



**University Auxiliary Services at Albany, Inc.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Wednesday, March 27, 2024, 12:00 PM Campus Center Multipurpose Room

President Christakis convened the meeting at 12:11 PM. The following Directors were present:

Michael N. Christakis
Todd Foreman
Indu
Mary Beth Murnan

Stephen Pearse
Carol Perrin
Fardin Sanai (via ZOOM)
Lee Serravillo (via ZOOM)

Latonia Spencer
Erica Strand
Cara White

ABSENT: Aissata Barry; James Cooper; Jermaine Harris; Gabrielle Holness; Erin McGrath; Jalen Rose; and Jeremy Zheng

UAS STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Randy Simmons; Michelle (MO) Schifley; and Nancy Harrigan.

President Christakis made a motion to re-order the agenda, moving the discussion of the Resolution to the Board Business section to be followed by an Executive Session for the Executive Director search updates. With no objections the change in order was made.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

BOARD BUSINESS

Approval of February 9, 2024 Board Minutes

Carol Perrin made a motion to approve the February 9, 2024 meeting minutes, seconded by Marybeth Murnan. The minutes were approved with Cara White and Indu abstaining.

Resolution for Scholarship Donation

Todd Foreman advised the Board that reserve fund investments have grown and with a matching grant now available from the State, UAS is in a position to make a significant contribution to the institution. On behalf of the Finance and Audit Committee Todd Foreman made a motion to approve the proposed resolution to endorse the withdrawal of some of UAS's investments for donation to the University at Albany Foundation creating a significant endowment fund for the benefit of University at Albany students. Carol Perrin seconded the motion. Todd Foreman clarified that the use of this fund would be at the discretion of the University President for the benefit of UAlbany students. The resolution was approved with one abstention by Fardin Sanai.

Executive Session

Todd Foreman made a motion to move into Executive Session at 12:22PM seconded by Carol Perrin. Non-Board members left the room during the session. The Executive Session ended at 12:25PM.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

NACUFS Survey-Sodexo Action Plan – Stephen Pearse introduced Josh Hubbard from Sodexo to present the Sodexo Action Plan in response to the NACUFS survey. Josh Hubbard introduced the Sodexo Team: Eddie Rivera, Campus Executive Chef; John Batch General Manager, Indigenous Quad; Danielle Roberts, Marketing Director, Milly Janvrin, Retail General Manager; Lynn Shaw, District Manager.

Josh Hubbard presented an overview of key points being adopted by the Dining Team to move toward producing excellence, that include a cultural change and a commitment to training, development and accountability for the team.

Lynn Shaw presented specific questions in the survey related to customer satisfaction and student retention and areas of focus that will improve customer satisfaction.

Milly Janvrin highlighted individual retail locations and changes to products or service that have already been instituted that have increased sales in those locations, along with proposed changes for the future.

Eddie Rivera spoke about the new culinary team and the expectation that this new team of talented chefs will bring increasing improvement to the dining program as they strive toward excellence.

John Batch highlighted several changes that have been implemented at Indigenous Quad that have been in response to student comments and that these have already proven successful. John Batch also noted that he will focus on creating a whole new dynamic for staff that will improve the atmosphere for staff and customers.

Danielle Roberts introduced the Happy or Not kiosks that are available in retail and residential venues that allow customers to rate their dining experience. The dining team meets weekly to evaluate the responses and uses them to help make informed decisions about service at each location.

Erica Strand commented that it is important for students to know that their feedback is being reviewed and considered and that should be promoted in some way.

Multi-Cultural Student Group Catering Update

Lynn Shaw gave examples of working closely with student groups to provide authentic cultural food events and added that successful events take commitment on the part of the students to meet with the Sodexo team to plan. Suggestions were made on how to make more students aware of this option including Sodexo participating in the Soul Summit at the start of the fall semester and at the Great Danetopia with ethnic sampling.

Lynn Shaw thanked Stephen Pearse for his help in getting the dining team to where they are now.

Sodexo Donated Meals Use and Accepted Student's Day Meals.

Stephen Pearse reported that only a few of the donated meals have been used to date but expects with time that use to increase. There are also 1000 donated meals per Accepted Student Days on April 14 and 20 that will be used.

Laundry RFP

Stephen Pearse reported that four bids were received for laundry services for a 7-year contract. Presentations from the bidders will be held in the next couple of weeks with a finalist expected to be chosen by April 30 to be able to present to the Board on May 1, 2024.

Alumni Fall Housing

At this time 247 students are expected to be housed in Alumni dorms in the fall 2024 semester.

Single Use Plastic

Planning continues to move toward the elimination of single use plastic on campus.

COMMITTEE REPORT

There are no committee updates at this time.

President Christakis reminded the Board that UAlbany Senate elections will be occurring soon. Jermaine Harris will be running again for a Board seat, but nominees to replace Latonia Spencer are needed. Nomination suggestions should be sent to President Christakis.

ADJOURNMENT

Todd Foreman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Erica Strand. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM.