

Minutes
Board of Director's Meeting
December 11th, 2019
SUB 418

Attendees:	Steve Deutsch	Kevin Saunders
	Melinda Cirillo	Fred Destefano
	Michele Halstead	Clare Del Grosso
	Stephanie Blaisdell	Matthew Kreuz
	Corinna Caracci	Taijah Pink
	L. David Eaton	Liam Farrell
	Niza Cardona	Kevin Dicey
	Brian Obach	

Others Present: Lisa Mitten & Student Ambassadors: Shahnoor, Emily and Tevin

Recording Secretary: Jacqueline Pascar

Call to order: 10:08 am

Approval of agenda and the minutes recorded from the previous meeting on November 13, 2019.

Open Comments

Kevin announced that he would like to thank CAS on behalf of EAP for their donation of beverages toward the Cookie Exchange and Bake-Off scheduled to take place on December 19 in SUB 62/63 from 11:00am – 1:30pm.

ED Report

Steve announced that a one-time donation of \$15,000 made through the Sodexo Better Tomorrow Fund was given to the Emergency Scholarship Program. **Steve** noted that donation requests have been down the last two years. He further explained that, “before [the fund] gets piled up too much, we thought the best way to relieve it is to give the money directly back to students through the Emergency Scholarship Fund.” **Brian** ask how much is funded by Sodexo. **Steve** stated that the corporation receives \$100,000 annually which rolls over from year to year. **Brian** questioned if CAS keeps the remaining balance at the end of the contract or if it goes back to Sodexo. **Steve** believed that the funding will go back to Sodexo at the end of the contract in 2023 and reiterated that “...we just want to keep [the balance] current to this year”. **Steve** asked if there were any additional questions. There were none.

Steve noted that Peregrine Dining Hall opened early on December 1 because of the college’s decision to allow students to return a day early in order to avoid hazardous weather conditions. Since the extra day of dining services was not included in the daily board count for the semester, the college was billed \$15,000. **Steve** announced that “as part of doing business on campus”, the corporation would absorb the cost. In regard to the dining hall renovation project, **Steve** estimated that the corporation will contribute between \$5 million and \$10 million. After stating that the project will not take place within the next 5 years, **Steve** explained that “critical infrastructure work” needs to be completed in the kitchen of the dining hall in order to provide quality services. He mentioned that, “We want to replace the kettles, we want to replace more refrigeration, and it's not as simple as just buying the equipment.

We actually have to make changes to the building, because the building is very old.” The infrastructure work is estimated to cost into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. **Steve** stated that he would start the paperwork.

Steve asked the board to vote on donating \$4,710,717 to the College that was spent on the bakery project. He explained the process: “we spend the money and then donate all of the capital, everything that's in the bakery, to the College and it then becomes the College's property.” **Matt** moved to open the vote. **Brian** seconded. **Steve** welcomed an open discussion. **Brian** asked if CAS owns the bakery now. **Steve** confirmed that it's on the corporation's books. **Melinda** clarified that the \$4.7 million to be donated only covers the design and engineering costs related to the project. **Michele** restated that the capital improvement to the dining hall, which is state property, was funded by CAS and currently remains on their account records. The donation to the State University's infrastructure fund will transfer the accounting records from the corporation's books to the State's books. **Steve** asked if there was any more discussion on the motion. There were no additional comments. **Steve** asked if all were in favor of the donation. The motion passed unanimously.

In regard to the dining hall renovation project, **Brian** asked that “we're going to do several hundred thousand dollars' worth of renovations, and then a few years later do a several million dollars' worth of renovation?” **Steve** confirmed that is the situation and welcomed **Kevin Dicey** to explain the work that needs to be done in the dining hall. **Kevin** emphasized flooring issues that arise from having a kitchen on the second floor. He explained that the major pieces of equipment needed are not “huge expenditures... but to replace those pieces of equipment past history has come up that the floor can't sustain the weight.” **Kevin** noted that his discussions with **Steve** and **Melinda** have revolved around the question of “How much do we want to invest if we're going to move or do a huge project?” With the help from design companies, the necessary equipment upgrades will remain mobile in order to relocate for the dining hall renovation in the future. **Kevin** reiterated major uncertainty with the infrastructure by explaining “To replace those refrigerators is minimal costs, but our fear is finding out what's going to happen to the wall? The same thing is that when we take out these big kettles that don't work. They're basically just taking up space in the kitchen, but we need them to meet the needs of the community that when we rip them off of the floor, what's going to happen to that floor?” **Kevin** concluded that it's difficult to determine which equipment can last longer when there's not a project date in mind, but with the 5 – 7 year estimation “we just don't have the ability to meet the needs of 3,000 plus students in that dining hall kitchen at the current time.”

