

NOCCA  
Board of Directors Virtual Meeting  
Tuesday, April 13, 2021

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Mr. Buddy Boe  
Ms. Leslie Bouie  
Ms. Anne Candies  
Mr. James Carter  
Dr. Rachel T. Davis-Haley  
Ms. Janice R. Manuel  
Ms. Judy Reese Morse  
Ms. Beth Scioneaux  
Mr. Gary Solomon  
Mr. Jefferson Turner  
Ms. Sarah Usdin

EXCUSED:

Mr. Wood Delahoussaye  
Mr. Christian Rhodes

EX-OFFICIO:

Mr. Kyle Wedberg

COUNSEL:

Mr. Mark Beebe  
Ms. Stefini Salles

CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Mr. Buddy Boe, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was taken. There were eleven of thirteen members present. Quorum was present.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Brian Hammell, NOCCA Director of Communications, spoke of the President Honors awards and ceremonies for the current year. Rather than a group gathering, the departmental awards were presented at individual outdoor ceremonies. For each award, the family of the recipient was invited to attend, unbeknownst to the recipient. Photos and videos were obtained and Mr. Hammell shared a video compiled of parts of each ceremony. Mr. Kyle Wedberg thanked Mr. Hammell and Ms. Prinsey Walker, Department of Communications, for their work on the multiple ceremonies.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Boe asked for a motion to approve the Board Meeting minutes of February 2, 2021. Ms. Sarah Usdin moved to approve the minutes of the NOCCA Board Meeting of February 2, 2021. Ms. Anne Candies seconded the motion. A roll call vote was completed. All were in favor. Motion carried.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Boe asked for public comment. There was none.

#### CEO REPORT

Mr. Kyle Wedberg welcomed new Board Member, Mr. Frederick “Wood” Delahoussaye, who will be serving as proxy for Representative Candace Newell. Unfortunately, Mr. Delahoussaye was unable to attend this meeting because of a prior commitment to serve on a panel regarding public art with NOCCA alum Branden Odums. Mr. Delahoussaye is the Artistic Director at the Ashe Cultural Center and is active in the community as a dancer and spoken word artist. In addition, he has a school age child. All of these characteristics will be assets in his role as a NOCCA Board Member.

The Equity Core Team was described by Mr. Wedberg and the request was made for an action to acknowledge and approve the work of the Equity Core Team as part of the vital structure of NOCCA moving forward. Understanding that the work of the Team will shift over time, the desire was for the changes or evolution of the work of the Equity Core Team to continue to come before the Board for discussion and approval. Mr. Wedberg asked for an amendment to the document to include that the NOCCA President/CEO will update the Board on the work of the Equity Core Team a minimum of twice a year. Ms. Candies requested that the Team define the role and select the student for the Student Voice position as soon as possible, and expressed her conviction that Student Voice is crucial to the success of the work of the Team. Mr. Wedberg acknowledged recent discussions of the Team focused on the Student Voice role and he made a commitment to have an update on that at the next meeting. Mr. Boe asked for a motion to approve the Equity Core Team outline with the amendment offered by Mr. Wedberg. Ms. Usdin made that motion and Ms. Candies seconded the motion. A roll call vote was completed. Motion passed.

Highlights of the college search were shared by Mr. Wedberg, including the acceptance of students to schools such as Julliard, West Point, Berklee, NYU, and Loyola. He also acknowledged Lara Naughton, former Chair of Creative Writing and current College Counselor, for the extraordinary job in her first year in this role.

Faculty/Staff reviews are underway, Mr. Wedberg reported. A team consisting of Dr. Kit Nelson, Mr. Silas Cooper, Ms. Maisha Joshua and Mr. Wedberg has worked on the Compass Compliant Evaluation of Faculty/Staff.

#### STUDENT SERVICES/NOCCA RECRUITMENT

Mr. Blake Coheley, Director of Admissions, shared statistics regarding applications to the 2021-22 school year. Mr. Coheley report that the numbers of applications were slightly lower than the previous year, with 401 applications submitted. Of those 221 were accepted and offered a spot. There remain 150 applications in process. Some departments have stopped offering late auditions whereas some are conducting workshops and late auditions to boost their current pool. There were sixty-six 9<sup>th</sup> grade Art applicants who met the criteria for Academic Studio and were offered a spot in the Academic Studio.

Mr. Cooper commented on this year's application process. While faculty was anxious about the new platform for virtual auditions, Acceptd, all were pleased at the outcome and process and are ready to use it again in the coming year. One advantage was the ability to view and review applications electronically as soon as they were submitted and to have access to recorded auditions. Another plus was being able to watch the two minute video tapes of the students explaining why they want to come to NOCCA which replaced the essays in previous years answering the same question. Mr. Cooper also noted that students were not restricted by whether or not they were able to find a ride to campus in order to audition, which had the effect of increasing access.

