

Minutes
Annual Meeting
October 11th, 2023

Attendees: Steve Deutsch
Melinda Cirillo
Michele Halstead
Abby Selnick
Corinna Carracci
Rachel Rigolino
Michael Cavaleri
Faith Grant
Brian Obach
AnnaLynn DiMarco

Others present:

Recording Secretary: Melinda Cirillo

Call to Order: 3:03 pm

Agenda

Steve welcomes members to the CAS board meeting and asks the members to go around and introduce themselves and their role on campus. The members state their respective positions and **Steve** briefly introduces the agenda of the annual meeting which will proceed the regular October meeting. **Steve** moves to begin electing committee members.

Committees

Steve begins by electing a parliamentarian, which was unanimously voted to be Brian Obach. **Steve** then turns the focus of the election to the budget committee.

Budget Committee

Steve begins by noting that the budget committee is likely the most impactful of all the committees. **Steve** gives a preliminary description of what being a member of the budget committee entails stating, "the 3 members will work with myself and Melinda in the spring semester to set the budget." **Steve** continues by noting that the position involves two in person meetings and some email correspondence and emphasizes a desire for students to be on the committee. **Steve** asks for volunteers: Abbey, Michele, and Corinna do so.

Jim Fredricks Scholarship Committee

Steve begins by notifying the members of the urgency of this committee to get to work immediately due to scholarships already coming in. **Steve** then describes the role of a committee member, which entails selecting 10 students out of 20-30 applicants to receive a scholarship. The recipients have to be employed by one of the services that CAS offers. **Steve** asks if there are any volunteers. Abbey and Faith raise their hands.

Investment Committee

Steve moves to the investment committee which he explains is one position: Ex Officio.

Student Concerns Advocate

Steve introduces a new CAS position of student concerns advocate, which will pay via waiving their meal plan to represent the students concerns in formal meetings with Mike and himself every 2 weeks. Agendas for these meetings will be to discuss issues and to put together group meetings for students to address concerns with dining. This will be the first semester that CAS has this position, however **Steve** notes that they have been working with Isabelle for a year who has also been connecting with sustainability ambassadors focusing on its relation to food. **Steve** explains that the advocate will not have to let him know their interest now, but if they were interested in working with Isabelle on that matter, that option will be available to them.

Programming Funds Committee

Steve begins by asking fellow members if there needs to be any review of programming funds. **Melinda** responds by emphasizing the importance of having a committee for programming funds, which aids in providing documentation for allocation of assets. **Steve** continues by explaining that CAS gives approximately \$250,400 to various organizations on campus. **Steve** then asks if anyone is interested in reviewing the process, Brian and Jim agree to do so.

Review of Handbook

Steve asks the members if they have all received a handbook and encourages them all to review it at their leisure. **Steve** turns the members' attention to the conflict-of-interest policy, which needs to be in writing. **Steve** briefly describes the function of the policy, "if you have interest or your family has interest in any of the organizations that we do business with, you need to disclose that." **Steve** advises the members that Melinda will distribute the written policy and asks that the members sign them and return them today. **Steve** motions to adjourn the annual meeting. All agree.

Meeting adjourned: 3:19 pm.

Minutes
October Board of Directors Meeting
October 11th, 2023

Attendees: Steve Deutsch
Melinda Cirillo
Michele Halstead
Rachael Rigolino
Corinna Carracci
Michael Cavalieri
Brian Obach
Abby Selnick
Faith Grant
AnnaLynn DiMarco

Others Present: John Brookhouse, Rich Winters

Recording Secretary: Melinda Cirillo

Call to order: 3:20pm

Unanimous approval of agenda and May 12, 2023 minutes.

E.D. Report

Steve begins by asking if everyone has received the minutes for May, and if there are any questions or concerns regarding them. There are no questions.

