



University Auxiliary Services at Albany, Inc.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Friday, March 25, 2022 – 12:00 Noon
Indigenous Quad – Danes Den

President Christakis convened the meeting at 12:07 PM. The following Directors were present:

Ms. Taylor Chambers

Mr. Nicholas Chin

Dr. Michael N. Christakis

Mr. Todd Foreman

Mr. Jermaine Harris

Ms. Indu

Ms. Mary Beth Murnan

Mr. Stephen Pearse

Ms. Carol Perrin

Mr. Lee Serravillo

Ms. Cara White

ABSENT: Ms. Cassie Blazejeski; Ms. Molly Donelan; Mr. Fardin Sanai; Ms. Latonia Spencer; and Ms. Mya Williams

Guests: President Havidan Rodriguez; Chief Diversity Officer Samuel Caldwell; and Chief of Staff Bruce Szelest.

UAS STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Michelle Bowen; Mr. Randy Simmons; Ms. Michelle Schifley; Ms. Roxanne Welch; Mr. Jonathan DeBellis; and Ms. Nancy Harrigan

Dr. Christakis opened the meeting and welcomed our special guests, President Rodriguez, Sam Caldwell and Bruce Szelest.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

Approval of February 4, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

Ms. Perrin made a motion to approve the February 4, 2022 Board meeting minutes seconded by Ms. Indu. The motion was approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Pearse began his report with pictures of the completed renovation at the Indigenous Dining Hall and the new UAlbany logo wrap in the Campus Center East seating area.

Old Business

Dining

Meal Plan Updated to Unlimited - Mr. Pearse reported that unlimited meal swipes in the resident dining halls are back now that COVID-19 cases have subsided following spring break. The number of card swipes has increased with the meal plan change and student feedback has been very positive.

Mr. Pearse introduced the Sodexo Interim District Manager, Lynn Shaw, who was assigned to UAlbany in January 2022, coming from Nashville. Ms. Shaw expressed excitement at being here and being able to work with the dining program and UAS.

ETEC Café – Mr. Pearse reported that the ETEC café was averaging very low daily sales. The hope is that when classes start in the fall sales will increase. Ms. Indu noted that students may not be aware of the location of the café, because of its basement location and suggested that signage in the building might

help direct customers to the venue. Mr. Foreman suggested holding a naming contest at some point in the future to help establish interest in the venue.

RFP Updates – Mr. Pearse reported that the contract with the consultant for the dining RFP process is ready to be signed and once that is done the timeline for the RFP process for the coming year will be finalized. The expectation is that the RFP will be issued in early September 2022 and a decision will be made in early March 2023.

Dining Staff – Mr. Pearse reported that Sodexo continues to have several vacant positions in their management staff. Ms. Shaw, Sodexo GM, is bringing in outside resources to help fill some of the staffing gaps, but Mr. Pearse also noted that being in an RFP year will make it more difficult to recruit new staff.

Bookstore – Ms. Schifley reported that sales on texts continue to decline, and the pandemic has also increased students' preference for electronic materials. B&N has continued to work on their 1st Day Program to provide the lowest cost on course materials to students. Students have the option to opt out of the program and B&N would manage the opt out option for students along with the debt. There is still planning that needs to take place and further discussion with the academic side of the University with a possible implementation date of Fall 2023. Mr. Foreman stressed the importance of including at least the Provost and Vice Provost in further meetings with B&N.

New Business

UAS Staff Update - Mr. Pearse announced that Ms. Welch has been promoted to Senior Director of Operations and introduced newly hired Operations and Sustainability Manager, Mr. Jon DeBellis. Mr. DeBellis introduced himself noting that he has worked in restaurants since 1997 and his personal interest in sustainability efforts. Mr. Pearse also announced the resignation of the Marketing and Digital Media Manager, Kat Tamburro, with congratulations for her new position and adding that Kat had been a great addition to the UAS team and will be missed.

End of Semester Schedule - Mr. Pearse noted that the delay in opening at the start of the spring semester is causing a delay in closing. Students do not have to be out of their dorms until Monday, May 16 at 11:00 AM. Decisions are still in process for how best to provide food service for students in those final days of the semester.

