

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, December 5, 2024 – 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Innovation & Instruction (I&I), 4th Floor, Room 4001

APPROVED**MEETING MINUTES**

Members Present: Chair Nicole Harper-Rawlings, Brad Beverage, Chris Manriquez, Deborah Wallace, Del Huff, Jeremy Brown, Dr. Justin Gammage, Linda Tatum, Dr. Phillip LaPolt, Myla Rahman, Dr. Bobbie Porter, Dr. Rama Malladi, Sheri – Repp Loadsman, Tranitra Avery, Dr. Thomas Parham, Dr. Tony Jake, Dr. Thomas Norman

Staff Present: Kelle Kain, Eric Oum, Ken O'Donnell

Special Guests: Stephanie McGovern & Vlad Marinescu – CSU Chancellor's Office

- I. Roll Call
 - This meeting was held in person. Members and guests could be heard clearly. Quorum met.
- II. Call to Order
 - Meeting called to order by Chair Nicole Harper Rawlings at 3:03PM
- III. Approval of Meeting Agenda
 - Tranitra Avery moved to amend the agenda to move the President's update before the Chancellor's Office update. Jeremy Brown moved and Linda Tatum second the motion, all in favor
- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes –September 19, 2024
 - Sheri – Repp Loadsman moved and, Dr. Thomas Parham second the motion, all in favor
- V. Public Comments
 - No comments from the public
- VI. President Update – Dr. Thomas Parham
 - Dr. Thomas Parham provided a comprehensive update on campus developments, emphasizing the progress of capital projects like the new dining commons and health and wellness center, which aim to modernize the campus. He introduced initiatives such as "Take a Toro Home for the Holiday" to support students during Thanksgiving, highlighting the collaborative efforts of Urban Mosaic and the campus community. The men's soccer team's success and Urban Mosaic's quick response to support them were celebrated as examples of the campus's "culture of care." Dr. Parham also addressed ongoing audit challenges, particularly in auxiliary enterprises and sponsored research, noting efforts to clean up financial discrepancies. Budget reductions of approximately \$18 million over recent years were

discussed, with a consultative approach being taken to manage cuts while minimizing impacts on personnel. Progress on capital projects, including student housing and tennis facility upgrades, was highlighted, alongside reassurances about campus safety following a recent incident. Dr. Parham concluded by wishing the campus community a happy holiday season and reiterating the importance of transparency and collaboration in navigating ongoing challenges. The Q&A session further clarified system-wide budget issues and the complexities of early retirement programs.

VII. Advisory Audit Update - CSU Chancellor's Office

- Vlad Marinescu, Vice Chancellor and Chief Auditor for the CSU system, along with Stephanie McGovern, presented an overview of internal and external audit findings over the past five years, highlighting six recurring themes: governance, revenue management, accounts receivable, disbursement, procurement, and hiring practices. They emphasized significant control deficiencies and untimely corrective actions, particularly within TAP (The University Auxiliary Partners), which has not met CSU financial reporting deadlines for five years. A full-scope assurance audit is planned for fiscal year 2025-26 to address these issues. Concerns were raised about the potential for reputational risk and the impact on students, given TAP's role in providing critical campus services. VP Wallace clarified that many audit delays stem from OSRP (Office of Sponsored Research and Programs) not recording expenses in the correct fiscal year, a issue exacerbated by turnover and lack of documented procedures. The board discussed the need for improved accountability, hiring an accounting supervisor for OSRP, and ensuring policies are followed. The meeting concluded with a commitment to ongoing transparency and progress tracking, with the board expected to hold management accountable for implementing corrective actions.

VIII. Executive Director Updates - Executive Director Tranitra Avery

- Tranitra Avery provided updates on several key initiatives and challenges. She highlighted the transition from an outdated accounting system established in 1980 to a new finance enterprise system, which now includes procurement and contract management modules, streamlining processes like P-card transactions and grant tracking. She noted significant staffing challenges, including the retirement of long-term accounting specialists, which required hiring additional staff to fill the gap. Efforts to address audit findings included updating policies, such as the accounts receivable policy, and resolving issues with the Dominguez Hills Corporation, which is under review for potential closure. Tranitra also shared progress on the new purchase order system, set to launch in January, and praised the team's work on aligning policies with the new system. Additionally, she reported successful resolution of outstanding bookstore commission payments, a 34.6% increase in course enrollments for the Follet program, and the upcoming implementation of SNAP on campus in spring 2024. Updates on the beverage RFP, LA Metro proposal, and AEG lease negotiations were also provided, with plans to involve a real estate attorney to finalize the

AEG agreement. Overall, Tranitra emphasized ongoing improvements and collaboration to address historical challenges and enhance operational efficiency.

IX. Action Items

A. Nominating Consent Items

- Nominate Community Board Director #1 Jeanine Cornell
 - Committee Assignment
 - Business and Innovation
 - Finance and Investment
- Nominate Board Liaison David Gamboa
 - Committee Assignment
 - Business and Innovation
 - Nominating Committee
- The board moved to the action items, beginning with the consent agenda item from the Nominating Committee, which included the approval of new board members. Tranitra Avery introduced the proposed candidates: Jeanine Cornell, Controller at Watson Land Company, who will serve on the Business Innovation Committee and the Finance and Investment Committee, and David Gamboa, who will join as a board liaison for the Business Innovation Committee and the Nominating Committee. Tranitra highlighted their expertise and contributions, noting David's role in securing SNAP approval for the campus. Chair Nicole Harper Rawlins called for a motion to approve the appointments, which was moved by Dr. Thomas Norman and seconded by Sheri Repp-Loadsmen. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions or oppositions. The board then proceeded to the next agenda item.

B. Accounts Receivable Policy (UPDATE: Aligned with our operation system and organizational chart, effective Monday December 16, 2024)

- The board reviewed and voted on the updated Accounts Receivable Policy, which was initially presented in June. Tranitra Avery explained that the policy had been revised to align with the organization's current structure and had been reviewed by the Finance and Investment Committee. The policy aims to improve cash flow and address audit-related concerns by ensuring timely collection of funds. It is set to take effect on December 16th, with an e-blast notification to the campus community led by Controller Cherrisse and Count Specialist MK Apkan. Chair Nicole Harper Rawlins called for a motion to approve the policy, which was moved and seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions or oppositions.

X. Committee Updates

- The board discussed committee updates, with Tranitra Avery proposing a composite review of each committee's activities to be shared with the board. Jeremy Brown motioned to approve this approach, suggesting that summaries be provided, with specific questions addressed either at the next board meeting or earlier by the respective committee chairs if needed. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously with no abstentions or oppositions. Chair Nicole Harper Rawlins concluded the meeting, acknowledging it as another engaging session.

XI. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned following a motion by Myla Rahman, seconded by Jeremy Brown, with thanks to all attendees. Meeting end time: 5:02pm.