Steve emphasized that the real expense is not the equipment, “but digging up the floors and putting in the electricity and fixing the plumbing is going to be expensive.” **Brian** asked if all of the work will be demolished when the dining hall renovation takes place. **Steve** stated that he does not know. **Michele** explained that there are a lot of unknowns even in the facilities department and stated that “We always do our best to preserve what we've already invested in. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't.” **Steve** commented that whether the dining hall project happens in 5 years or 10 years, the kitchen currently has 1 functioning soup kettle out of 3, and the refrigeration is gone. **Melinda** mentioned that the one kettle that is still working was replaced during the bakery project. She further explained that the \$12,000 for a new kettle increases to a final cost of \$40,000 with the addition of the infrastructure work behind it. **Steve** stated that he would begin paperwork and report back to the board once he is given a project cost estimate.

Steve concluded by highlighting the events that have recently taken place in Peregrine including the Thanksgiving Dinner, the Holiday Dinner and the most recent Wild Wild West Study Break. **Steve** asked those who attended how the event went. **Corinna** said she loved it. **Stephanie** complimented the menu and the atmosphere, but noted that there was a line to get in which may have been caused from the dining services shutdown from 8pm – 10pm. **Steve** mentioned there was also a line for the Holiday Dinner which started at 4:45pm and stated that “I think people are genuinely excited for these kind of events.” **Steve** asked **Kevin** to announce the next event that will take place in January.

Kevin announced that the dining hall will have monthly events starting with a beach party in January. He explained that, “History has shown that when you build excitement, you get the “wow” effect. So, having that shutdown and letting [students] line up is not a bad thing.” **Kevin** also noted that the dining hall typically serves 125-150 people during late night dining, while the study break event served about 750 people. **Kevin** thanked the administrative staff for volunteering and commented that “I think the students appreciated seeing you all.” **Steve** thanked **Kevin**.

Niza shared her recent experience with Sodexo catering, after not being able to host her annual staff breakfast at the College Diner since it closed. **Niza** noted the affordability and stated that “maybe if campus knows a little bit more about what our catering offers, people might be more inclined to do something right here on campus.” **Steve** stated that it’s best done by word of mouth and asked if there were any more questions about the executive director’s report. **Pink** asked what renovations are being done to the Snack Shack. **Melinda** stated that the machines will be on a truck on December 16th and delivered to campus by December 18th. **Melinda** explained that “Unfortunately there are some things and logistics that have to be worked out. We’re hoping to have it open by the time students come back for the Spring semester.” **Michele** asked if there would be new machines, but the same products sold. **Melinda** confirmed. **Michele** asked if there would be a suggestion box for items to put in the vending machines. **Melinda** explained that the initial items are based on sale records, “But as soon as that planogram comes to fruition, we’ll start to decide what else we can put in there.” **Steve** mentioned that dining services will be stocking the machines “so there should be some format for a direct line of communication so that you know what product people want.” **Kevin Dicey** suggested that people can communicate through the comment boards in the SUB and on social media. **Pink** stated that the machine also has its own twitter account. **Melinda** mentioned that the Snack Shack will accept dining dollars, hawk dollars, and Visa/Mastercard. Cash will no longer be accepted due to previous machine issues that occurred if cash was not continuously refilled. **Melinda** concluded by announcing that there will be a ramp to the machine in order for it to be ADA compliant.

Pink stated that providing feminine hygiene products in the campus vending machines was a topic of discussion in a recent Student Association meeting. **Melinda** asked **Pink** to send her an email so Triple J can fill the machines. **Melinda** explained that “I know I have some of the products in the dining hall and they’re more than happy to accommodate you guys. Just let me know what you need.”

Clare shared a student’s difficulty with finding halal food on campus that was recently brought to her attention. **Clare** asked if it’s already available or if there’s a way it could become more readily available on campus. **Kevin Dicey** noted that a small group of students had requested for halal food during the semester and that Dining Services and CAS have handled the requests as “individual cases”. **Kevin** stated that frozen halal meals are offered at the Roost and the SUB and explained that “we try to make fiscally responsible, universal decisions based on the community as a whole.” **Kevin** said that he or Marie Murphy would be willing to sit down with the student to evaluate the situation and make decisions moving forward. **Clare** thanked **Kevin**.

Matt explained that a student had reported a bottle of cream they had purchased which appeared to be expired even though the listed date stated otherwise. **Kevin Dicey** responded that if reported to a manager, the student can easily get a refund. **Kevin** was glad that the product was not expired and continued to explain the concern with milk and produce transportation during the winter. He explained that “if cream or milk freezes and thaws back out, it will immediately curdle because of the fats in a milk product.” **Kevin** apologized and told **Matt** to have the student bring back the product to either get a new bottle or a refund. **Steve** reminded everyone that the board typically addresses higher level issues. Negative individual dining experiences, can be brought directly to him and/or **Kevin**. **Steve** asked if there were any more questions or concerns with the executive director’s report. The answer was no.

