vCISO. 2mo. Transition. Testimonials, no references
20)	Strata Info Group	13.33	10.00	15.00	11.67	10.00	0.00	60.00	No 24/7, only provided pricing for 6hrs/wk
21)	CorePlus Technology	13.33	3.33	6.67	8.33	0.00	1.29	32.96	personnel not 24/7. RFP seems more Service desk oriented as opposed to cybersecurity.