Bookstore Operations

Steve moves to introduce John Brookhouse and Rich Winters, who are present to discuss merchandising and marketing of books. **Steve** then turns the floor to Michele. **Michele** begins by introducing John as the new store manager in the bookstore. **Michele** then introduces Rich, who is Director of Community and Government. **Michele** continues to lay a basis for how Rich and John play a role in campus merchandising for logo wear, etc. **Michele** then informs the members of a recent meeting John had with the Vice President for communications to talk about the merchandise and the current trends in sales. **Michele** notes a possibility of looking into offers to help Follett move some of the merchandise. **Michele** continues by explaining that John and Rich have been invited to the meeting to discuss how they can partner and give feedback on things they would want to see done. **Michele** turns the floor to John. **John** starts by thanking the members for having him and begins to discuss changes he sees fit. **John** expresses interest in getting some new apparel and his interest in working on vintage some vintage apparel. **John** stresses the importance of feedback from the students, furthering this notion by stating that the apparel is a representation of them. **Steve** comments that he has noticed that the apparel is somewhat generic, and he believes that it does not accurately embody the New Paltz spirit. **John** agrees with Steve and explains that Follett tends to provide apparel that is designed based on current trends. **John** emphasized his desire to learn more about what kind of apparel would speak to the students and attract them. **John**

hopes to get more feedback from students, and notes that previous feedback he has received has showed a distaste for sports merchandise, and interest in more of a selection of tie dye. Abbey notes that RHSA holds a weekly meeting which a lot of students attend, and she could ask what kind of things they want to see in the bookstore. **John** responds by saying that he would love that, and he would love to get more involved in meetings like that. **Rich** then begins by emphasizing the University's hopes in developing a partnership with the bookstore to create a brand for SUNY New Paltz. **Rich** explains that the University has worked very hard in creating their brand, and they would love to work with students to satisfy their requests while preserving the brand which they have worked so hard to create. The importance of the brand stems from the confidence and sense of community which it symbolizes. **John** asks **Rich** if he believes that a tie dye shirt with the New Paltz logo on it would be consistent with the University's brand. **Rich** responds by saying that if the typeface and logo are preserved, he will not see a problem. However, **Rich** states that the decision would inevitably come down to reviewing drafts from vendors. **Rich** emphasizes that there is a scope within which vendors can work to create new ideas, however the designs would have to be compatible with the brand the University has established. **Rich** believes that questions pertaining to a shift to updating athletic wear could be ones which will be addressed in the coming months. asks how much they sell on alumni weekend, **John** answers by stating that he has investigated last year's sales, and it was a little over \$5,000 for the day. **John** believes that Alumni weekend is not as big as parents' weekend, which yielded \$20,000 in a day. **John** notes that it could be helpful if there were a few more items within the school's guidelines which tailor more to what the school represents. **Steve** recalls that he had a hat which simply boasted the hawk on it, no other logos, or words, and it was his favorite because it resembled New Paltz but was also hip. **Steve** furthers this comment by explaining that he believes merchandise like that is a perfect cross. **John** reintroduces his idea for vintage merchandise, which he hopes to switch up the appears slightly. **John** is optimistic that the students would like something of this sort because he believes this generation of students likes vintage. **Anna Lynne** comments that she thinks students have a hard time getting behind the bright school colors. **Anna Lynne** continues by suggesting that a neutral base with the brighter colors added in may be more successful among students. **Anna Lynne** further states that she believes a big part of student attraction to New Paltz is the town itself and what it represents. **Anna Lynne** makes a few suggestions for specific types of clothing that she often sees students wearing and thinks there would be a positive response if those types of designs could be incorporated. **John** loves **Anna's** ideas and hopes that he can work something out with **Rich**. **Anna** suggests footwear if it were a possibility, **Abby** agrees and says that she would love to see New Paltz colored Crocs or a New Paltz croc jib bit. **Brian** asks **Rich** if there are any shades of blue and orange which fit inside the frame of the New Paltz brand. **Rich** answers by explaining that the answer will depend on how the colors are being used within the design and the color scheme of the overall product. **Rich** furthers by stating that **Anna Lynne's** comment alerted him to the question of whether merchandise that is too bright should be ordered. **Brian** comments that he agrees that bright colors are definitely an issue, and he has had problems with commencement volunteers saying that they do not want to wear the bright orange uniform shirts which they are supposed to. **Anna Lynne** also brings up an interest in more merchandise with the New Paltz sunset on it, which she believes is iconic to the area and school. **Steve** asks the members if there is anything else for **Rich** or **John**. There are no comments or questions. **Steve** thanks **Rich** and **John** for their time.

