

CLARK STATE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Wednesday October 20, 2021  
Lifesize Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Directors present: Dr. Jo Alice Blondin, John Brown, Nettie Carter-Smith, Shashi Chadha, Sue Evans, Katherine Hoptry, Mitch Hurst, Joe Monnin, Paul Newman Jr., Peggy Noonan, Kerry Pedraza, Patti Phillips, Jo Ann Rigano, Tera Thornton and Ben Vollrath

Staff present: Christa Bostick, Lo Houser, Karen Hunt, Dr. Tiffany Hunter, Crystal Jones, Dr. Dawayne Kirkman, Kathy Nelson, Toni Overholser, and Doug Schantz

Guests: SOAR participants - Cami Akey, Mary Bower, Dr. Arly Drake, Asiah Jeffries, and Dr. Patience Olajide

**Welcome.** Chair Mitch Hurst welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m. He began the meeting with a quote from General Colin Powell: "If you are going to achieve excellence in big things, you develop the habit in little matters. Excellence is not an exception, it is a prevailing attitude."

**Presentation – Scholars Program Update.** Karen Hunt and Toni Overholser gave the following update on the Scholars Program:

- 2009-2018 stats, just over 300 students
- 12% did not attend college, 87% have gone on to attend college
- 63% earned some college credit
- In Clark County, 30% have some college and Champaign County 28% have some college; we are exceeding that at 86%
- Each year we will use a clearinghouse to compile data; some colleges do not report to the clearinghouse
- We are making personal contact with past Scholars via surveys and phone calls
- Stats by year, number of students who attend college continues to increase
- In 2019, Taylor Bugglin created a survey asking Scholars why they leave the program; some reasons include pregnancy, schedule issues, not ready for college; Karen is conducting surveys with students each year
- Toni is hoping to eventually access baseline data from other schools who have a program like ours to use as a comparison

**Minutes.** Bill Brougher presented the minutes from the September 15, 2021 meeting. Patti Phillips moved to accept, Katherine Hoptry, and the minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Finance/Audit/Investment Committee.** In Chair Bill Brougher's absence, Toni reported that there is no formal report. The sub-committee is still in the process of researching investment managers and are currently meeting with three groups. They will present the results to the Board by the end of the year. Toni also reported that the audit was accepted by the state and there were no exceptions.

**Resource Development Committee.** Chair Jo Ann Rigano reported that the Presidential Awards Banquet held on September 29 was a success with 121 RSVPs. She congratulated Board member, Shashi Chadha and her husband as recipients of the Richard O. Brinkman Award. There was a profit of \$5,705.

**Governance Committee.** Chair Kerry Pedraza reported the Committee has not met and there is no report.

**Scholarship Committee.** Chair Nettie Carter-Smith reported that the Committee met recently. Applications are coming in for spring semester scholarships. The deadline to submit is October 30 and the review period will be for the following two weeks. Nettie reminded Board members that we will need everyone's help with the review process.

**Friends of PACC.** Chair Katherine Hoptry reported on the following:

- Diamond Rio show was a success, almost 1,000 patrons in attendance
- Ticket office started tracking sales comparisons to determine how box office hours are being utilized
- PAC upgrades – theatrical curtains, kitchen warmers, and a refrigerator
- Crystal added this is an energetic committee; they have recently looked at bylaws and strategic plan to determine future goals

## STANDING REPORTS

**Chairman's Report.** Chair Mitch Hurst thanked everyone who supported the Presidential Awards banquet on September 29. It was a great event, well attended and great energy in the room.

