Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
December 10, 2014
SU 407

Attendees:  Steve Deutsch  L. David Rooney
Michele Halstead  L. David Eaton
Kevin Saunders  Niza Cardona
Kristina Virgil  Osatohamwen Okundaye
James Auer  Annie Courtens
Brendan Kelly

Others Present:  Donald A. Diamond, Jr.  Diane Jackson, Sodexo
James McKenna, Sodexo  Haley Ward, Sodexo
Lisa Mitten  Prof. Brian Obach
Prof. Peter Brown  Prof. Kathleen Tobin
Alex, student

Recording Secretary:  Janet M. Cosh

Call to Order:  10:33 a.m.

Steve stated that he did include time limits on the Agenda for this meeting but was aware
that 4 people had signed up to speak during the Public Comment section for which he
typically allots 5 minutes. He sought Board approval to expand this section from 5 to 10
minutes. David Eaton made a motion to suspend the order of business with the intention
of having public comment and then moving to new business to consider the bottled water
issue; seconded by Niza. The vote was 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and Kristina abstaining.
The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Prof. Brian Obach addressed the Board, stating that for years he has been in favor of
banning bottled water sales on campus for environmental, health and financial reasons.
He noted that only 1 in 5 bottles are recycled; the bottles take over 1,000 years to
compost; they take 3 times as much water to make than they can hold; chemicals are
added to bottled water; and municipal water is more thoroughly tested. He encouraged
the Board to provide greater access to free water by adding more hydration stations and
to implement the ban prior to moving forward with the vending and pouring RFP.

Dave Rooney suggested the Board conduct a straw poll, as everyone seemed to be in
agreement on a bottled water ban; Steve noted that there was no motion and past
discussions had included both a full and partial ban. Michele asked if there was a
contingency plan or if exceptions could be made in instances when the hydrants are
flushed or the water is not potable. David Eaton noted that a motion needed to be on the
table for the discussion to continue. Steve suggested the Board proceed with a vote since
it seemed that everyone was in agreement; Annie asked that everyone be allowed a turn
to speak. **Dave Rooney** stated that the university has provided bottled water to residents when it was not available in the residence halls, and has given it away during Open Houses, Move In Day, and other campus events; he asked that the ban be limited to the sale of bottled water not the distribution of the same. Lisa Mitten stated that although she had not researched it specifically, she was aware that other options exist for water distribution at campus events. **Diane** noted that box lunches provided by Sodexo typically contain a bottle of water; **Annie** suggested they provide vitamin water or flavored seltzer. **Brendan** emphasized the need to educate people about the ban and encourage them to bring their own water; **Steve** acknowledged that the change is likely to create frustration before it changes behavior.

Prof. Peter Brown addressed the Board speaking in favor of a complete ban of bottled water on campus and distributed handouts in support of his position, stating that it’s the responsible thing to do, and noting that the frustration should be manageable.

Prof. Kathleen Tobin addressed the Board speaking in favor of the ban and noting that students’ behavior supports the same. She also volunteered to be on a committee to help educate the campus about the ban.

Alex addressed the Board speaking in favor of the ban and noting that people will accept the situation and find a solution once they’re made aware of the ban. She also noted that New Paltz prides itself on being a sustainable campus and a bottled water ban would support this concept.

A motion was made by **David Eaton** to proceed with a total ban on bottled water; seconded by **Osato**. Discussion followed as follows:

**Osato:** Will we be able to distribute water bottles or water jugs during an emergency?

**Steve:** Both.

**David Eaton:** I would entertain an amendment that allows for the distribution of water in an emergency as prescribed by the Health and Safety Officer.

**Steve:** What if Residence Life or Athletics feel they have an emergency situation and request water, could we leave that up to CAS?

**Dave Rooney:** Do we need to be that specific; could we simply say in the event of a water emergency? Health and Safety would not be involved with a shut-off of water, they would only be involved if there was a contamination of water.

**Osato:** The language in the motion was suspending water bottles.

**Michele:** No, the motion was for a total ban but he is willing to accept an amendment.

**David Eaton:** Rather than starting with a motion full of exceptions, I started with a total ban and will allow the Board to work backwards.

**Dave Rooney:** I am not advocating for bottled water, but I cannot have a ban that is tied to the possibility that Residence Halls might not have access to drinkable water.

**Steve:** I believe an amendment to the motion to limit the ban to the sale of bottled water would be sufficient, and that would leave us free to distribute water during an emergency so it would never be tied to a profit incentive.
A motion was made by Osato to recognize Lisa Mitten; seconded by James. Discussion followed as follows:

Lisa: I feel there are loopholes with the word ‘sale’. Can CAS still purchase bottled water as an entity? Can Residence Life still purchase bottled water or does that have to go through the vending contract?
David Eaton: You can buy bottled water now through the operating budget.
Dave Rooney: The Corporation cannot mandate the operation of campus.
Steve: What is bringing this issue to the forefront right now is the fact that the pouring and vending contract is up, and we to make a decision about the sale of bottled water in order to complete and distribute the RFP.
Annie: Can we state in the RFP that we won’t be selling bottled water on campus?
Steve: Yes, we would state that we would not be selling bottled water in the retail shops or in vending machines.
David Eaton: This covers all corporation business, which includes Sodexo, the Bookstore, and vending machines.
Dave Rooney: Someone in the audience said lets do this with sales and worry about the eventualities later; I feel for the purpose of moving forward that’s a pretty wise idea.
Steve: Are you making a friendly amendment to the motion?
Dave Rooney: I’m agreeable to banning the sale of bottled water.
David Eaton: Which includes the distribution through food service, correct?
Dave Rooney: Yes.
David Eaton: I’ll accept that with that particular understanding.