Dining Service Operations

Steve redirects the meeting to the Executive Director report and asks if anyone has any questions. There are none. **Steve** continues by stating that he thinks Krishna Kitchens is one of the best things they have done in dining. **Steve** then asks **Mike** if he would like to comment on their relationship with Krishna Kitchen. **Mike** begins by saying that he thinks it has been going amazing and that this was the first subcontractor which he has onboarded while working for Sodexo. **Mike** says that he is very happy with

their partnership. **Steve** notes that their attribute of being 100% vegetarian 95% vegan is doing great. **Steve** then says that they are looking for another vendor which has an appeal like the Roost, something that students would be willing to walk across campus for. **Steve** informs the members of recent meetings with a vendor such as "Mad Flavor," and "Yanni's Empanadas." **Mike** interjects by saying that Yanni's is coming to visit campus next week, and he has also spoke to a sub shop called "Lorenzo's" which has everything from subs to burgers and milkshakes, and finally "Halal Guys," as another potential new vendor. **Mike** notes that within two weeks they are going to begin introducing new foods for short durations, first up being Jamaican beef patties, in hopes to attract more students to that location. **Anna Lynne** comments that students have expressed a need for cultural food, which is why Krishna Kitchen has been so successful. **Anna Lynne** further states that students believe there is a shortage of rice outside of the dining hall and the sushi place. **Brian** makes a suggestion that Krishna kitchen's menu may come off as confusing, **Mike** answers by saying that there are full menu descriptions on Grub hub and if he wanted to go in person the staff would explain everything to him. **Steve** notes that they will discuss this topic further at the food concerns meeting at the end of the month. The meeting will be on October 20th at 9pm.

Laundry Operations

Steve begins by giving kudos to Corinna for excellent work on the micro-filters in Esopus. **Steve** notes the difficult process of obtaining and setting up the filters on two machines. **Steve** hopes that the implementation of the filters will go well.

Renovations:

Steve redirects to the main topic for the meeting, the \$31 million project. **Steve** notes that they have been attempting to make this project happen for 15 years, he directs his question to Michele and asks what happened to actually make it happen this year. **Michele** begins to explain that every year the State University Construction fund asks the campuses what they want to do as far as major renovation projects. The fund has a limited budget to allocate to all 64 campuses, and a ranking system which used to predominantly factor in whether or not the renovation was happening in academic spaces. **Michele** notes that those working for the fund have begun to realize that there is more to student life outside of an academic realm, therefore changing the ranking system and awarded SUNY New Paltz with two projects. The first project is renovation of the gym and the pool, the second is Peregrine Dining Hall. **Michele** furthers her explanation stating that another reason for the hesitation is that the state of New York will not allow them to use critical maintenance money to expand the footprint of an existing building. **Michele** notes that the University intends to expand Peregrine, due to the necessity of a bigger dining hall. **Michele** finishes by explaining that those funding the renovation (State University Construction Fund and the Governor) are allowing them to do things like dropping the sides of walls, in order to expand the square footage of the space. **Steve** explains that renovations like that of the athletic and wellness center are surreal to finally see happening. **Steve** gives an overview of the process they underwent to make the renovations happen. **Steve** explains that the first meeting was to determine who the architects would be, which is KSQ, a group that designed a beautiful renovation at Stony Brook. **Steve** shows the members the initial design concept of the renovation but notes that KSQ will be sending them new images tomorrow, which could potentially change from the concept that the members are viewing. **Steve** observes that the side walls will be dropped in order to expand the building and hopes that the quad surrounding Peregrine will pop with the updated and more developed space. **Steve** continues by noting a feature that will definitely be included in the renovation, which will include an elevator for improved access for ADA folks. **Steve** then explains that they are going to move away from the older style of cafeteria serving and turn to more of action stations and retail operations. **Steve** asks Melinda is there's anything else to add. **Melinda** explains, by using the visual presentation, that the steps

up like structure that you can see on the current dining hall are going to be converted to outdoor spaces with seating. **Melinda** notes that the updates being sent by KSQ tomorrow will show more of how they are executing that requirement. **Melinda** notes their excitement for this change to allow students to have more of a choice between outdoor and indoor dining. **Anna Lynne** comments that the quad by Peregrine lacks trees and other facilities that would make students more attracted to the quad. **Steve** agrees with Anna Lynne's comment and states a possibility of discussing with Gale how to make the outside area of Peregrine more usable and attractive. **Steve** informs the members that the projected time frame for the renovation plans is roughly one year, and construction will take around three years. In the best case, the product of the renovations will be completed in 2027. **Abby** asks where students are going to eat will the renovations take place. **Steve** explains that as of right now, due to expense they are trying to avoid building a temporary dining hall. **Steve** notes that instead they are hoping to use areas of campus that are underutilized, like the terrace. **Steve** states that he does think dining service throughout the renovations will be a little tough, and he thinks meal plans and costs will possibly have to be adjusted to compensate for lesser dining operations. **Steve** brings up the possibility of bringing food trucks or exciting things like that onto campus in an attempt to keep students happy while they renovate. **Anna Lynne** asks where Sweets and Treats is going to be moved to, **Steve** answers that it is going to stay. **Steve** then notes that Sweets and Treats seems to be very popular, Mike and the students agree. **Anna Lynne** also asks if there is any truth behind the rumor that Sodexo is helping pay for the Peregrine renovations. **Steve** explains that Sodexo has committed \$5 million for the renovations and CAS has committed \$2 million, and that the rest of the money will come from the state. **Steve** furthers by stating that Sodexo's contract ends in 2027, so the renovations practically ensure that they will want to extend. **Steve** asks if there are any other questions or comments on the renovations. **Abby** asks if Steve can communicate to the architects that there are concerns among the students about birds flying into the windows and dying, she notes that stickers on the windows could be an easy solution. **Steve** says that he will talk to them about it. **Melinda** notes that the architects are very cognizant of the New Paltz community and environment, which is why Steve and Melinda favored KSQ for the job. **Steve** asks again if there are any further questions. **Brian** interjects that he has a question regarding the bookstore, specifically if extended hours and satellite operations will be implemented for bigger weekends? **Steve** explains that John made \$20,000 on parents' weekend, so yes, and notes that John seems very interested in doing so. **Steve** says that John's eagerness to come and talk to everyone about merchandise and new apparel shows excellent growth. **Brian** notes that it is in their best interest to hold Follett accountable for what they said they would do in their contract. **Steve** redirects to **Corinna**, who conveys concern of a lack of late-night dining options. **Corinna** furthers that around 9pm students have expressed that they have nowhere to eat, and some classes do not end until around 9. **Mike** comments that Peregrine is open until 11pm. **Anna Lynne** observes that students who do not want to eat at Peregrine will typically order food from off campus when nothing else is open. **Anna Lynne** thinks that offering healthier late-night options may be helpful, so students do not have to order fast food after 9pm. **Mike** notes that late night options at Peregrine include a salad bar, which gives students a healthy option. **Steve** mentions that this will be a great topic to bring up during the food concerns meeting later in the month. **Melinda** notes to the students that she has been in touch with the laundry company and machines will not go back into Awosting. **Melinda** continues by stating that between Mohonk and Awosting they have 16 machines to swap out, so once renovations of all of the machines across campus take place, they will be reallocated across campus.

Steve motions to adjourn. All agree.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:58 pm