

**Minutes**  
**December Board of Director's Meeting**  
February 13th, 2023  
SUB 414

**Attendees:** Steve Deutsch Fred DeStefano  
Melinda Cirillo Rachel Rigolino  
Michele Halstead Michael Cavaliere  
Mazee Simpson Brian Obach  
Corinna Caracci  
Abby Selnick  
Kevin Saunders

**Others Present:**

**Recording Secretary:** Dan Gastin

**Call to order:** 1: 00 PM

**Unanimous approval of agenda and December 5, 2022 minutes.**

**Bookstore Operations Update**

**Steve** opened the meeting by informing the board that CAS hired an outside consultant to analyze the bookstore's inclusive access program and compare it to the nation-wide programs being used by other institutions. Another aspect of the analysis will help determine the bidding process for the contract, in addition to how each segment of the business will be offered on the market to bidders. **Steve** mentioned this process will begin this week as there will be meetings with the Bookstore Access Program Working Group and the Bookstore RFP Committee tomorrow, February 14<sup>th</sup>. **Brian** asked, "Will the consultant be at the meetings this week?" **Steve** replied, "Yes." Next, **Steve** emphasized the "cash and staffing crunch" being felt by Sean in the bookstore which places a limit on the amount of student workers being hired, in addition to the tight margins that's affecting other competitors such as Barnes & Noble. This led **Abby** to ask, "Is this employee shortage going to be addressed by hiring more students?" **Steve** replied, "This will be looked at as it's stretching staff and impacting service." Michelle asked a clarifying question about if Sean "is stretched thin for hands," which **Steve** said Follett is reducing the amount of funding to Sean's team which prevents him from hiring student workers. **Melinda** also added, "the Follett contract doesn't specify the number of employees needed for campus, just the number of hours." **Corinna** followed up by suggesting if there could be a program to help students, such as book discounts or internship credit, but **Rachel** highlighted the need of an academic to provide the credit to the student. However, **Abby** recommended the involvement of the Career Resource Center to help determine a way for credit to be awarded. **Steve** appreciated the suggestion and said the area will be explored.

**Reusable Container Program Update**

**Steve** segued into the reusable container initiative on campus, he said people are still paying for paper containers at a high rate. To help provide a clearer picture, **Steve** asked Mike to provide a deeper dive into the program. **Mike** opened by explaining the program's purpose and the process of how students obtain gold coins to use to obtain the reusable containers or forego the coins and pay one dollar to use the paper containers. **Steve** added, the program is not being utilized enough as there's only a "31% success rate of container usage." This prompted **Steve** to highlight the "unfelt hit" students take when opting for paper containers as only one dollar is charged to their meal plan versus physically paying for

the paper container on the spot. To make the students more aware, **Steve** recommended making the students more cognizant by upping the charge, which led **Mazee** to respond, “That might not be a good idea because some students might not be able to afford it.” **Abigail** also raised the issue of the shortage of containers in the dining hall and at Element 93. **Mike** responded, “We discussed the container shortage and distribution problem amongst the eateries and have ordered more containers, but we do have enough containers to fulfill the orders being placed.” **Mike** also added, he and the team will investigate the feasibility of linking the coin to the student accounts or any digitization possibilities to make the program more appealing (which is a point **Kevin** raised during the discussion). **Steve** reiterated the lack of participation urgency from those on campus and felt increasing the charge might not be enough, which prompted **Abigail** to say that there is a small population who asks during weekly Resident Life meetings about what can be done and suggested working with Eco Allies and the Sustainability Ambassadors on campus. This suggestion prompted **Mike** to highlight the ongoing efforts from the sustainability marketing interns, which includes a social media video focusing on the food service sustainability efforts and its impact. **Michele** then asked, “Are student just forgetting the containers as a result of convenience?” **Michele’s** question sparked a discussion on if the locations of the machines should change to make the return process more convenient, which led **Mike** to suggest Peregrine Dining Hall and outside Starbucks in Parker Quad as the new locations. A concern with this idea is the frequency of servicing, which **Melinda** raised a point of servicing the machines daily to avoid animal interactions. **Mazee** then offered a new location suggestion of The Roost, instead of Peregrine Dining Hall, given the frequency of visits from students and its location campus.

As important as the machines’ locations are on campus, the usage of the machines needs to increase. To bolster participation, the idea of an incentive program was suggested by **Steve**, but he asked the group how it could be tracked. This led to **Mazee** and **Abigail** raising for concerns of prize selections and suggested staggered rewards to different usage populations as some students might use the containers less frequently than others. To help raise awareness of the program, **Melinda** suggested, “At Element 93, what if we created a special menu solely focusing on foods only using the reusable containers?” The idea was well received, and **Abigail** raised the concern of complications for those who might have certain food allergies. Before progressing the meeting, **Steve** asked if there was anything else CAS-related he should bring up at the next Sustainability Meeting with the President’s Office in which **Brian** responded, “Is there anything we can do about the insufficient recycling areas around campus?” This topic led to **Abby** suggesting the initiative to move away from the usage of plastic bags when packing online book orders from the bookstore, in which **Corinna** said there could be an implementation of reusable bags as there was an initiative a few years ago where the college ordered reusable bags and distributed them.

### **Composting & Food Recovery Initiative**

**Kevin** inquired about the composting initiative on campus, which developed into the next meeting topic. **Mike** said there’s “a little uptick” in the program and highlighted how his team can track certain waste types (e.g., meat scraps) and measure the amount of food waster across campus. **Brian** then asked if there is a lot of food waste across campus in which **Steve** replied, “Yes, a lot of food is being received by the dish room when students return their dishes, but that food is eventually composted.” **Mike** followed up with a statistic of 6,500 tons of food was composted in January, which was an eye-opener for those in the room. **Steve** followed up by asking **Mike** about the food recovery processes he and his team are practicing, and **Mike** said, “Ron has made contact with Feed Hudson Valley and we’re looking to have a stronger relationship with the program to deliver food to those who need it.” **Brian** inquired about what food items are salvageable and **Mike** replied, “The overproduction during dinner is a big contributor; we

cool the food down and refrigerate it so we can easily send it out to be distributed. In addition, we save produce, and pre-made items (e.g., wraps). But the biggest factor is active management daily as there is a time crunch when saving the food." Abigail followed up by informing the group of the RHSA Food Concerns Meeting being held on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 9 PM and encouraged all to attend to listen to the students' concerns. Since the discussion topic was surrounding students, **Steve** reminded the group of the Peregrine Interns who run social events (e.g., karaoke) in the dining hall and wanted to have an evaluation of their efforts outside of CAS that included a review board that involved students.

Before closing the meeting, **Steve** checked in with those on the Jim Fredericks Review Board and Budget Committee to see if they were still interested in being involved with the respective processes. **Mazee** then asked, "How's it going in Peregrine with dietary concerns with food labeling?" **Mike** responded, "We are currently meeting with a vegan student bi-weekly to address concerns. As a result of this, the signage has improved and we have provided more variety in the dining hall, specifically at Veggin' Out at the 360 Grill." Before adjourning, **Steve** posed an idea of appointing "a point person" who is awarded a scholarship of some sorts who is the voice of those with dietary needs on campus.

Meeting adjourned: 1:58 PM