

CLARK STATE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Wednesday, April 20, 2022 @ 11:30 a.m.
Xenia Campus at YMCA

Minutes

Directors present: Mitch Hurst (Chair), Dr. Jo Alice Blondin, John Brown, Nettie Carter-Smith, Shashi Chadha, Sharon Doyle, Sue Evans, Bob Hill, Katherine Hoptry, Peggy Noonan, Kerry Pedraza, Patti Phillips, Jo Ann Rigano, Tera Thornton, and Ben Vollrath

Staff present: Adele Adkins, Christa Bostick, Karen Hunt, Kathy Nelson, Toni Overholser, and Doug Schantz

Guests: Megan Cummins, Youth Program Coordinator and Emily Lefevers, Student

Welcome. Chair Mitch Hurst welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11:49 a.m. He opened the meeting with a quote from Carl Sagan in honor of Earth Day: "Preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known." He then welcomed guest, Megan Cummins, new member of the Foundation staff, who began working as Youth Program Coordinator in late March. She will coordinate the College for Kids and Teens summer program as well as the mentor piece for the Scholars Program. Megan was in the first class of Champion City Scholars. He then introduced student, Emily Lefevers, and invited her to share her story.

Student Story. Emily is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and is a student ambassador. She began her education at Clark State in Spring of 2020 and has thoroughly enjoyed her time here. One of her goals was to complete her education without debt, and she is thankful for the Foundation scholarships she has received. Her career goal is to open an aftercare childcare center. After graduating from Clark State in May, she will attend Arizona State on a full scholarship. Attending Clark State has been a great experience for her.

Minutes. In Bill Brougner's absence, Mitch Hurst presented the minutes from the March 16, 2022 meeting. Nettie Carter-Smith made a motion to approve, Kerry Pedraza seconded, and the minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Financials. Kathy Nelson presented the financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2021. The fund balance is \$13,841,463 reflecting a \$56,400 increase from September. She also reported that the transfer of investments from Commonfund to Park National Bank is complete. She also reported that we have changed auditors to Plattenburg & Associates. A motion to approve the financials was made by John Brown, seconded by Katherine Hoptry, and was approved by unanimous voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance/Audit/Investment Committee. In Chair Bill Brougner's absence, Mitch Hurst reported that the Plattenburg & Associates has work a lot with higher education institutions. He also noted that there were a few challenges during the transition from Commonfund to Park National Bank, but these were not on the part of Park National Bank.

Resource Development Committee. Chair Jo Ann Rigano reported on the following:

- Plans for the April 30 5K are coming along
- 9 people have registered; we anticipate registrations the day of
- Goal is \$10,000 and we have raised \$2,500 so far; however, the main goal is to raise awareness of the Scholars Program.
- We are in need of volunteers; if you can't participate the day of, please promote the event

Governance Committee. No report

Scholarship Committee. Chair Nettie Carter-Smith reported that the application for summer semester scholarships closed March 31. We received 222 applications and awarded 26 scholarships. The next application will be open May 1 – June 15 for fall and spring semesters. Thank you to those who reviewed the applications – we will need your help again for this next round. Christa will send a reminder one week before the review period begins. There was discussion regarding the number of awards made versus the number of applications received this last round. Toni explained that we traditionally have a smaller number of scholarships to award for summer semester. We also have several hard to award scholarships, but we work with Institutional Research and Faculty to try to identify eligible students. Students who don't get scholarships are referred to student services for additional funding resources and options.

Other issues mentioned:

- We are working with donors to change scholarship criteria to help meet the student need; many of the scholarships were established many years ago and the needs of our students have changed
- It has been difficult to accurately identify the household income and financial situation from the application; it may be necessary to reword the question to better identify financial need
- We are available to help students but what questions are we allowed to ask?
- HEERF funding is also a factor

The Scholarship Committee will discuss any questions and issues in its upcoming meeting.

Friends of Performing Arts and Conference Center Committee. Chair Katherine Hoptry reported on the following:

- New and streamlined giving structures
- All online fundraising, no snail mail
- Committee has decided to postpone their gala in order to do more planning
- Although the Foundation Board will not have a formal Board meeting in May, they will meet with Alex Keen regarding his findings from his market and operational research study of the PAC and HBC

STANDING REPORTS

Chairman's Report. Board Chair Mitch Hurst thanked all Board members who attended the Scholars Induction Ceremony and reminded them of the April 30 5K which will benefit the Scholars Program in Champaign County. He also reminded Board members that one of the primary functions as Board members is to assist with reading scholarship applications which ultimately contributes to the success of our students.

Other:

- John Brown spoke of the mother of Scholar in the class of 2025 who lost house and car, and her daughter lost Scholar's certificate. Toni and Karen are coordinating new certificates for the family
- Dr. Hill congratulated Megan on her new position; Megan is a former Springfield High School graduate and Scholar
- Sue Evans reminded everyone that we should all be telling the story of the Scholars Program; Former Scholar Justin Pinn spoke of "extending your ladder"
- Most Scholars need more mentor meetings
- Megan is working with Springfield High School to see if they can allow time during the school day for mentors to meet with their Scholars

Board of Trustees Report. Peggy Noonan reported the following from last night's Board of Trustees meeting:

- College will be closed on Friday for an all-campus meeting, working on strategic plan

- Toni presented Foundation strategic plan
- College Trustees appreciate the Foundation Board of Directors and all they do for the College
- HLC visit – Baccalaureate degree in addiction studies and integrated treatment studies; waiting for word that it is approved
- May graduation – in person, May 14th, 7 Bachelor’s degrees

President’s Report. Dr. Blondin gave a college update highlighting the following:

- HLC visit went well; they stated it’s the best application they have seen “I would rather have CS graduate than MS in social work.”
- Conferring 7 peer recovery certificates
- Will start in fall, 100 students interested in the program
- Will host 9-state ag consortium in September, goal is to create land grant op at community college level, welcome Sherrod brown, benefits of land grant status, land grant – access to certain federal grants
- Capital bill still on schedule to move forward by June 30
- “Something Rotten” musical – excellent production
- PTK (2-year version of PBK) banquet tonight
- FreshAbilities on campus – well received; training is a very exciting component of program

Director’s Report.

- Scholars Program – Karen Hunt reported on the following:
 - Thank you to Nettie Carter-Smith and Judge Joe Monnin for presenting at a recent Scholars visit to campus
 - More than 300 students currently in the program
 - Next induction 3/9/23 – mark your calendars!
 - Karen will be speaking at Urbana Rotary to give an update on the scholars program and to promote the 5K event
 - Megan being on board has been a tremendous help
- Project Jericho – In Lo Houser’s absence, Toni reported that Project Jericho presented felted art sculptures at Stella Bleu restaurant last week. The exhibition will remain on display in the windows until May 31.
- Toni reported that the College for Kids and Teens schedule has been released and there are great programs again this year. Some of the new classes include soapbox derby, agriculture programs, soil sampling and an activity around pandemics. Toni will share a link after today’s meeting.
- Toni reported that the Foundation has received Guide Star’s platinum seal of transparency, the highest level possible for non-profit organizations
- We have received a bequest to establish an endowment to assist female students who have graduated from Clark-Shawnee High School

Adjourn. Mitch reminded everyone to take note of the calendar dates at the bottom of today’s agenda. The May 18 meeting with Keen Research will be in place of a regular Board meeting and the location will be announced within the next couple of weeks. He ended the meeting with the following quote from Bill Nye, “To find the world better than you found it, sometimes you have to pick up other people’s trash.”

The meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Overholser
Foundation Director