Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
May 13, 2015
SU 407

Attendees: Steve Deutsch  Corinna Caracci
          L. David Eaton  Kevin Saunders
          Niza Cardona  Kristina Virgil
          Daniel Brogan  Osatohamwen Okundaye
          Jesse Ginsburg  James Auer
          Annie Courtens

Others Present: Melinda Cirillo

Recording Secretary: Janet M. Cosh

Call to Order: 10:38 a.m.

MINUTES:
Steve asked if there were any comments, questions, corrections or additions regarding the Minutes from the May 13, 2015 meeting; James noted the omission of his name from the attendees listed. The Minutes were unanimously accepted with the noted change.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
There was no public comment.

BUDGET:
Steve thanked the members of the Budget Committee including Corinna whose name was omitted from the listing on the Table of Contents Page. He confirmed that everyone had received a copy of the Budget and reviewed the same, noting the following:

- A 2% increase has been budgeted for wage increases.
- A 10% increase is expected in medical benefit costs; this is included in Fringe Benefits.
- The bottom half of page 4 outlines expenses that are allocated to revenue shown on the top half of the page.
- There was a large increase in revenue and expenses.
- Meal plan prices are increasing by 5%; Dining Dollars were increased across the board; and HDH swipes will only be good at HDH but convenience meals will be available in Ridgeview.
- The opening of Ridgeview Hall will result in the addition of 240 meal plans.
- Sodexo will net less this year than last.
- CAS netted $1.5M this year but this amount is expected to drop to $1M next year.
- CAS expenses include construction costs associated with a new bakery; the conversion of Back Street Café to Starbucks in Parker Theatre; a coffee kiosk or café in STL; a café in Ridgeview; and a dining venue in Wooster.
- Technology expenses increased with the introduction of Tapingo; CAS plans to continue to offer this or a similar type of mobile ordering service.
- CAS is continuing efforts to expand the composting program.
- A comparison of SUNY campus meal plan prices is shown on page 8; dining dollars were deducted from the cost of our meal plan for comparison purposes. The cost reduction shown reflects the increase in value resulting from the added Dining Dollars.
- Bookstore operation details are shown on Page 9; $2M in revenue is expected to increase the bottom line by $75K.
- Page 11 reflects a conservative estimate of vending/pouring sales resulting from a change in vendors; and the vendor’s projected commissions reflect the anticipated impact on commissions resulting from the ban of bottled water sales on campus.
- Shop 24 sales continue to increase.
- Laundry fees are increasing due to the construction of Ridgeview Hall; CAS will continue to remit $5 per student to Residence Life.
- OAS costs and expenses increased slightly due to door access upgrades, personnel changes, and lost conference revenue attributable to increased selectivity.
- Last year OAS had a net loss of $177K, this year it was $157K.
- Programming allocations were increased from $293K to $300K this year. In an effort to simplify the application and approval process percentages were assigned to all 11 Block Grants, 4 of which submitted reports this year. Moving forward, reports will be required from everyone and support will continue or be adjusted as deemed necessary.
- Contributions CAS makes back to the college are listed on Page 19.
- A list of the 10 recipients of the $575 Jim Frederick’s Scholarship appears on page 21.

Questions and discussion followed with it being ascertained that CAS was not associated with nor making any contribution towards renovations at the AWC; CAS has and will continue to donate jugs of water to the AWC; Programming amounts cannot be adjusted this year or separated out from the Budget; and monies raised in conjunction with the Doug Sheppard Golf Tournament go into a scholarship fund.

A motion was made by David Eaton to adopt the 2015-16 Budget as presented; seconded by Kevin. There was no discussion. The vote was unanimous; the Budget was adopted as presented.

**EMERGENCY FINANCIAL AID REQUEST:**
David Eaton addressed the Board, informing them that CAS had previously donated approximately $10K to assist students facing circumstances that could interfere with the continuation of their college education; circumstances included the aftereffects of Hurricane Irene and Super Storm Sandy, as well as the loss of employment, terminal illness or death of a parent. He explained that these funds were distributed as scholarship monies at the discretion of the Director of Financial Aid who subsequently provided a report to the Board outlining the amount and circumstances of the award while preserving the student’s identity. David stated that the funds were exhausted quickly and he was seeking Board approval to replenish the fund with an additional contribution of $15K.
A motion was made by Corinna to make a one time donation of $15K to the Financial Aid Office to assist students facing circumstances which might interfere with the continuation of their education, said funds to be distributed at the discretion of the Director of Financial Aid who will report back to the Board as needed or requested; seconded by Niza. There was no discussion. The vote was unanimous.

**PEPSI MARKETING MONIES:**
Annie addressed the Board, noting that $12K of the $40K Pepsi Marketing Fund had been used to retrofit water fountains with gooseneck faucets and last year the Board approved the reallocation of the remaining balance to the campus garden project. She expressed concern the reallocation might not benefit all students and discussed using some of the remaining funds to pilot a Garden Coordinator position for the next 2 years, noting that the Garden Coordinator would be a CAS employee who would act as a liaison between faculty, administration, and CAS; oversee internships and independent studies; and incorporate sustainable agriculture into the curriculum. Steve noted that something similar had been done for the Farmer’s Market, which was a 20 hour position. David Eaton asked that a list of objectives be established.

A motion was made by Annie to reallocate the balance remaining in the Pepsi Marketing Fund to pilot a position for a Garden Coordinator; seconded by James.

Discussion as followed:

Kevin: Is the water fountain project complete? Can anything more be done? If so, where will that money come from? I remember concerns being raised about the water quality when we voted.
Annie: I believe it was discussed but ultimately it’s the responsibility of FOC to monitor the water quality.
Kevin: It was to address the perception of the fountain water quality after the bottled water ban took effect.
David Eaton: I recall there was a piece of equipment or filter available but it couldn’t be done affordably; it cost around $3K and required maintenance and filter replacements. I also believe we are dealing with a myth and I don’t think it’s prudent to spend money dealing with a ‘perception’ when we have access to the best water in the Northeast.
Steve: Is this a sustainable business? No, it provides a service similar to the Farmer’s Market. There is a philosophical debate as to whether that’s fair, especially since a student run garden hasn’t proven itself manageable. I’m cautious and would suggest we try this as a pilot program with no long-term commitment; if the Sustainable Agriculture club doesn’t take it over within 2 years then we shouldn’t continue providing this service.
Annie: I believe it will connect the academic departments and provide worthwhile internships. The chefs are also very interested in growing herbs and using items from the garden in dining services.
Steve: Do you have a list of potential candidates?
Annie: I’m looking for someone who might be retired or out of school; is from the area; and has a passion for sustainability. It would be ideal to have a hiring committee
made up of students, faculty, and CAS employees.
Steve: Who will coordinate the interviews and filling the position?
Annie: The Sustainable Agriculture Club has a team in place.

Discussion ended. The vote was unanimous; the motion passed.

**HOUSEKEEPING:**
Steve reminded everyone of the Employee Appreciation party which was being held on Mon., May 18th at 2:30pm in HDH.

**ADJOURNMENT:**
The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.