

CLARK STATE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Lifesize Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Directors present: Mitch Hurst (Chair), Cindy Barnett, Dr. Jo Alice Blondin, Bill Brougher, John Brown, Shashi Chadha, Sharon Doyle, Bob Hill, Steve Neely, Kerry Pedraza, Patti Phillips, Jo Ann Rigano and Ben Vollrath

Staff present: Adele Adkins, Christa Bostick, Lo Houser, Karen Hunt, Dr. Tiffany Hunter, Kathy Nelson, Toni Overholser, Larry Wakefield and Cameron Walker

Guests present: Hassan Hussein and Michael Lander

Welcome. Chair Mitch Hurst welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m. He began the meeting with a quote from Leonardo da Vinci – “I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough, we must apply. Being willing is not enough; we must do.”

Presentation. Toni Overholser introduced today’s student speaker, Hassan Hussein, who is majoring in registered nursing. He was born in Somalia, and spent 20 years in a refugee camp. While there, his mother lost her vision and they were unable to get the care she needed. They came to the United States in 2015, and once in the US, his mother had surgery to restore her sight. He knew at that time he wanted to become a health care worker. He enrolled at Clark State and is in the RN program. He is also helping to tutor students. He is very grateful for the scholarships he received through the Foundation and knows he could not have continued in the program without them.

Karen Hunt was invited to give an update on the Scholars Program. She first introduced Cameron Walker, who joined the Foundation team recently as Scholarship/Mentor Coordinator for the Scholars Program. Cameron said she is excited to be part of the team and thanked Karen and Toni for helping with a seamless transition into the job.

Karen gave a brief update on the Scholars program noting the following:

- There have been no campus visits due to the pandemic; student ambassadors will assist with personalized visits
- There have been no guest speakers due to the pandemic; she is reaching out to individuals and Board members to do videos that she can share with Scholars
- Toni and Karen are working on putting data together for each year, but a summary from 2009-2019 for high school graduates shows the following:

Earned College Credit: 295 (85%)

District Average 34%

Earned College Degree: 54 (16%)

District Average 11.8%

Actively Pursuing Degree: 36 (10%)

Associates Degrees Earned: 26 (7%)

Bachelor’s Degrees Earned: 24 (7%)

Master’s Degrees Earned: 4 (1%)

- Applications for the next class selection are being distributed to 8th grade students now with help from counselors; interviews will be done virtually
- Virtual ceremony; possibly an in-person ceremony will be done at a later time
- We still need mentors; one-hour commitment per month
- As always, thank you to program sponsors

Toni added that one silver lining during pandemic is that the Scholars are engaging with us virtually one-on-one.

Minutes. Bill Brougher presented the minutes from the October 21, 2020 meeting. Shashi Chadha moved to accept, Jo Ann Rigano seconded, and the minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Financial Statements. Kathy Nelson presented the financial statements for the period ending October 31, 2020 showing a fund balance of \$13,599,626 and reflecting an increase of \$55,338 since September. Sharon Doyle moved for approval, Steve Neely 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 met before today's meeting. They heard from CommonFund regarding our investment performance. They also heard from Matt Shroyer at Clark Schaefer Hackett who reported a clean audit with no findings. Congratulations to Kathy and her team for great bookkeeping. The Committee remains hard at work.

Resource Development Committee. Chair Jo Ann Rigano shared great news that we have exceeded our \$50,000 goal in the fundraising campaign, raising \$82,315 to date. This is a major win for our students and she thanked Toni for all her amazing work!

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

Scholarship Committee. On behalf of Chair Nettie Carter-Smith, Mitch shared that Spring 2021 scholarship awards are being determined and a report will be presented at the next meeting. Thank you to all the Board members who took time to read applications.