Mr. Jefferson Turner reiterated how daunting the process was with Acceptd at first, but also acknowledged that he felt the quality of the applicants was increased from previous years.

The 2020-21 School Calendar was updated one last time to recover missed days due to Hurricanes. Presented also was the 2021-22 School Calendar. Ms. Candies made a motion to approve both calendars in globo. Ms. Candies seconded the motion. A roll call vote was completed. Motion passed.

Mr. Wedberg described the Lottery Waitlist amendment which details how the date of submission of late applications will be used to order students on a waitlist. Ms. Usdin requested for applicants to be made aware that the timeliness of their application was relevant. Ms. Usdin made a motion to accept the Lottery Waitlist amendment with the stipulation that families are made aware that the date of submission relates to position on waitlist. Ms. Candies seconded the motion. A roll call vote was completed. Motion passed.

Mr. Coheley described the process of determining the format for Graduation/Celebration this year. Students were surveyed to learn preferences and priorities for their graduation experience at NOCCA. As a result, three ceremonies were planned back to back in one day with students separated into cohorts already established during the weekly rotations of the Hybrid Schedule. Events were held on May 14, 2021 at 5:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. Students were able to invite two family members to attend in Lupin Hall.

#### FINANCE

Ms. Lotte Delaney, NOCCA CFO, reported on the 2020-21 NOCCA Budget. NOCCA is on pace to not overspend or underspend.

NOCCA would be testifying at the House Appropriation and Senate Finance Committees. Initially NOCCA had been presented with significant reductions. Though, when the budget was presented to the Legislature, there was a slight increase. Mr. Wedberg thanked Ms. Beth Scioneaux for her support.

#### The NOCCA Institute (TNI)

Mr. Boe requested support of The NOCCA Foundation (TNF) Gala Art of the Feast and citywide Give NOLA Day. The NOCCA Working Group continues to work with TNF's Working Group to present an affiliation agreement.

#### COVID-19 FOR 2020-21

Mr. Wedberg thanked Orleans Parish Schools for inviting NOCCA to participate in their vaccination drive. Half of the NOCCA campus was able to be vaccinated on-site as a result of the partnership.

Mr. Wedberg spoke of the tenacity of the faculty in providing hybrid teaching. The most challenging aspect was reportedly providing services to students physically in class at the same time as engaging students online. Dr. Nelson said the numbers of students needing to come on campus to learn has tripled since the beginning of the pandemic, due to increasing needs. She explained that some students would be attending campus even during their off week, but would be separated from others to maintain the integrity of the cohorts. She also spoke to the plans for Credit Recovery. Mr. Cooper commended the faculty for their commitment to providing both hybrid and virtual learning.

The COVID Tracker currently has only 1 student in quarantine; the small number proudly the result of the careful programming of the NOCCA Team and cooperation of the NOCCA family.

#### ACADEMIC STUDIO/STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM

Dr. Nelson spoke of the development of NOCCA's Title IX process in response to recent changes in Title IX and thanked Al Carter, NOCCA Director of Protocol, for his work on this project. Of special note, is the inclusion of both 1) forms to document the step-by-step process to ensure nothing is left out of consideration and completion and 2) mediation as a viable and valuable option throughout the process as well as options for applying restorative justice. Mr. James Carter inquired on whether the NOCCA Legal Team had reviewed the documents and was assured by Mr. Mark Beebe that the Adams and Reese experts Lauren Tafaro and the Employment Group had reviewed and approved the material. Mr. Carter requested more time to read and approve the proposed process. There was agreement to push the action item to the June Board Meeting with the acknowledgement that should any relevant need arise between this point and the next Board Meeting, this proposed process would be utilized.

#### BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Mr. Boe thanked the Board, The NOCCA Foundation, the NOCCA Administrative Leadership Team and Mr. Wedberg for responding to needs as they arise.

#### REMARKS/OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Carter thanked Dr. Nelson for the work and diligence on the Title IX project. Mr. Wedberg acknowledged that 40% of the Oscar nominees in the film category are filled by NOCCA alums; Terrance Blanchard and Jon Batiste for their work on *The Five Bloods* and *Soul*, and Zac Manuel, son of current Board Member Janice Manuel, in the documentary category for his film, *Time*.

Mr. Usdin made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Gary Solomon seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.


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Submitted by:



Leigh Traylor  
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by:

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Kyle Wedberg (Jun 18, 2021 14:26 CDT)

Kyle Wedberg  
Secretary to the Board

Attest:

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Buddy Boe (Jun 22, 2021 09:38 CDT)

Buddy Boe  
President of the Board

Date Approved: 06/14/2021








# 2021.04.13 Board Minutes In Process

Final Audit Report

2021-06-22

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