



University Auxiliary Services at Albany, Inc.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING
Friday, September 29, 2023 12:00 PM Indigenous Quad Danes Den

President Christakis convened the meeting at 12:08 PM. The following Directors were present:

Michael N. Christakis
Aissata Barry
James Cooper
Jermaine Harris
Indu

Erin McGrath
Stephen Pearse
Carol Perrin
Jalen Rose
Fardin Sanai

Lee Serravillo
Latonia Spencer
Erica Strand
Cara White
Jeremy Zheng

ABSENT: Todd Foreman; and Mary Beth Murnan

UAS STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Michelle Bowen; Randy Simmons; Michelle (MO) Schifley; Roxanne Welch; and Nancy Harrigan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeremy Zheng raised student concerns about dryers not functioning in several locations. Roxanne Welch noted that a common issue is that students are not reporting issues when they occur, delaying repair times; also, this is the final year of the current laundry contract and machines are at the end of their service time. We will be seeking to establish a new contract for next year.

James Cooper noted that he has received student complaints that Argo Tea is not serving warm food this year.

President Christakis recommended waiting to address such concerns at the appropriate time later in the meeting.

Jalen Rose introduced himself as the new Student Association President and added that he looks forward to serving on the UAS Board this year.

BOARD BUSINESS

Seating of the Board

Administration

Michael Christakis – Serving by virtue of position -VP of Student Affairs
Todd Foreman – Serving by virtue of position- VP of Finance and Administration
Carol Perrin – Serving by virtue of position- Director of Residential Life
Fardin Sanai – Presidential Appointment
Cara White - Presidential Appointment

Faculty Staff

Jermaine Harris – University Senate Appointment
Indu – University Senate Appointment
Mary Beth Murnan – University Senate Appointment
Latonia Spencer – University Senate Appointment

Alumni Association

Lee Serravillo – Serving by virtue of position-Executive Director, Alumni Association

Students

Jalen Rose- Student Association President

Erin McGrath – Student Senate Chair
 Aissata Barry – Graduate Student Association President
 James Cooper – Student Association Appointee
 Erica Strand – Student Association Appointee
 Jeremy Zheng – Student Association Appointee

UAS

Stephen Pearse – UAS Executive Director

Election of Officers

Carol Perrin nominated Michael Christakis for President, seconded by Fardin Sanai. Michael Christakis accepted the nomination and with no other nominations was unanimously elected.

Jeremy Zheng nominated himself for Vice President, seconded by Jalen Rose. James Cooper nominated Jalen Rose for Vice President seconded by Fardin Sanai. Jeremy Zheng and Jalen Rose both made brief statements about why they want to serve in this position. A paper ballot was taken and counted by Latonia Spencer and Latonia reported that Jalen Rose was duly elected as Vice President.

Carol Perrin nominated Latonia Spencer for Secretary, seconded by Indu. Latonia Spencer accepted the nomination and with no other nominations was unanimously elected.

President Christakis informed the Board that the Treasurer is Todd Foreman by virtue of his role as Vice President for Finance and Administration for the University.

Orientation

Stephen Pearse led the Board in an orientation to the duties and responsibilities of UAS Board members including the different responsibilities of the Board from UAS Staff. Processes that are in place for Board members to voice concerns, provide feedback and suggestions to the Board and UAS staff were discussed.

Committee Assignments

President Christakis presented a roster of committee membership. Jalen Rose made a motion to accept the committee roster, seconded by Cara White. Adjustments were made to the list and the committee roster was approved as amended.

2023-2024 UAS Board Committee Assignments			
Finance	Services	Program	Executive
Aissata Barry	Indu	Jermaine Harris	Michael Christakis, President
James Cooper	Mary Beth Murnan	Indu	Jalen Rose, Vice President
Todd Foreman	Carol Perrin	Erin McGrath	Todd Foreman-Treasurer
Fardin Sanai	Jalen Rose	Erica Strand	Latonia Spencer, Secretary
Lee Serravillo	Latonia Spencer	Cara White	Aissata Barry
	Jeremy Zheng		

APPROVAL OF APRIL 28, 2023 BOARD MINUTES

Lee Serravillo made a motion to approve the April 28, 2023 meeting minutes, seconded by Carol Perrin, Indu requested that her name be removed from the comments on composting on page 3. The minutes were approved as amended.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Steve Pearse introduced Aaron Rodriguez, Sodexo’s new Director of Catering. Aaron Rodriguez provided a brief background of his career in food and beverage management and noted that he especially enjoys event management.