Steve asked Janet to read back the original motion; she did. Steve stated that CAS does not have the authority to ban bottled water on campus; we can only ban the sale of the same, including what’s distributed through food service.

A motion was made by Osato to recognize Prof. Brian Obach; seconded by James. Discussion followed as follows:

Brian: Can I make a suggestion? This motion will ban the sale or distribution of bottled water except during water emergencies.
David Eaton: I accept that.
Michele: Can we distribute water during move-in day?
David Eaton: No.
Diane: Would that include graduation? We sold over 125 cases of water at graduation last year.
David Eaton: Yes.
David Eaton: I request a roll call vote.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion to ban the sale or distribution of bottled water on campus except during water emergencies. Voting aye: Dave Rooney, Michele Halstead, David Eaton, Kevin Saunders, Niza Cardona, Kristina Virgil, Osatohamwen Okundaye, James Auer, and Annie Courtens. Voting nay: None. The roll call vote was unanimous; the motion passed.
MINUTES:
Steve asked if there were any comments, corrections or additions to the Minutes from the November 12, 2014 meeting; there were none. A motion was made by David Eaton to accept the Minutes; seconded by Dave. The Minutes were unanimously accepted.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:
Steve asked if there were any questions regarding the Executive Director’s Report; there were none.

FINANCIAL REPORT:
Steve asked if there were any questions regarding the Financial Report; there were none.

WOOSTER:
Diane introduced her Marketing Manager, James McKenna, and his intern, Hayley, who discussed the proposed food service venue in Wooster and presented a power point regarding the same. Steve noted that the power point presentation would be made available upon request. In recognition of the building’s history as a science center, the venue will be known as ‘Element 93’, which is representative of the chemical known as Neptunium and abbreviated by the letters Np. The venue will feature science themed décor and offer freshly made soups, salads, artisan sandwiches, burgers, and specialty drinks with an ordering system similar to Panera, and should open in the fall of 2015. A suggestion was made by David Eaton to trade mark the venue’s name and logo.
Questions followed about utilizing meal exchanges and swipes at this location with Steve stating that meal plan discussions with Sodexo are in the preliminary stages and a decision on meal exchanges has not yet been made. He also noted that swipes have not been used successfully anywhere outside of HDH due to the perceived lack of value by the consumer; he believes an increase in Dining Dollars might be a better option. Lisa Mitten encouraged the Board to increase the amount of real and local food offered in conjunction with any increase in meal plan prices, citing Bard College as an example.
Dave Rooney reminded her that Bard is a private college where the meal plan is twice as expensive and New Paltz is a State University with an entirely different genre of students. Kevin suggested the Meal Plan Committee discuss the issue and then bring it back before the Board; Steve noted that the committee deals with meal plan issues not development. He advised the Board that he had met with Sodexo regarding meal plan changes and would be discussing the proposals with Dave Rooney shortly; they will bring the discussion back in front of the full Board or a committee of the Board if needed.

Steve informed the Board that the space previously designated as a dining venue on the second level of Wooster was being handed off to Facilities to redesign into a student lounge; Dave Rooney stated that this was in done in consideration of the fact that Wooster will be an academic corridor and there was a greater need for a student lounge than a second dining venue.

BAKERY:
Steve reminded the Board that CAS was losing space for the bakery as a result of the total renovation of the Service Building, adding that the Contract with Sodexo
specifically stated that bakery space would be provided. **Diane** noted that 4 full time personnel typically worked from 1 am to 11 am to produce all baked goods on campus except sliced bread, pizza dough, and certain specialty items. **Steve** informed the Board that they considered utilizing the kitchens at HDH and SU, or spending $700K to renovate an off campus rental space, but decided these were not viable options. Recently he attended a conference in Montreal and was made aware of a company that builds modular kitchen units off premise and delivers them fully functional and ready to attach to existing utilities and/or to an existing building; the name of the company is Kitchens to Go. He was impressed with the speed and quality of the units they produce, as well as the expense in comparison to stick built construction; adding that he had received permission from the Administration to put a modular bakery unit on the west side of the Terrace but would like Board approval as well. **Steve** stated that both the State and Facilities allow the use of modular units on campus, noting that the view and patio at the Terrace would be preserved and there would be minimal impact to parking. Renderings were presented with **Diane** noting that the unit would provide 2700 sq. ft. of space; include all of the equipment they wanted and needed; would eliminate the need for Sodexo to out source anything; would allow them to save 4 jobs and create 3 more; they would be able to operate around the clock; and they could make everything from scratch with more local and sustainable ingredients. **Steve** estimated the budget for this project to be between $950K and $1.2 million dollars and sought approval to give a deposit to Kitchens to Go and proceed as quickly as possible.

A motion was made by **David Eaton** to approve a budget of up to $1.2 million to secure a modular kitchen unit; seconded by **Niza**.

Discussion followed with **Diane** stating that today was the last day of operation for the bakery, and moving forward they will need to outsource from 3 different vendors until bakery space is secured. **Steve** stated that the modular unit should be operational by February or March, and would provide everything we want and need with no downside other than the cost, which will be recovered over time.

**Steve** Called the Question; the vote was unanimous; the motion was approved.

**ADJOURNMENT:**
The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.