



University Auxiliary Services at Albany, Inc.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Friday, February 4, 2022, 11:00 AM
Campus Center Multi-Purpose Room

President Christakis convened the meeting at 11:02 AM. The following Directors were present:

Ms. Cassie Blazejeski

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. Fardin Sanai

Mr. Lee Serravillo

Ms. Latonia Spencer

Ms. Cara White

Ms. Mya Williams

ABSENT: Ms. Molly Donelan

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

BOARD BUSINESS

Approval of December 3, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

Ms. Spencer made a motion to approve the December 3, 2021 Board meeting minutes seconded by Ms. Chambers. The motion was approved.

New Board Member Welcome – Molly Donelan

Dr. Christakis welcomed new student member, Molly Donelan, to the Board.

Resolution in Honor of Kevin Wilcox

Dr. Christakis presented a resolution to the Board in honor of Kevin Wilcox, a former, long-time member of the Board, who is retiring from UAlbany. The resolution establishes an endowed scholarship in Kevin's name. Ms. Perrin made a motion to adopt the resolution seconded by Ms. Chambers. The resolution was adopted with one abstention (Mr. Sanai). Mr. Sanai commented that he supported the resolution but needed to abstain due to his University position.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Old Business

Indigenous Mezzanine Refresh

Mr. Pearse reported that the Indigenous Mezzanine refresh was completed over intersession with new lighting, flooring and paint and now provides a more welcoming entrance to the newly renovated dining hall.

Dining

Spring Meal Plans - Mr. Pearse reported that the decision was made to keep the Great Dane Meal Plan in place for the start of the spring semester instead of reverting to the Unlimited Meal Plan due to an increase in COVID-19 cases. The hope is to be able to convert to the Unlimited Plan over spring break if case numbers continue to decline. The Unlimited Plan will be offered for the 2022-2023 school year.

Mr. Pearse presented year over year meal plan enrollment numbers and noted that there was a decrease in enrollment from fall to spring for both mandatory and voluntary meal plans, which is a typical trend.

ETEC Café – Mr. Pearse reported that the ETEC Café opened with the start of spring semester. Sales have been very slow, and it is hoped that this will improve in the fall when classes are scheduled to be held in the building.

Dining and Bookstore Management Staff

Ms. Schifley reported that the bookstore has experienced management staffing and supply chain shortages during the pandemic and also that their sales have been well below past performance. Mr. Pearse added that Sodexo has also been experiencing management staff issues as well as hourly staff shortages. The position of the dietician has been filled, but there are several other positions that remain open for dining managers, and in Human Resources and Marketing. Mr. Foreman requested a copy of the Sodexo organizational chart with pictures, if possible.

NACUFS Survey Refresh

Mr. Pearse presented data from the 2022 NACUFS Survey with additional commentary and explanation by Ms. Bowen. There was a 13% rate of response, 92% of those were students. In general, satisfaction ratings have fallen from the last survey conducted in 2018 with the biggest decrease showing in resident dining. The Board discussed the survey results, noting the Action Areas that emerged, areas rated with low satisfaction and high importance by survey respondents.

New Business

Dining RFP Timeline

Mr. Pearse presented a timeline for the dining RFP with an anticipated RFP issue date in mid-September 2022 with the new contract to commence on June 1, 2023.

Mr. Chin brought up the 1844 Restaurant and noted that he has noticed a decline in the food quality through the fall and the beginning of the spring semester. Mr. Pearse noted that there has been a change in chef at the restaurant and that he would follow-up with Sodexo. Mr. Chin also suggested a survey specifically focused on 1844. Ms. Bowen reviewed some of the feedback options already available.

Ms. Perrin asked that Mr. Chin be invited to the next Services Committee meeting to talk about why he finds 1844 to be generally such a high value and satisfaction location compared to other offerings on campus.

COMMITTEES

Services Committee

Ms. Indu reported that the Services Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The Committee is scheduled to meet on February 18, 2022 and will be taking up some of the items discussed at today's meeting.

Program Committee

Ms. Murnan reported that the Program Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. A few supplemental applications have been received and processed by the committee. The community has been notified by email of the upcoming deadline of April 4, 2022 for Round I applications for 2022-2023.

Finance and Audit Committee

Mr. Foreman reported that the Finance and Audit Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. He noted that some investments had suffered losses, but on the whole they were still in good shape. Financially UAS is on target with their 2021-2022 budget.

Ms. Blazejeski noted the challenges of providing satisfying meals to everyone and commended UAS for their work with Dining during this difficult time.

Public Comment

None at this time.

Adjournment

Mr. Serravillo made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Murnan. The meeting adjourned at 11:54 AM