**Board of Trustees Report.** Peggy Noonan reported that the Board of Trustees have met twice since the Foundation Board's September meeting:

- At the September meeting, Toni and Nettie gave a scholarship demographics presentation
- At both meetings, there were presentations from students who received Covid funds. All the students were very appreciative and it has made a difference in their lives
- Board met with members of Achieving the Dream –working on strategy to improve student success and the underserved
- Some Trustees attended meeting in San Diego and gave a presentation on how the College used Covid funds
- At last night's meeting, the Board voted to pay off the Greene Center Building bond debt; this is a good opportunity to use Covid funds and improve cash flow

**President's Report.** Dr. Blondin gave a college update:

- Introduced members of SOAR group (year-long mentor program) who are in attendance today Cami Akey, Dr. Patience Olajide, Mary Bower, Dr. Arly Drake, and Asiah Jeffries; Mark Brown was unable to attend today but will attend a future meeting
- \$6.3 million in reserves - Greene Center payoff – 100% support; thank you to Doug Schantz; next goal is to pay off TLC
- ACCT presentation in San Diego well received; Kyle Hall, Jim Doyle, Sharon Evans did a great job explaining how we have been strategic during pandemic
- Recommend master plan presentation for future Foundation Board meeting
- Very proud that we received Dayton Business Journal diversity award
- Achieving The Dream coaches visit two weeks ago; Faculty a little concerned on how to read their data
- College's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022 – will celebrate all year, Charter Night will be the kick off to anniversary; there is also a committee putting together a history of Clark State; oral presentation at Charter night and a book at convocation
- Clark State is partnering with City of Springfield to renovate the old Wendy's building on South Limestone Street to have a classroom, lab space and equipment storage for Fire and EMS programs; project in early stages
- Medical Laboratory Technology open house at Applied Science Center today; this area is where we are applying for next round of capital funding, hope to receive just over \$3 million

- Encourage getting students who have received Covid funding to present at a future meeting; these funds are the difference between them attending and not attending class
- Enrollment up 1% for returning (students who have been out for more than one semester) and new students; we are down in CCP and continuing students; Dr. Kirkman added that we have had two enrollment events – we have work to do but we are encouraged

#### **Director's Report.**

- Project Jericho – Lo Houser reported that it has been a busy fall so far with weekly programming and events (Chalk Fest and Project Scare-A-Crow). They are partnering with Key Bank for a public art display in the empty windows of building. The art will be block printing made by kids in the detention center and will hopefully be installed by the end of the month. Long-time Project Jericho supporters travelled to Springfield recently and attended ChalkFest. The Project Jericho team was happy to celebrate their legacy and thank them for their support in person.
- Scholars Program – Karen Hunt reminded everyone that we are seeking mentors for the program. Scholars Program applications have been delivered to 8<sup>th</sup> graders in our service districts; we will need your help with interviewing these students. Toni added the urgency for mentors. Three members of the Foundation team alone are mentoring 160 students between them.
- Toni reported that we have kicked off the employee campaign; the focus will be on the Scholars Program; we have also added a new scholarship honoring Emeritus Professor Dan Heighton who passed away recently; his celebration of life will be November 18 from 3-6 pm at the HBC
- The annual campaign for donors in the community will be in November in coordination with Giving Tuesday
- Reminder that the strategic plan retreat will be November 16. Foundation Board members are asked to complete a survey ahead of the retreat, Toni will share the link; Dr. Blondin added that Barbara Gellman-Danley, Higher Learning Commission President who will be visiting the area, will be in attendance at the lunch at the retreat to have an open conversation with members of both Boards.
- Thank you to the Resource Development Committee and all members of the Board for their part in a very successful banquet; thank you to Park National Bank for their sponsorship

**Other.** Mitch noted that it's important to acknowledge our successes; there has only been one day in the last month when Clark State did not have an article in the paper and commended Dr. Blondin and everyone for all the successes at Clark State.

Calendar reminders:

- November 16 - retreat at HBC
- December – no meeting
- January 19 – regular meeting at BEC 4<sup>th</sup> floor dining room

Shashi Chadha thanked Dr. Blondin and the Foundation Board for the honor she and her husband received at the banquet.

**Adjourn.** Mitch ended the meeting with another quote from General Colin Powell: "Children need to get a high-quality education, avoid violence and the criminal justice system, and gain jobs. But they deserve more. We want them to learn not only reading and math but fairness, caring, self-respect, family commitment, and civic duty." The meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Overholser  
Foundation Director