Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
March 14th, 2018
SU 418

Attendees:  Steve Deutsch  Niza Cardona
Dariana Almeyda  Isabell Hayes
Stephanie Blaisdell  L. David Eaton
Michele Halstead  Fred Destefano
Corinna Caracci

Others Present:  Melinda Cirillo, Ryan Goodwin

Recording Secretary:  Faathyma Clark

Call to Order:  10:35 a.m.

Unanimous Approval February Board Minutes and Agenda.

Renting reusable silverware
Isabelle mentioned that they are writing the legislation for the student senate and they were discussing the possibility of using reusable products during student events. She asked if student groups could rent silverware from Hasbrouck for events and use their budget to rent rather than using their budget to buy disposable products. Ryan said it would be no problem but a lot of his utensils get stolen so inventory fluctuates. Steve asked how much they spend a year to replace the stolen utensils. Ryan explained it is about $3,000 a year to replace. Corinna mentioned that at the end of each semester they create repurpose bins for students to put items in, she could have a bin for students to put Hasbrouck utensils in. Isabelle explained that if the rentals are going through a club then you would know who to charge when utensils are not brought back. Ryan said they would only charge for items not returned. They would do an inventory out and inventory in. David mentioned the idea to use biodegradable products for catering. Could Sodexo price out biodegradable products? They could talk about it at senate and to fac/staff to see if they are willing to pay the extra. Ryan stated that they have priced it out and surveys have shown that price is a point of contention for most students.

Dariana asked if the slide show that explained the breakdown of meal plan pricing could be sent to her so that she could explain it to students. Melinda explained the slide show was to explain the budget and why we took away declining balance, it may not answer the questions students are asking. Steve stated meal plan prices have to factor in the prices of the corporation as a whole, it is a complex formula. The slideshow may not satisfy the students. CAS and Sodexo are always available to answer any questions.
Isabelle asked how much it would cost for biodegradable products. Ryan explained he is not definite, but it would be roughly 5%-7% increase. He also stated that they are not the most durable products, they have had issues using them at Element 93. Isabelle suggested starting to use them at catering events like these Board meetings. SA will start the legislation for rental of Hasbrouck utensils. Ryan said that is not a problem, but they need to get returned. If it does not work out it will need to change. Corinna suggested maybe having students submit a deposit prior to rental. Then when things aren’t returned they will take that from the deposit. Steve mentioned that it would have to be written in the legislation that the responsibility would be on the students.

Sodexo Satisfaction Surveys
Ryan stated that they received 928 surveys with an overall satisfaction of 81.51% with food service. Starbucks has the highest satisfaction at 95%. There are also over 25 pages of comments to go through. Thinking of ways to improve Hasbrouck, which is hard because of how dated the layout is. The food has improved a great deal and they are always holding events. Today Marist will be there along with another school to compete with Hasbrouck and have students vote for the best dish. Steve asked if there are other concepts in Sodexo to turn residential dining into more retail but stay residential. Ryan stated not really without changing meal plans. Hasbrouck has a 1967 feel and needs to be updated. Corinna suggested putting art near the hotline. Ryan said it needs a larger plan. Art won’t last especially with the grease near the hotline. Steve stated maybe a redo of Hasbrouck could be in the plans for our next large project. UMass Amherst has a fantastic setup that really improves the experience but serves food that is less quality than what Hasbrouck serves. Stephanie asked if when Sodexo does the surveys do they benchmark to any other schools. Ryan stated they are benchmarked with North America. Stephanie stated that students universally complain about food and parking no matter what. Ryan explained they are not perfect but rate better than 50% of the other Sodexo operations.

Construction Updates
Melinda explained they are getting down to testing hookups and equipment in the bakery. They are almost fully installed there are some delays due to differing opinions. Steve stated it is moving forward and will be ready for fall.

Blind Vending
Michele explained that old legislation states that blind vendors are entitled to have a first right of refusal or presence on state property. Up until now New Paltz had been successful at keeping them away from CAS because CAS is not technically a state agent, but they are on state land. However, now their legal team is coming after SUNY and trying to either take some of their money or take over the operations. The legal team for SASA and The Business Officers Association are pushing back. If blind vending is successful it would be taking student scholarship money and putting it into other agencies.

OAS Changes
Steve explained that Christine is very sick, but CAS has been receiving good news from her. Carrie Wykoff has joined the team. OAS if fully staffed with a solid staff and moral is high. Niza stated that Nancy Richardson has stepped up and did a fantastic job supporting student accounts greatly! Nancy is a pleasure to work with.

Steve stated that the next meeting there will be a new proposal for the Roost.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:59am.