Friends of PACC. In Chair Katherine Hoptry's absence, Adele Adkins reported on the following:

- Due to the increase in the number of Covid cases, the PAC and HBC are technically going "offline" until the end of March; Adele and one other staff member are manning the buildings with all other staff being deployed to other areas of the College
- Friends of PACC committee will be meeting tomorrow; will discuss the idea of making phone calls to check in with patrons
- Due to the lockdown in the UK, the December 3 *Choir of Man* show is postponed; will let group know when the new date is determined
- Receiving a lot of inquiries regarding shows for next year
- Dr. Fauci will be speaking at a virtual conference in January on how the Arts will move forward during the pandemic; Adele will report on that at the January Board meeting

- Part one of the Save Our Stages Act campaign was successful, but was for independent venues only; part two kicked off this week

STANDING REPORTS

Chairman's Report. Mitch thanked everyone for their participation in the annual campaign fundraiser.

Board of Trustees Report. In David Ball's absence, Dr. Blondin reported on the following:

- Annual retreat was yesterday from 8am-1pm:
 - Board meeting was held from 8-9am at which time the revised budget was approved
 - Ethics training
 - Structured conversation with Dawn Erlandson (Immediate Past Chair AOCC Trustees Board and Vice-Chair of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board) on the future of higher education
 - Presentation on Achieving the Dream; strongly encourage this for a future Foundation Board meeting
 - Deep dive into how CARES Act money has been used
 - Toni gave an outstanding presentation on grant funding; from 2013-present, approximately \$12.5 million in grants received; Larry also reported that more than \$17 million in capital funds received

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

- Welcome to Michael Lander, member of SOAR group and to Cameron Walker
- House Bill 404 just passed; extends virtual meetings for boards through July
- Capital Bill will be introduced on November 30 and is expected to pass quickly
- Congratulations to Dr. Matt Franz, who was named Clark County Safety Leader of the Year
- Lisa Dunn, TRIO Advisor at Clark State, has been appointed to Springfield Police Advisory
- Dr. Danielle Roach and Dr. Nickey Brown were accepted to the OAACC Leadership Institute
- Board reappointments are on track for the end of November
- Community college enrollment is down nationally (average of 9.5%); Clark State is down about 5% over last year, but there is an increase in the number of returning students (softening enrollment is for new students)
- Gender and race gaps in enrollment have widened. Nearly 80% of community college students are female; we need to focus on making sure that males are participating in higher education and Clark State is looking at strategies. Nationally, the number of students of color has decreased, but at Clark State, only down 1% from last year.
- Next round of stimulus funds may possibly be twice as much if headcount is considered rather than FT equivalency, and there also may be more flexibility on how funds are used.

Director's Report. Toni Overholser asked for a report on Project Jericho from Lo Houser:

- Coming to the end of in-person programming for the year; the goal was to focus on 100 individuals/families, but served about 65 kids (50 families with siblings); regularly checking in with participants and doing porch visits

- Brenna, new Project Jericho Creative Assistant, has been working on a map to show span of service in the county
- Project Jericho recently celebrated the adoptions of two siblings into their foster families
- Theme for the coming year: Hope is coming!

Toni reminded the Board members that we are implementing BoardBook (for electronic packets) for future meetings. Christa added that there will be a meeting on December 16 to offer more information about the program. A calendar reminder will be sent out this week and login information will be sent prior to the meeting.

Toni shared a little more about today's student speaker, Hassan Hussein. He lived in a refugee camp for 20 years. His mother was the main breadwinner for his family, but fell ill and lost her vision. She was unable to get the medical care she needed but when they relocated to the United States, she was able to get the treatment she needed and her sight was restored. It was at that time that Hassan knew he wanted to go into a medical profession. Not only is his focus to earn a degree in nursing, but he also wants to help low-income individuals who cannot afford healthcare.

Toni thanked the Resource Development Committee and the entire Board for their efforts toward a very successful fundraising campaign. She added that employee contributions increased by about 20% over last year and we were able to grow the balance in the unrestricted fund.

Finally, during this very unique Thanksgiving season, Toni expressed her thanks to the Foundation Board members for all they do to help our students.

Other. Mitch reminded the group that BoardBook training is December 16 and the next Board meeting will be January 20, 2021.

Adjorn. Mitch ended the meeting with a quote from Henry Louis Gates, Jr. – “The first step toward tolerance is respect and the first step toward respect is knowledge.”

The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Overholser
Foundation Director