

NOCCA
Board of Directors Virtual Meeting
Monday, June 14, 2021

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Mr. Buddy Boe
Ms. Leslie Bouie
Mr. Wood Delahoussaye
Ms. Janice R. Manuel
Ms. Judy Reese Morse
Ms. Beth Scioneaux
Mr. Gary Solomon
Mr. Jefferson Turner
Ms. Sarah Usdin

EXCUSED:

Ms. Anne Candies
Mr. James Carter
Dr. Rachel T. Davis-Haley
Mr. Christian Rhodes

EX-OFFICIO:

Mr. Kyle Wedberg

COUNSEL:

Mr. Mark Beebe

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 nine of thirteen members present. Quorum was present.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Blake Coheley, Director of Student Services, described several of the end of the year performances and activities that culminated from the year of work on campus and off. During a typical year these events take place on the NOCCA campus but this year the YouTube site, NOCCAtube, housed many of them. A performance by the NOCCA Dance Seniors was shared with the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Boe asked for a motion to approve the Board Meeting minutes of April 13, 2021. Ms. Sarah Usdin moved to approve the minutes of the NOCCA Board Meeting of April 13, 2021. Ms. Leslie Bouie 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.

STUDENT SERVICES/NOCCA COLLEGE PATHWAYS

Mr. Coheley reported that appx 550 students were expected for the 2021-22 school year. Over 200 of these were new students. Late applications were still being accepted and many departments were continuing to offer late auditions. The Academic Studio 9th grade class had some openings and if eligible students applied late and were accepted, they were being offered spots in the order of the date of their application submission.

Mr. Silas Cooper, Director of Arts, acknowledged the work of NOCCA College Counselor, Ms. Lara Naughton. Ms. Naughton, previous Chair of Creative Writing, was in her first year in the new role. The NOCCA Graduating Class of 2021 has received \$29 million in scholarship offers and \$5 million in grants for the highest ever total of \$34 million in gift aid. This averaged \$246,000 per student. Mr. Jefferson Turner shared with the Board his pleasure that Ms. Naughton had already met with 11th grade students, soon to be rising 12th grade students, to begin the process of thinking through the process ahead. Mr. Boe thanked all members of the team for a job well done in normal circumstances; outstanding in the midst of the pandemic.

FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Ms. Lotte Delaney, NOCCA CFO, reported on the 2021-22 Budget Recommendation. Ms. Delaney said NOCCA received an almost 3% increase in the budget, a total of \$251,953. Ms. Delaney thanked Ms. Beth Scioneaux for her support in the process of securing \$576,000 over the next two years in ESSER funding.

Mr. Kyle Wedberg expressed his support for a 2% pay increase for all non-civil service employees. Ms. Bouie made a motion for a 2% pay increase for all non-civil service employees. Ms. Usdin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was completed. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. Wedberg spoke of the current work with the Legislative Auditors. An area of need identified and agreed upon by all was in clarifying some internal policies around separation. The Personnel Policy for Separation addresses leaving NOCCA either as a result of retiring or stepping away to pursue other opportunities. Ms. Maisha Joshua completed the work of the clarifying updates with recommendations by the legal team and presented it to the Board. Ms. Bouie made a motion to adopt the presented updates to the Personnel Policy for Separation. Ms. Usdin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was completed. All were in favor. Motion passed.

ACADEMIC STUDIO/STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM

Mr. Wedberg spoke of the increase in mental health needs in the past year and expressed his appreciation for the support from The Children's Bureau. Dr. Kit Nelson, Chair of Academic Studio, stated that in response to the need for "wrap around" services which address the overall needs of the student, the Student Support Team was created with the following members: Kevin Burke, Special Education Coordinator; Al Carter, Protocol Coordinator; Laura Cornell, Mental Health Clinician with The Children's Bureau; and Dr. Nelson. The Team has created a referral process for the NOCCA campus and

meets weekly to communicate and problem solve. A contact person on the team is designated as the lead for each student. Dr. Nelson felt the development of the Team over the last three years has been successful in meeting the needs of more students. To give context, this past year over 100 students were referred and sixty-three were identified as in need of crisis intervention. In addition, eighty-three individual students have received multiple referrals. To respond to the increasing need; to further clarify the roles of the Team members; and to provide the Clinician time to focus on clinical services and faculty/staff training; the decision has been made to add a full time Social Worker to the staff. The Social Worker and Director of the Arts will be added to the Student Support Team.

THE NOCCA FOUNDATION (TNF)

The TNF report was provided to the Board. Mr. Boe commented on the successful Art of the Feast event.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Mr. Boe reminded the Board of the Board Retreat planned for August 3.

The Affiliation Agreement with TNF was in its final stages and would hopefully be presented for approval at the next meeting. Mr. Gary Solomon requested that the NOCCA Alumni Network (NAN) receive priority over the summer, even before the final agreement is passed, due to an upcoming maternity leave that will affect availability of a member of that team.

CEO REPORT

Ms. Delaney provided the requested information on NOCCA expenditures. At this point in Fiscal Year 2021, NOCCA was approximately 92% through the budget and about 92% through the year. The budget is broken down into Salaries/Related Services 76%; Operating Services 14%; Professional Services 1.3%; Other (such as Security and Insurance) 7.6%; and Acquisitions and Major Repairs <1%.

Mr. Wedberg thanked the Board for making pandemic safety a priority. Since coming back to campus in a hybrid mode, there was no student or adult who acquired or transmitted COVID on campus. In the last seven weeks, the NOCCA COVID Tracker recorded 0,0,1 which means 0 active NOCCA student cases, 0 active NOCCA employee cases, and 1 quarantine based on a contact outside of the campus. In the last four weeks of school, those numbers were 0,0,0.

Focus areas for 2021-22 include return, sustainability, and systems change. Developing a safe return to campus, creating a sustainable path moving forward with available resources, and facilitating systems changes that will provide the framework for both creating and maintaining that path forward are the goals.

At the last meeting, members of the Board asked for an assignment to the Student Voice spot on the NOCCA Equity Committee. The decision was made to invite Prinsey Walker, NOCCA alum and new staff member, to fill that spot. Ms. Walker is a past President Honors recipient, is an honors graduate from Xavier, and is working on her Master's in Film at UNO.

Mr. Wedberg acknowledged the tenure of Ms. Usdin for her many years on the NOCCA Board. Her perspective and insight as an Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) member was invaluable and her belief in promoting partnership with OPSB was evident in her efforts that resulted in the NOCCA campus' inclusion on the OPSB schedule for COVID vaccination. Mr. Wedberg delighted in the news that Ms. Usdin's daughter would be joining the Creative Writing Department this year.

Sadly, Mr. Wedberg reported the loss of a NOCCA alum, Sam Ray. Sam was the first student that Mr. Wedberg met on the NOCCA campus. At the start of next year there will be an installation and gallery showing of his work.

REMARKS/OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Wood Delahoussaye, remarked on the lovely meeting and good sentiments all around. Mr. Solomon asked if there were plans to move back to in-person meetings, rather than virtual. Mr. Boe said the first in-person meeting would be the August 3 Retreat.

Mr. Solomon made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wood Delahoussaye seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Submitted by:

Reviewed by:

Attest:

Leigh Traylor
Recording Secretary

Kyle Wedberg
Secretary to the Board

Buddy Boe
President of the Board

Date Approved: _____