

CLARK STATE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Lifesize Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Directors present: Mitch Hurst (Chair), Cindy Barnett, Dr. Jo Alice Blondin, Bill Brougher, John Brown, Nettie Carter-Smith, Sharon Doyle, Sue Evans, Bob Hill, Katherine Hoptry, Steve Neely, Paul Newman Jr., Kerry Pedraza, Patti Phillips, and Jo Ann Rigano

Staff present: Adele Adkins, Christa Bostick, Lo Houser, Karen Hunt, Dr. Tiffany Hunter, Kathy Nelson, Toni Overholser, and Doug Schantz

Guest: Morgan Bowman, Clark State Student

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 President Barack Obama: “Higher education cannot be a luxury reserved for a privileged few. It’s an economic necessity for every family and every family should be able to afford it.”

Scholarship Recipient Story. Toni Overholser introduced Morgan Bowman, a registered nursing student at Clark State and current recipient of the Rotary Scholarship, Mildred Hartman Miller Scholarship and Springfield Foundation John Harter Scholarship. In addition to studying for her registered nursing degree, she is also working toward her associate of science degree and anticipates graduating in December 2021. Morgan spoke a little bit about her background and about her journey at Clark State. She held a management position at Navistar and had no intention of going to school, but due to some significant family issues which included some serious health issues in her family, she was forced to quit her job but found herself compelled to go to school to study a health care major. She said she wanted not only to fill a void that was lacking in the health care field but also to give back the same wonderful nursing care she and her family received. It has been a long and rough road, but she has persevered. She knows the only reason she has been able to continue with school is because of the scholarships she received and because of the work of the Foundation, and she is extremely grateful.

Minutes. Bill Brougher presented the minutes from the August 19, 2020 meeting. Nettie Carter-Smith moved to accept, Sue Evans seconded, and the minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Financial Statements. There were no financials presented at today’s meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance/Audit/Investment Committee. Chair Bill Brougher reported that although the Committee has not met, they approved a transfer of funds from the unrestricted fund to the student emergency fund.

Resource Development Committee. Chair Jo Ann Rigano reported that we will be hosting a virtual walk/run fundraiser in October to kick-off the annual campaign. The theme is “I’m going the distance for scholarships” and the goal is to raise \$50,000. Individuals can participate

as a donor or as a fundraiser; anyone in a fundraiser role can create and customize their own fundraising page and will also receive a free t-shirt and socks. Jo Ann reminded everyone that this is for our students – let’s make this the best fundraiser ever, our students deserve it! Mitch added that we are looking for full Board support.

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

Scholarship Committee. Chair Nettie Carter-Smith shared that the Committee has not met, but reported that we will be accepting scholarship applications from October 1-30 for Spring 2021 awards. She added that we need all Board members to help read and score the applications during the November 3-16 review period.

Friends of PACC. Chair Katherine Hoptry reported that she and Adele are meeting every couple of weeks and the full Committee is scheduled to meet on September 24. They will discuss goals for this year, one of which will include a heavy focus on marketing. The first event of the season is a performance by the Springfield Symphony Orchestra in October. A video will be released soon showing PAC staff giving a tour of the building as well as all the safety measures that are in place. We have gotten good attention for responding to Covid quickly.

Adele added that tickets went on sale this past Monday for the Symphony concert and people seem very excited about coming back. They will be live streaming the concert as well.

STANDING REPORTS

Chairman’s Report. No report.

Board of Trustees Report. In David Ball’s absence, Dr. Blondin reported on last night’s Board of Trustees meeting:

Work session:

- 4 active Covid cases, none of which were contracted on campus and individuals are quarantining
- Update on Achieving the Dream – Clark State is part of this organization that works to close achievement gaps

Regular board session:

- Data story, Travis Binkley
- Standard finance items – we are in a good financial position; we put \$1.3 million instead of projected \$600,000 in reserves
- Board Government Community Relations Committee – CARES act stalled now in Washington, but hopefully will see movement soon
- House Bill 606 passed - provides immunity for non-profits, educational facilities, and businesses
- Dr. Felder gave an excellent presentation - enrollment by category which includes CCP, high school, gender, etc.
- Board passed Title IX changes - changes added to faculty handbook and policies and procedures; changes went into effect 9/14/20

President’s Report. Dr. Blondin reported on the following:

- Enrollment update – enrollment is holding steady; we are up slightly in continuing, CCP and dual-enrolled students, but down with new students, which is a national trend. A more worrisome statistic is that we are down 3.5% in African American male students. We are embarking on some initiatives to drill down on this data and reach out to these students.
- Dr. Blondin was included in phone call last Monday with Vice President Mike Pence’s Chief of Staff and Director of Strategy to discuss Workforce Policy
- Dr. Blondin was honored to be asked to write essay for *Inside Higher Education* regarding our promise to our most vulnerable students and how we need to pivot during this time of pandemic rather than get stuck in response recovery; Toni can send the article to anyone interested
- Dr. Blondin had the opportunity to record a session with Brad Phillips and Dr. Matt Franz for AACC about the silver linings in Covid times; what are the strategic initiatives we can capture in this time so that we can continue forward in a positive way post-Covid?
- It appears there will be some type of capital bill; met with Chamber and legislators yesterday and it sounds like the Governor and Speaker of the House would like to see a capital bill for workforce development purposes, maybe a “skinny” capital bill in lame duck session in November
- Dr. Blondin and Dr. Hunter will be working on a project to capture Clark State history

Director’s Report. Toni Overholser asked for reports from Project Jericho and Scholars Program:

Project Jericho. Due to Lo having to leave the meeting early, Toni reported that Project Jericho updates were included in today’s board packet. She added that Lo has brought on two new Project Jericho team members. The basketball court mural turned out great – please stop to see if you have the opportunity.

Scholars Program. Scholars Program updates were included in today’s Board packet; Karen did not have any additional items to report.

Toni reported on the following:

- Finished distributing CARES funds – a total of \$1.45 million was distributed to students and we stand ready if more funding becomes available; as previously stated, our minority students are disproportionately affected by the pandemic and the need is great; will continue to use unrestricted and emergency funds as we can to help these students.
- Fundraiser this year is extremely important, especially in light of all that is going on. Toni showed a graphic of the t-shirt which includes our mission and reminded everyone that fundraisers will receive a t-shirt and a pair of socks.
- Alumni engagement strategy for the future:
 - Hope to increase giving from alumni - .7% giving is national average and .3% giving at Clark State currently; hope to exceed national average
 - We are exceeding the national average as far as communication engagement; alumni newsletter has 36% open rate, normal open rate for community college students is 8%

Mitch reminded everyone that the next Board meeting will be held virtually on October 21, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. and closed the meeting with a quote from Mother Teresa: "I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things."

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Overholser
Foundation Director