Judith Enck Lecture

Steve welcomed **Lisa Mitten** and the student ambassadors to speak about Judith Enck, the teleconference with her and the possibility of bringing her to campus in the Spring. **Shahnoor** introduced herself, **Tevin** and **Emily** as a few of the ambassadors from the Campus’s Sustainability Implementation Team and explained their goal of presenting the importance of bringing Judith Enck to campus. Judith Enck is the leader of Beyond Plastics, an environmental initiative which began at Bennington College. **Shahnoor** noted that Enck has a lot of important ideas and initiatives that can make the campus of New Paltz much more sustainable. New Paltz currently incorporates 17 sustainable development goals into policy decisions with the hope to reduce the use of plastic overall on campus. These goals include responsible consumption, production and climate change. **Shahnoor** expressed that “we urge you to understand the importance that this campus become much more sustainable than is currently is,” and concluded with a few conditions that Judith Enck requested for her visit. The conditions include: a minimum of 100 people will attend the event, media is invited as much as possible, and lastly that a fee of \$2,500 is provided.

Emily reiterated that Judith Enck is “well-versed in the effects that plastic has on the environment,” and explained that Enck would be able to enlighten the community with the current environmental issues. **Emily** noted that “8 million tons of plastic are entering our oceans every year,” and that there is a garbage patch in the Pacific Ocean roughly the size of Texas. **Emily** continued to explain negative impact on ocean animals and stated that “by 2025, for every 3 pounds of fish, there will be 1 pound of plastic in the ocean.” **Steve** mentioned the advances in tracing amounts of plastic in fish and commented that, “We’re all going to be eating plastic. We are already eating plastic.”

Tevin explained that “There are twice as many micro plastics in bottled than in tap water, which is a huge reason why we should try to have students use more of the water fountains on campus rather than providing bottled water.” **Emily** noted the lining of certain food packaging also contains plastic and emphasized that “what we’re trying to do is educate the student body by bringing Judith here, because this is what her life’s work is.” **Tevin** explained that the biggest issues on campus include the use of plastic bags, plastic straws and polystyrene which is most commonly known as Chinese food takeout containers. **Tevin** emphasized that “we can’t really recycle our way out of these problems,” noting that only 2 out of the 7 types of common plastics make it to recycling centers. The remaining 5 plastics usually end up in landfills. With state and town legislature making more of an effort to ban plastic products and hold companies more liable, **Tevin** expressed the importance of having an environmental advocate speak to the community of New Paltz.

Steve clarified that Judith Enck's visit would tie into a town hall discussion about the "future of single use plastics or all materials on campus." **Steve** mentioned Enck's support for aluminum cans over single use plastics and explained that, "Ultimately, we're talking about changing behavior and getting students and the rest of the campus community to depend less on single use items." **Steve** asked that the board uses Judith's visit as an opportunity for the community to voice their opinions. In terms of beverages sold on campus, **Steve** emphasized that the community will have the opportunity to speak openly which will tie in with the RFP for the new beverage contract. **Brian** asked when that will happen. **Melinda** stated that the contact renewal will be in August. **Steve** said that the RFP committee will start to meet in January or February.

Steve asked if there were any questions about having Judith Enck visit New Paltz. **Brian** mentioned that getting at least 100 people to attend should not be an issue. **Stephanie** asked what the timeframe would be. **Tevin** said they were planning for Judith to visit during the first or second week of February, which lines up with the Sustainability Goals Week. **Stephanie** explained that "...I see it being a popular event for the people who already know this information," and asked if the sustainability group could partner with other groups to expand the outreach. **Tevin** agreed. **Clare** offered for RHSA to help promote the event. She mentioned the idea of giving out hall points as an incentive for residents to attend. **Brian** asked if the town hall discussion would be directly tied in with Enck's visit. **Steve** said that he would like Judith to be a part of the discussion since she offered to spend several hours on campus.

In terms of promoting the event, **Emily** noted that there are a lot of media outlets through New Paltz. **Tevin** mentioned their plan to use Engage in order to reach out to all of the campus clubs and organizations. **Clare** suggested that the student ambassadors could also contact professors to potentially offer extra credit to their students that attend. **Stephanie** offered to promote Judith's visit to faculty at the faculty meeting later in the day or during the faculty summit meeting on February 5th. **Michele** stated that the lecture could be held on a Wednesday during the day when LC100 is not used for classes. **Lisa Mitten** said that during the week that they planned for Judith to visit, she is available on Monday, Tuesday, in the afternoon on Friday or during the evening of those three days. **Michele** suggested that the ambassadors begin working with Molly Karanikolas to schedule a room, because "other than [LC100] the only other venues big enough would be MPR or Elting."

Brian asked whether daytime or evening would work better for the lecture. **Pink** explained that evening times would work better since the majority of students are done with classes by 5:00pm. **Niza** commented that evening would also work better if the goal is to extend the invite to members of the community. **Corinna** suggested partnering with Sodexo to promote any sustainable products that are currently provided on campus. **Steve** commented that though catering would be at an expense to the corporation, it is a good idea. As an event that would be paid out of the Better Tomorrow Fund, **Steve** explained that a board vote is not needed. However, he wanted the student ambassadors to "come and present to the board just to make sure that everybody was on board." **Steve** thanked the board and concluded the meeting by reminding board members to stop by the CAS Holiday Party on Friday, December 20 from 4pm – 6pm in the College Terrace. **Steve** asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Michele** motioned. **Pink** seconded.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:45 am