Fall Semester Start Up- The fall semester begins with students able to return to campus starting Sunday, August 14, 2022. Meal plans will begin on Tuesday, August 16th and classes start on Monday, August 21st.

Pepsi Sales- Conversations concerning decreased Pepsi sales are on-going and the concerns about the quality of service continue. Mr. Pearse noted that reasons for the decrease in sales could include supply chain issues and the availability of off-campus food delivery services.

Ms. Perrin noted that plans are in process to add more water stations in the quads.

Late Night BBQ -

Mr. Pearse advised the Board the traditional Late-Night BBQ was returning, to be held on Reading Day, May 5, 2022, and will be held outside at the small fountain. T-shirts will be handed out to students and there is a band scheduled to provide music.

COMMITTEES

Executive Committee– Dr. Christakis reported that Ms. Indu's and Ms. Murnan's seats on the Board are up for election with the University Senate this year. Both have agreed to stand again for election. Dr. Christakis requested that any further suggestions for names to be added to the ballot be forwarded to him.

Services Committee - Ms. Indu reported that the Committee last met on March 3, 2022. Mr. Pearse gave information in his report of several items covered by the Committee and additional items discussed include:

- Zipcar: The Committee discussed the current use of Zipcars on campus, which has increased since last year. The committee also discussed other options that could be used to provide rental cars for students.
- UAS is working with the UAlbany Facilities department to determine how to do food compost recycling from the Campus Center to be in compliance with the new food recycling law that went into effect January 1, 2022.
- There has been a reduction of vandalism in laundry rooms this semester after changing the hours of operation from 24/7 to 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM. Ms. Perrin noted that over the summer, all laundry room doors will be changed to swipe access giving students 24/7 access in the fall semester.
- Ms. Lnu, working with a student group, did a vegan/vegetarian audit of residential and retail dining venues. The residential dining halls received a high rating from the group, providing good options and labeling, but the Campus Center retail venues were inconsistent, some providing good labeling and options and some not.
- Mr. Pearse has joined SUNY wide task force which is working toward ending the use of plastic on all SUNY campuses.
- The Dining RFP process will involve both the Services and the Finance & Audit Committees. The Services Committee will review the operations portion of the proposals and the Finance & Audit Committee will assess the financial portions and those two committees will then put that information together and make a recommendation to the Board.

Program Committee

Ms. Murnan reported that the Program Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. Several supplemental applications have been received and processed by the Committee by email. The Committee will meet on April 20, 2022 to review Round I applications for 2022-2023.

Finance and Audit Committee

Mr. Foreman reported that the Committee met on March 2, 2022. The Committee reviewed an update on reserves and investments. Mr. Foreman reported that market investments lost some ground, but overall, there has been growth. Some reallocations in investments have been made to provide more protection within the market. Mr. Foreman also reported that UAS is tracking well with the 2021-2022 budget and added that the housing trend for 2022-2023 is very positive with residential dining halls expected to be full, which will offset recent downward financial trends.

Public Comment

Mr. Chin, reporting on activity of the Student Senate, advised that students are looking for laundry rooms to be open 24/7. Students who work evenings after attending class are having trouble finding time to do their laundry with the new restricted hours. Ms. Perrin noted again, that starting in the fall of 2022, all laundry rooms will have swipe access which would provide students 24/7 access. Mr. Chin also reported that the Student Senate is considering a resolution that would change the requirement for students to have to attend their classes in a classroom. Mr. Foreman noted that this resolution would be difficult to be acted upon as the Federal Government requires that students attend in-person class in order to get federal aid.

Ms. Perrin reported on work that is being done to address housing inequities on campus. Whatever could be addressed immediately has already been done and a 5-year master plan is in place to bring all dorms up to a quality standard.

Mr. Pearse advised that Open House for new students for the 2022-2023 school year will be held tomorrow, Saturday, March 25th. Changes to the dining schedule have been put in place for incoming students to be able to dine on campus and UAS staff will be doing tabling in the Campus Center.

In response to questions about the small fountain, Mr. Foreman advised that a temporary fix has been put in place, so the fountain will be able to be turned on, but the underlying issue, which has now been identified, will need to be repaired. Permanent repairs are expected to take place in the summer of 2023.

Adjournment

With no further comments, Mr. Serravillo made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Perrin. The meeting adjourned at 12:59 PM