



University Auxiliary Services at Albany, Inc.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Friday, September 25, 2020
10:30AM - Remote Meeting

President Christakis convened the meeting at 10:32 AM. The following Directors were present:

Ms. Damilola Adesanya	Mr. Todd Foreman	Mr. Fardin Sanai
Ms. Precious Agyeman-Badu	Ms. Lynn Gbadamosi	Mr. Lee Serravillo
Mr. Dylan Card	Ms. Indu Lnu	Ms. Latonia Spencer
Ms. Taylor Chambers	Ms. Mary Beth Murnan	Ms. Cara White
Mr. Nicholas Chin	Mr. Stephen Pearse	
Dr. Michael N. Christakis	Ms. Carol Perrin	

ABSENT: Dr. Jason D’Cruz

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

GUESTS: Mr. John Giarrusso

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

BOARD BUSINESS

Seating of the Board

Administration

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 – President’s Appointed Designee
Ms. Cara White - Presidential Appointment
Dr. Michael Christakis - UAS Executive Director Appointment

Faculty/Staff

Dr. Jason D’Cruz – UA Senate Appointment
Ms. Indu Lnu – UA Senate Appointment
Ms. Mary Beth Murnan – UA Senate Appointment
Ms. Latonia Spencer – UA Senate Appointment

Alumni

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

Students

Mr. Dylan Card – Graduate Student Association President’s Designee
Ms. Damilola Adesanya – Student Association President
Ms. Precious Agyeman-Badu– Student Association Appointment

Mr. Nicholas Chin – Student Association Appointment
Ms. Taylor Chambers- Student Association Appointment
Ms. Lynne Gbadamosi – Student Association Appointment
UAS
Mr. Stephen Pearse – UAS Executive Director

Resolution in Honor of John Giarrusso

Dr. Christakis read a resolution in honor of retiring Board member Mr. John Giarrusso honoring and thanking him for his years of service to the University and UAS and also establishing an endowed scholarship in his name for University at Albany students. Ms. Perrin made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Foreman. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Giarrusso expressed his thanks and also that he was proud to have served on the UAS Board.

Election of Officers

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

Ms. Adesanya nominated Mr. Chin for Vice President, seconded by Ms. Gbadamosi. There were no other nominations. Mr. Chin was unanimously elected Vice President.

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

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

Committee Assignments

Dr. Christakis presented a slate of membership for the four Board Committees: Finance & Audit, Program, Services, and Governance. Mr. Pearse provided a brief description of the work of each committee and each chairperson from last year added further information. Finalization of the committees will take place at the next meeting to allow Board members who have not been able to submit their committee choices time to do so. Dr. Christakis also advised the Board that there is a 5th committee, the Executive Committee, that is comprised of officers. The Executive Committee is responsible for taking action between meetings of the Board when needed.

Dr. Christakis noted that an orientation for new Board members would be scheduled soon.

APPROVAL OF MAY 6, 2020 BOARD MINUTES

Ms. Perrin made a motion to approve the May 6, 2020 Board meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Gbadamosi. The minutes were approved with one abstention (Ms. White).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Old Business

Indian Quad Renovation

Mr. Pearse presented pictures of the Indian Dining Hall renovation that was completed over the summer. Updates include new seating, flooring, lighting and a newly painted ceiling, that serve to brighten up the space and make in more inviting.

New Business

Meal Plan Change/transition to retail

Mr. Pearse reported on the process of deciding how to feed students this year with all the challenges presented by COVID-19. The My Great Dane Meal Plan was established to take the place of the My Unlimited Plan that has traditionally been the required plan for freshman. Based on student requests, participation and the capability of increasing social distancing while getting their food, the decision was made to transition students from the My Great Dane Meal Plan to the My Flex Plan, which has traditionally been only offered to upper class students. Mr. Pearse outlined the various methods and frequency used to communicate the change to students. Mr. Pearse reports that traffic has been steady but not crowded in the Campus Center. There was also the addition of a new web based app over the summer that provides students with the opportunity and capability to order their meals on line so they can pre-order and pre-pay for their meals to expedite a quick grab and go, rather than waiting in line. The number of transactions from the first three days of the transition period versus the first three days of the prior week, shows fewer actual transactions, but it has been observed that students seem to be buying more than one meal at a time and taking the meals back to their rooms. This was confirmed by the student Board members.

Mr. Pearse explained more fully the purchasing power available to students with the My Flex Plan using Discount Dollars. Ms. Spencer noted that the big difference for students is the need to manage their spending and expressed her concern for students who may run out of funds. Ms. Bowen highlighted the efforts made to communicate to students how to best use Discount Dollars. Ms. Schifley noted that they continue to monitor the rates at which Discount Dollars are used and communicate to students when they see funds are being spent too quickly.

GET Food App

Mr. Pearse reported that to date, 25% of all retail transactions (40% to 44% at three of the locations) were conducted on the app. The number of students using the app is increasing as we go through the semester and provides the ability to be in and out of the Campus Center in a shorter time.

Remote Card Office

Mr. Pearse reported on the conversion of the IDCard office to virtual operation this fall to coincide with the decision by the Registrar's office to operate remotely. Both offices share an office space in the Campus Center. The process seems to be working well. Ms. Schifley explained the process of getting a new or replacement ID Card and how to get a temporary card if needed.

Indian – Second Phase

Mr. Pearse noted that with Indian Dining Hall now being closed there is the opportunity to complete renovations there that will include the salad bar, deli area and the main service line.

COVID Financial Impact

Mr. Pearse reported conversations with Sodexo and B&N regarding the financial impact of COVID-19. Those conversations will be on-going with our vendor partners and the Finance and Audit Committee.

Husted Market

Mr. Pearse reported the addition of a Micro Market in Husted Hall to fill some of the needs there with the Downtown Café being closed this semester. Mr. Pearse presented pictures of The Husted Market which provides a greater variety of offerings than a vending machine alone. The Market is run on the honor system and requires self-check-out.

Tent Status

Mr. Pearse reported that tents had been placed around the campus to provide outdoor dining areas. Some have been removed based on low usage. The tent in the courtyard of the Campus Center seems to be the one most heavily used. The intention is to remove all tents by the end of the semester at Thanksgiving and review the need again in the spring.

Students provided feedback on the closures of Calypso, 1844 and meal variety. Mr. Pearse will take suggestions to the Services Committee for review.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Foremen expressed his thanks to Mr. Pearse and his team for their agility, flexibility and responsiveness to these unprecedented challenges. Mr. Sanai also added that Mr. Pearse and his team have been incredible during this time and offered thanks to him and to our students, as well, for their patience.

Dr. Christakis noted that a required orientation would be scheduled shortly for all new members.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Dr. Christakis adjourned the meeting at 12:50 PM.