PRESENT: EXCUSED:

Mr. Troy J. Broussard Mr. Buddy Boe

Ms. Anne Candies Ms. Celeste Marshall

Mr. Silas Cooper Mr. Christian Rhodes

Ms. Catherine Morrell Ms. Raquel Richmond

Councilmember Nadine Ramsey

Ms. Madalyn Schenk

Ms. Beth Scioneaux

Ms. Sarah Usdin

EX-OFFICIO:

Mr. Kyle Wedberg

COUNSEL:

Mr. Mark Beebe

CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Ms. Schenk, called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was taken. There were eight members present. Quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Ramsey moved to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2017 meeting.

Mr. Broussard seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

ISON FAMILY STATEMENT

Ms. Schenk expressed that she and Ms. Rahsaana Ison had been in contact and that Ms. Ison wanted to speak to the board regarding policy, procedures, and due process. Ms. Schenk reiterated the importance of respecting student privacy by using this public board meeting for sharing general recommendations, and simultaneously offered Ms. Ison the opportunity for sharing more specific student-centered observations and concerns in private meetings with representatives of the board and board counsel.

A representative from Family and Friends of Louisiana’s Incarcerated Children, Ms. Ashana Bigard, said it was her opinion that there were violations of inclusion laws at NOCCA and that accommodations were not adhered to . She also recommended that the school faculty and staff receive training regarding racism and bias.

Erica O’Neal, 2017 NOCCA Alumna, stated that the 2017 Academic Studio class was hurt when students were moved to a different class and when the whole class didn’t walk in the 2017 Commencement Exercises.

Rahsaan Ison, stated that he didn’t receive the assistance he needed when he asked.

Rahsaana Ison, stated that her son’s 4 years at NOCCA were difficult.

Mr. Ison, student’s grandfather, asked when students would receive diplomas and certificates and Ms. Bigard asked for next steps. NOCCA Counsel stated that a meeting could be held with Ms. Schenk, Mr. Mark Beebe, Ms. Ison, and whomever Ms. Ison wanted to invite at her request.

HANDBOOK

Ms. Maisha Joshua, NOCCA Human Resources Director, shared the process for updating the NOCCA Handbook. Lauren Taffaro, Employment Lawyer with Adams & Reese LLP, met with the team which included Ms. Joshua, Ms. Anne Candies, and Mr. Wedberg to provide recommendations and feedback. Ms. Taffaro suggested that certain items in the handbook could be removed to create a new Operations Manual. This was completed. Ms. Candies made a motion to accept the newly revised handbook. Ms. Morrell seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

BYLAWS

Ms. Schenk asked for this item to be moved to the next board meeting since point person, Mr. Buddy Boe, was traveling and unable to attend the meeting. There were no objections.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The proposed slate of officers included Ms. Schenk as Board President and Mr. Troy J. Broussard as Board Vice-President. Ms. Usdin moved to accept the slate. Ms. Candies seconded the motion. Motion carried.

STUDENT SERVICES UPDATE

Mr. Blake Coheley, Director of Student Services, updated the board on the status of the Academic Studio waitlist. There were ten students remaining on the waitlist for Academic Studio.

Mr. Coheley presented the 2017-18 End of Year Statistics. The Class of 2017 was offered a total of $19,384,089 (averaging $136,508 per student).

Mr. Coheley stated being very pleased with the End of Course tests for Academic Studio. He expressed that the Academic Studio teachers work very hard not to “teach to the test” and to remain committed to the curriculum.

The average highest composite ACT score was 22.8. The percentage of students who were TOPS eligible was 71.4%.

The Student Services Team and Academic Studio planned a Shadow Day for potential incoming freshman. In addition, intake testing was being initiated for the accepted students for the 2017-18 school year to gather information for Academic Studio teachers to better meet the needs of the diverse skill levels of incoming freshmen. It was made clear that this testing was not part of the acceptance decision, but, rather, an information gathering tool to support teacher planning for the upcoming school year.

BUDGET UPDATE

Ms. Lotte Delaney, NOCCA Chief Financial Officer, stated that we do not have a proposed budget from the Louisiana State Legislature. When the information is received from the state department, then a report with NOCCA’s recommended adjustments can be made.

THE NOCCA INSTITUTE UPDATE

Ms. Sally Perry, The NOCCA Institute Executive Director, presented a request regarding campus use. Our NOCCA Board policy, at The NOCCA Institute’s request many years ago, states that there are to be no 3rd party rentals to groups conducting fundraisers. Ms. Perry asked the board to consider non-profit fundraisers. Ms. Perry stated three points that would be considered when accepting/denying rental requests: 1) students always come first, 2) separation of church and state, and 3) determining appropriate signage on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Wedberg stated for the board that all current considerations and policies would remain in place, including no political fundraisers and all events are subject to CEO final approval. The proposed change would be reflected by replacing #4 of the current “Use of Facility and Grounds” page of the Faculty Handbook with “Private rentals for the purposes of fundraising may be approved provided that they: a)do not compete with and are mission aligned with NOCCA and b) any aspect of fundraising or solicitation is pre-approved as part of the rental.” Mr. Broussard made a motion to accept the proposed change. Councilmember Ramsey seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

CEO ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Wedberg presented his 2016-17 NOCCA President/CEO Annual Report in which he responded to each of his roles and responsibilities with news of action during the year. Mr. Wedberg highlighted some areas of his report.

The Strategic Planning process was a large part of Section 1.4. It provided insight into the overall needs of the each department, which enabled the Chief Financial Officer to craft an initial state budget with the needed priorities of the campus.

Regarding Section 1.5 on diversity of staff members, Mr. Wedberg stated that as of May 2017 we are 55% female and 45% male with 75% white and 25% non-white. Moving towards greater diversity, 90% of the non-white staff members have been hired in the past 10 years.

Highlighted in Section 1.6 was Mr. Wedberg’s involvement in getting the arts back into the initial Louisiana Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Formula for the State of Louisiana, a result he was very proud to have had some impact in bringing forward.

Regarding Section 1.7, Mr. Wedberg shared his involvement with the NOLA School Leaders Forum and Any Given Child, an organization focused on the arts across all schools in New Orleans. Mr. Wedberg stated the NOCCA is nearing a first time articulation agreement with UNO, which would allow some NOCCA students to walk into UNO with at least a semester of credit for work done at NOCCA.

Mr. Wedberg shared that NOCCA produces approximately 100 on-campus performances per year.

For the first time in three years, NOCCA started the year with a full time Chief Academic Officer.

Mr. Wedberg shared that he continues to serve on the board of the Arts Schools Network and brought multiple faculty members to the national conference in Dallas, as well as making two presentations himself.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Silas Cooper made a motion to move into Executive Session. Motion seconded by Ms. Usdin. Mr. Wedberg requested that Ms. Joshua, Ms. Delaney, and Mr. Coheley stay for Executive Session. The board moved into Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. The board came out of Executive Session at 6:49 p.m.

ADJOURN

Ms. Catherine Morrell moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Usdin seconded the motion. All were in favor. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Submitted by: Reviewed by: Attest:

Leigh Traylor Kyle Wedberg Madalyn Schenk

Recording Secretary Secretary to the Board President of the Board

Date Approved:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_