

CLARK STATE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Wednesday, May 19, 2021  
Lifesize Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Directors present: Mitch Hurst (Chair), Cindy Barnett, Dr. Jo Alice Blondin, Bill Brougher, John Brown, Nettie Carter-Smith, Shashi Chadha, Sharon Doyle, Sue Evans, Katherine Hoptry, Joe Monnin, Peggy Noonan, Kerry Pedraza, Patti Phillips, and Ben Vollrath

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

Guests: Students Ta’Vione Arnold and Ebony Carter

**Welcome.** Chair Mitch Hurst welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m. He began the meeting with a quote aligning with Clark State’s Mirrors & Window sessions, as we continue to focus on diversity, equity and inclusion. This quote is from Sundar Pichai, CEO of Alphabet: “A diverse mix of voices leads to better discussions, decisions, and outcomes for everyone.” There are five remaining Mirrors & Windows sessions over the next several months and all Board members are encouraged to attend the sessions.

**Student Presentation** – Mother and son, Ebony Carter and Ta’Vione Arnold both graduated from Clark State last week and each spoke a little bit their experience at Clark State.

Ebony began her educational journey at Clark State in 2000 right after high school and shared that it has not been easy. She was not sure what she wanted to do, but it was when she started sending her children to the Head Start program and saw what the program did for them that she knew she wanted to go into education. It took her a while to complete and she graduated with an Early Childhood Education degree. She has always told her children that “it’s not when you finish but how you finish” and she has finished strong.

Ta’Vione was in the Champion City Scholars program and said it was a great experience and he learned a lot. He was able to visit the different campuses which helped him decide to come to Clark State. He graduated from Clark State with a general transfer degree, and is still working to determine his career path. Nettie Carter-Smith offered her congratulations to both graduates and added that Ta’Vione was the first Black male recipient of the scholarship through Bass-Smith Connection organization.

**Minutes.** Bill Brougher presented the minutes from the April 21, 2021 meeting. Nettie Carter-Smith moved to accept, Shashi Chadha seconded, and the minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Financial Statements.** Kathy Nelson presented the financial statements for the period ending April 30, 2021 showing a fund balance of \$13,592,745 reflecting a decrease of \$39,085 since March. Kathy stated that although there are no concerns, third quarter interest rates were lower than expected resulting in the decrease of the fund balance. Katherine Hoptry moved for approval, Sharon Doyle seconded, and the motion to accept the financials was approved by unanimous voice vote.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Finance/Audit/Investment Committee.** Chair Bill Brougher reported that the Committee has not met this month and there is no report. The audit was completed and there were no errors.

**Resource Development Committee.** In Chair Jo Ann Rigano’s absence, Toni Overholser reported that we will be moving forward with the Presidential Awards Banquet on September 23. The event will be held at the

Hollenbeck Bayley Creative Arts and Conference Center, and we will be recognizing the Richard O. Brinkman Award recipient and the two alumni award recipients – the Emerging Leader and the Distinguished Alumnus. Nominations for these awards will be accepted online through June 30 and the Committee will meet in July to select the recipients.

Additionally, because the virtual walk/run fundraiser held last fall was so successful, we will be conducting that in the spring as our major fundraiser.

**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 yesterday. At that meeting, Karen Hunt shared that one of the Clark State Scholars will be participating in a consortium program at Rhodes State and will be completing the third year of her Clark State Scholars scholarship at Rhodes State.

The review process for the scholarship applications has ended – thank you to everyone who was able to help. The application for fall/spring scholarships will be open June 1 – July 15.

**Friends of PACC.** Chair Katherine Hoptry reported that the Friends of the PACC Committee met last month and the minutes are in today's meeting packet. There was an article recently in the Springfield News Sun about the HBC reopening on June 1, as well as the outdoor summer concert series. The Committee is planning to meet again next month.

**Project Jericho.** Lo reported that Project Jericho youth began painting the bike path mural this past Monday and are making good progress. Project Jericho is celebrating their graduating seniors, including two ladies in the RISE program at Juvenile Court.

**Scholars Program.** Karen Hunt reported that she will be delivering certificates signed by Representative Koehler to the new class of Scholars.

## **STANDING REPORTS**

**Chairman's Report.** Chair Mitch Hurst reported that a resolution to change the Foundation's official name to align with the name change of Clark State College is being presented today. Our name will now be Clark State College Foundation, effective today. Motion by John Brown, seconded by Katherine Hoptry and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Mitch also recognized the Board members with May birthdays: Joe Monnin, Nettie Carter-Smith, Patti Phillips and Bill Brougher.

**Board of Trustees Report.** Peggy Noonan reported that the Board of Trustees met in person last night.

- There was a great presentation by the SOAR group regarding a student mentoring proposal – a program which would start early in the student's career.
- Clark State has handled the pandemic very well- there have been very few COVID cases.
- Congratulations to Doug Schantz, who has been promoted to VP of Business Affairs.
- The Marketing Department created great graduation and pinning videos, making them special for the students under the circumstances.

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

- Senate Bill 135, proposal to make significant changes to higher education policy including voucher to community college if student doesn't pass classes at 4-year university; also would allow community colleges to offer BSN

- Ohio State Budget still in Senate, expect passage in June; will report in June to Foundation Board
- President Biden's Free Community College proposal is gaining traction; tuition nationally is just over \$4,000 average - state would be expected to cover 25%, federal 75%; outcome could potentially change the focus/mission of the Foundation and what resources are made available
- Fundraiser for the PAC is on hold for this year; focus is on opening up and moving relocated staff back to PAC

**Director's Report.** Toni Overholser reported on the following:

- Larry Wakefield will be retiring – thank you for all you have done for the Foundation
- Toni will share the overview of federal legislation as well as alumni awards links after the meeting
- College for Kids and Teens registration going well; this year we have Scholars students participating
- Currently working on next year's budget with Finance Committee; will present at June meeting
- Working with the Foundation Executive Committee on goals for next year
- A community member has submitted application to serve on the Foundation Board – thank you to Nettie for her recruitment efforts; please continue to think of other prospective Board members

**Other.** The next meeting will be June 16, 2021 and will be in person at the Brinkman Education Center downtown, 4<sup>th</sup> floor. There will be no July meeting. Please mark your calendars for the Presidential Awards Banquet on September 23.

**Adjourn.** Mitch ended the meeting with a quote from Mahatma Gandhi - "Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilization." The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Overholser  
Foundation Director