Old Business

Sodexo Contract -Stephen Pearse listed the main points of the financial agreements in the new Sodexo Dining Contract including a possible major capital project, donated meals to students in need and meals allocated for guests during Accepted Students Day in the spring. The financial agreements are in alignment with everything the board looked at last year during the RFP process.

Bookstore – Stephen Pearse reported that a new line of stress relieving merchandise called Lifelines is now available at Acadamien’s. There are also expanded product lines with different UAlbany swag, Under Armor brand merchandise and merchandise at different price points.

Phase 2 of the bookstore renovation was completed this summer including replacing the ceiling, lighting and extensive renovation to the air handling system.

MO Schifley reported that exploration into bringing the 1st Day Complete program to the UAlbany campus continues. 1st Day Complete is an inclusive access program for course materials at the most affordable price for students, that gets course materials to students by the first day of class. A meeting was held on September 27, 2023 with stake holders from different University departments. Latonia Spencer noted that it was a good meeting with time to ask questions and get clarification about the program and the process. Jalen Rose also commented that it seems like a good program for students.

New Business

Fall Opening Events, -Stephen Pearse listed several of the fall opening week dining events, including the President’s picnic, Great Danetopia at Casey Stadium, and outdoor lunch and dinner events under the tents at State Quad.

Expanded 50% discounts – Stephen Pearse reported that the 50% discount for students using Discount Dollars from their meal plans has been expanded to the 518 Market and ETEC.

518 Sweet Shop Flavor Shots – Stephen Pearse reported that a new flavor burst feature has been added at the 518 Market. A variety of flavors can now be added to the soft serve ice cream at the Sweet Shop.

1844 Restaurant -Stephen Pearse reported that a specialty coffee machine has been added to the 1844 Restaurant, which has been very popular.

Waterbury Cafe -Stephen Pearse reported that the dining hall at Waterbury Hall is open for the 135 students housed at Alumni this semester. It is currently open from 8:00 AM-11:00 AM and 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM.

State and Indigenous Quad Equipment Upgrades - Stephen Pearse reported that a new dish machine was installed at State Quad. The dish machine at Indigenous will be replaced over intersession. Also, kitchen equipment at State and Indigenous that rely on University provided steam will be replaced over intersession with equipment that does not. Indu commented that the University is trying to get to carbon neutrality and these changes will get us closer to that goal.

Boardview Arena Mobile Carts -Stephen Pearse reported that a mobile food cart that operates with a regular 120v plug and is self-propelling was purchased for the Broadview Arena. The plan is to purchase 4 more that will include LCD screen capability to expand options and opportunities for concessions.

Gatorade Fueling Station -A room in the PE Building has been renovated to provide a Gatorade fueling station for athletes. UAS has provided a table with an attached sink and door signage for the room, which has been painted and refreshed.

NACUFS Survey -Stephen Pearse reported that a NACUFS customer satisfaction dining survey will be conducted this fall from October 16 – November 22, 2023. The random sample survey will include undergrad and grad students, faculty and staff. The last survey was taken in 2021.

Global Chef - Stephen Pearse reported that through the Sodexo Global Chef program a chef from the Netherlands will be coming to do dinner on October 16 at Indigenous Quad and lunch on October 17 at the 1844 Restaurant. All Board members are invited for lunch on October 17 at 1844.

Citizen Laureate -Stephen Pearse invited all Board members to the annual black tie Citizen Laureate to be held on November 16, 2023.

Laundry Contract RFP – The discussion about laundry service issues was resumed. Stephen Pearse noted that it is appropriate to let students know that we are at the end of a contract and going out to RFP. Ms. Perrin noted that cameras have been installed in laundry rooms along with card swipe access to help with access, safety and vandalism issues and also that Residential Life continues to work on educating students on the proper use of laundry machines and appropriate reporting.

Stephen Pearse noted that he will bring up the lack of hot food service at Argo Tea with Sodexo and encouraged all Board members to contact him directly when they become aware of issues like this, so they can be addressed immediately. Roxanne Welch added that she is aware that Sodexo is experiencing supply chain issues with Argo products.

Erica Strand asked about compliance with the New York State Law for purchasing local, sustainable products. Roxanne Welch noted that Sodexo is currently at about 21% and has goals to increase that.

ADJOURNMENT

Fardin Sanai made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Carol Perrin. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.