



University Auxiliary Services at Albany, Inc.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Friday, September 24, 2021– 10:30 AM - Alumni House

President Christakis convened the meeting at 10:32 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 Lnu

Mr. Stephen Pearse

Ms. Carol Perrin

Mr. Lee Serravillo

Ms. Latonia Spencer

Ms. Cara White

Attending remotely:

Ms. Mary Beth Murnan

Mr. Fardin Sanai

ABSENT: Ms. Mya Williams

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Chin noted that the 1844 Restaurant is now open, and he is enjoying having lunch there.

BOARD BUSINESS

Seating of the Board

Administration

Dr. Michael Christakis - UAS Executive Director Appointment

Mr. Todd Foreman – serving by virtue of position (VP of Finance and Administration)

Ms. Carol Perrin – serving by virtue of position (Director of Residential Life)

Mr. Fardin Sanai – Presidential Appointment

Ms. Cara White - Presidential Appointment

Faculty Staff

Mr. Jermaine Harris - UAlbany Senate Appointment

Ms. Indu Lnu – UAlbany Senate Appointment

Ms. Mary Beth Murnan – UAlbany Senate Appointment

Ms. Latonia Spencer – UAlbany Senate Appointment

Alumni Association

Mr. Lee Serravillo – serving by virtue of position (Executive Director, Alumni Association)

Students

Ms. Cassie Blazejeski – Graduate Student Association President’s Designee

Ms. Mya Williams – Student Association President’s Designee

Mr. Nicholas Chin – SA Senate Chair

Ms. Taylor Chambers - Student Association Appointment

Student Association Appointment

Student Association Appointment

Student Association Appointment

UAS

Mr. Stephen Pearse – UAS Executive Director

Dr. Christakis advised the Board that three Student Senate appointed members will be joining the Board when those appointments are made.

Election of Officers

Ms. Perrin nominated Dr. Christakis for President, seconded by Mr. Foreman. Dr. Christakis accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Dr. Christakis was unanimously elected President.

Mr. Foreman nominated Mr. Chin for Vice President, seconded by Ms. Perrin. Mr. Chin accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Mr. Chin was unanimously elected Vice President.

Ms. Perrin nominated Ms. Spencer for Secretary, seconded by Ms. Lnu. Ms. Spencer accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Ms. Spencer was unanimously elected Secretary.

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

Committee Assignments

Dr. Christakis presented the slate of membership for the Services, Program and Finance & Audit Committees. He advised the Board that with no major projects for the Governance Committee this year, no one was being assigned to that committee and the Executive Committee would serve in that capacity if needed. The Executive Committee is comprised of officers and an appointed student and Ms. Chambers will serve on that committee. Dr. Christakis noted that the students still to be appointed to the Board will be added later to the Committee Roster. Ms. Perrin made a motion to accept the Committee assignments as presented, seconded by Mr. Harris. The motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF MAY 3, 2021 BOARD MINUTES

Ms. Perrin made a motion to approve the May 3, 2021 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Serravillo. The motion was approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Old Business

Bookstore Renovation Phase I

Mr. Pearse reported that a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to mark the grand opening of the newly renovated and re-named bookstore, AcaDamien's. Pictures of the completed phase I renovations were presented showing the updated look and improved store configuration along with new branding and graphics.

Indigenous Renovation Phase II

Mr. Pearse reported that the phase II renovations at the Indigenous dining hall were completed over the summer carrying through from the salad bar back into the serving area. The space was completely redone with new lighting, tile and surfaces and a reconfigured Simple Servings section that will provide better service for students with allergies.

Mobile ID Student Door Access

Ms. Schifley reported that there has been a positive student response to the door access app that is now available to them. Students no longer need a physical card to gain entry to a building or room to which they have scheduled access. Work is ongoing to improve the functionality and versatility of the Mobile ID app.

Vending Contract Decision

Ms. Welch reported that the snack vending RFP came down to two finalists and the decision was made to stay with the incumbent vendor, Prestige, who provided financials that were a better choice for students.

Mr. Chin inquired about food service options at the Downtown Campus. Mr. Pearse reported that the Downtown Café location has not been financially successful, and several re-inventions of the space have been tried to find the right solution to increase traffic and sales. During the pandemic the Downtown location was closed and a MicroMarket was installed in the vending bank area. With the start of this year and the critical staffing issues that Sodexo is experiencing, the decision was made to keep the Downtown café closed. Ms.

Blazejeski reported that she has found food truck vendors that have expressed interest in trying out the location and Ms. Welch is working on finding a parking location for the food trucks near Husted Hall.

New Business

Dining

- **Dining RFP** – Mr. Pearse reported that in consultation with Rob White of Envision Strategies the decision has been made to issue a Dining RFP next year (2022-2023), in the 10th and final year of the Sodexo Contract. Conditions of the marketplace and the current financial climate were considered along with the drastically changed dining situation on campus from 10 years ago at the start of the current contract.
- **Damien's New Concept** – Mr. Pearse reported that the Damien's concept was changed this year to Jamal's Chicken and has been well received. Mr. Chin reported that he had been turned away while waiting in line at Damien's and was told that they were closing. Ms. Chamber noted she had a similar experience at Starbucks. Mr. Pearse stated he would follow-up with Sodexo staff.
- **Meal Plan Update**
Mr. Pearse reported a small increase in mandatory meal plan participation from Fall 2019 and a decrease in voluntary and overall meal plan participation from Fall 2019.
- **NACUFS Survey**
Ms. Bowen reported that the last NACUFS survey was done in 2018. After some debate and consideration of current supply chain concerns and staffing issues, the decision was made to move forward with a survey this year in mid-October. Dr. Christakis noted that whatever information is gathered will be helpful especially in consideration of conducting a dining RFP next year.

Bookstore Renovation Phase II

Mr. Pearse advised that planning for the second phase of the bookstore renovation that will include rebuilding the air handling system and replacing the ceiling is still in process.

SUNY Matching Gift Initiative

Mr. Foreman reported that UAS has a significant reserve as a result of careful investments and market conditions. Reserves are maintained for emergencies and for capital projects and Mr. Foreman recommends committing some of this reserve to the University for a 2 to 1 matching grant initiative instituted by the New York State Governor. The two projects supported by the grant, if awarded to UAlbany, would be the renovation of the SEFCU arena and the downtown former Albany High School. The Foundation is also providing matching funds.

Mr. Foreman made a motion that the UAS Board agrees to support the University's application to the State University Construction Fund for a matching grant by providing funds from UAS' reserve. The UAS contribution will compliment support from the University at Albany Foundation. The grant will support capital projects that will enhance student experience and academic excellence. Ms. White seconded the motion.

Following a brief discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Public Comment

None at this time.

Adjournment

Ms. Perrin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Lnu. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.