



**University Auxiliary Services at Albany, Inc.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Tuesday, December 5, 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
Todd Foreman
Jermaine Harris
Gabrielle Holness

Indu
Erin McGrath
Mary Beth Murnan
Stephen Pearse

Fardin Sanai
Lee Serravillo
Erica Strand
Jeremy Zheng

ABSENT: Aissata Barry; James Cooper; Carol Perrin; Jalen Rose; Latonia Spencer; and Cara White

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

President Christakis introduced new student Board member Gabrielle Holness. Gabrielle will serve on the Finance and Audit Committee

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2023 BOARD MINUTES

Fardin Sanai made a motion to approve the September 29, 2023 meeting minutes, seconded by Erin McGrath, The minutes were approved.

BOARD GUESTS

Steve Pearse introduced several guests to the Board:

- Dan Honig, Owner and Kevin Early, Sales from the Happy Valley Meat Company partner with Sodexo to provide locally sourced, sustainable beef products to campus dining. Dan and Kevin explained that Happy Valley's focus is to bring business to small scale family farms in the region, by purchasing their beef and selling to restaurants and schools.
- Chef Shemariah Reyes is the new Executive Chef for Retail Dining. New to the area and with a background in hospitality Chef Reyes is eager to work on the retail dining program and added her support and appreciation for the partnership with Happy Valley.
- Josh Hubbard is the on-site Vice President of Operations for Sodexo and he noted great progress on the talent being brought to the UAlbany Dining team and he looks forward to the continued growth of the dining program.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Old Business

Global Chef - Stephen Pearse reported that through the Sodexo Global Chef program a chef from the Netherlands was on campus in October, preparing meals at Indigenous, State, and the 1844 Restaurant.

Citizen Laureate -Stephen Pearse reported that several Board members attended the Citizen Laureate on November 16, 2023 which was held in the newly renovated Broadview Center.

New Business

Late Night Events -Stephen Pearse advised the Board that Late Night events for finals weeks will begin this evening with the Late Night Breakfast. Faculty and staff will be participating as servers for the event.

Great Dane-a-Palooza – As a way to expose students to the newly renovated Broadview Center, the Great Dane-a-Palooza is being planned for January 16, 2024, the day before spring semester classes begin. The event will be held in the afternoon and carnival type foods will be served.

Broadview Center Services – Stephen Pearse reported that 4 mobile food carts have been purchased for the Broadview Center. These are self-contained units with refrigeration and power and will be able to provide flexibility of services for events.

Sodexo Staffing -Stephen Pearse reported on new Sodexo staff who have joined the UAlbany team:

- Campus Executive Chef – Eddie Rivera (1/3/2024 start)
- Indigenous General Manager – John Batch (1/3/2024 start)
- Campus Center Retail Executive Chef – Shemariah Reyes

There is one open position of Executive Chef for Indigenous. In response to the question of whether there is a sustainability focused Sodexo staff member, Stephen Pearse will review the contract and provide follow-up

Laundry RFP Process -Stephen Pearse reported that an RFI will be going out for campus laundry services with a possible goal of changing out machines over spring break.

Intersession Projects - Stephen Pearse informed the Board of several projects that will take place over the intersession break and will include the replacement of the following:

- Indigenous kitchen dishwasher and accumulator (dish return).
- Indigenous kitchen equipment that is currently reliant on University provided steam.
- Indigenous kitchen flooring and lighting.
- State kitchen accumulator.
- 518 Market gondola shelving.

Future Projects

- Broadview Center Concessions – Work is being done with a consultant to plan an upgrade to the concessions area including installation of a hood system.
- Indigenous Dome – Work is continuing on this project and is on track for going out to bid. Enclosing the courtyard with a dome would make the area usable, increase dining seating, provide for additional dining options, and provide a separate, outside entrance to the dining hall.

The Board discussed the need to close the dining hall for a year during the renovation and adjustments that could be made to meal plans for students living at Indigenous during that time. President Christakis noted that there is a precedent for having certain dining areas closed during renovations and being able to successfully feed the community at other venues.

Stephen Pearse announced to the Board his plans to retire in 2024, after finishing the academic year. President Christakis offered the congratulations of the Board and thanked Stephen Pearse for his leadership and service. President Christakis outlined the process for conducting a search for a new Executive Director. The search committee will be constituted by Board members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Services Committee -Stephen Pearse reported in the absence of the Chair and Co-Chair of the Committee. In addition to the items presented in the Executive Director's report, work conducted by the committee includes an on-going conversation about moving from the 30%/50% retail discount model to a 40% discount across the board model. Moving to a 40% discount would pave the way for bringing in more 3rd party brand name vendors. The idea needs further review of the financial impact for students and Stephen

Pearse noted that the idea has received a mixed response from students. The Committee also discussed the Bookstore Phase II renovation and the First Day Complete program.

Jeremy Zheng raised concerns that have come up in the SA Senate:

- A student with dietary restrictions has trouble finding acceptable food options in residence hall dining during the transition hours between breakfast and lunch and then lunch and dinner.
- Fewer options are available during late night dining hours.

Stephen Pearse will address issues with Sodexo. Students with dietary concerns are encouraged to see the Sodexo Dietician for help.

Program Committee - Jermaine Harris reported that the Committee met on November 6, 2023. Jermaine Harris was elected Chair and Erica Strand was elected Co-chair. The Committee reviewed Round 2 applications for the 2023-2024 academic year. To date, 109 applications have been received and \$292,369 has been allocated. \$7,631 remains to allocate for the year.

Finance Committee- Todd Foreman reported that the Finance and Audit Committee has met twice since the last Board meeting.

- Jac Cooper was elected Co-chair.
- Bowers & Company presented the annual audit review to the Committee giving an unqualified opinion of the audit (the highest rating possible), and the Committee accepted the audit report.
- Required corporate tax filings have been completed.
- HANYS reported on investments to the Committee and Todd Foreman noted that UAS is in a strong position.
- The 2023-2024 budget figures are on target with projections for this year.
- The 2024-2025 budget projection was discussed.

The Board discussed an increase to meal plan pricing for 2024-2025. Todd Foreman noted the ongoing need to adjust for inflation and Stephen Pearse reminded the Board that 100% of the increase made to costs for 2023-2024 went to student buying power, increasing the amount of discount dollars on all plans.

ADJOURNMENT

Lee Serravillo made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jermaine Harris. The meeting adjourned at 1:09 PM.