

River Campus Board of Managers Minutes

Date September 4, 2020

Noon in River Campus Seminary Conference Room

Attendees Victoria Rust, Danielle Poyner, Trudy Lee, Bob Cerchio, Rhonda Weller, Stilson, Mike Godard, Scott Meyer

Absent None

Minutes from March 6, 2020 sent to committee. Danielle made a motion to approve, seconded by Victoria. Minutes approved.

Information Items

Agenda

Bring It On Recap - Social distancing in the theatre was implemented. In addition, performances were virtually broadcast allowing families and patrons throughout the country, some as far as Puerto Rico, to participate. Performers recorded temperatures two weeks prior to arrival on campus and were required to take daily checks while the show was in production. In addition, actors sang and danced in specially designed masks and the entire crew was considered a family unit, meaning there was limited contact with people outside of the group. Our audiences were very appreciative and over 30 tickets were sold as 'live streaming'. Financial details will be provided at the next meeting.

Fall Class Update/COVID - The university has implemented a multi-faceted approach of scheduling for the fall semester. Many classes have been shifted to online (roughly 20%) or other formats including mixed, blended and hy-flex (accounting for about 16% of classes). The university also has a [COVID Web Page](#) with statistics including confirmed cases, testing and calendar updates. In addition, extra student workers have been hired to undertake added cleaning around campus. Students are doing an incredible job adhering to protocols within the city and at school by self-reporting when they feel ill and wearing face masks in and around town.

Current Season: *The Wolves* will be streaming thru September 20, and ticket sales are doing well. The *Symphony Sampler* is scheduled for September 20 and 9 to 5, *the Musical* will run from September 30 thru October 4. Due to the pandemic, some other scheduled productions such as *Metamorphosis* are being replaced in order to adjust for social distancing. Kitt Lavoie, director of this production is replacing it with *The New Normal* which will include original works from the cast.

Museum exhibits have been well received and there are two openings this evening in both the Art Gallery and at the Catapult Creative House. Both galleries are practicing safe distancing procedures.

The Theatre department is retooling their processes to include ensembles performing via video that will display behind the main cast during large productions. Remaining onstage cast members will employ a 12-foot distancing rule. There will also be less scenery and props; some of which will be incorporated into background video.

Music events will have fewer performers onstage by utilizing trios, quartets and small ensembles. The Big Band Juke Box has moved from December to before Thanksgiving. And this event, in addition to the Holiday Percussion Concert, will be held in Academic Hall.

Both Facilities Management and Information Technology have been phenomenal in helping us all to comply with signage, stickers and electronics. They have also provided vocal singers with 'performer' face masks. FM is also working with the Music department on the purchase of proper instrument coverings.

All changes have been communicated with our guests and the Box Office has been working with patrons to re-arrange and re-schedule as requested. Scott commented on being impressed with our use of technology to enhance programming in the wake of current events.

Yamaha Piano Initiatives - The first round of pianos has been delivered and faculty are really enjoying them. The University is working with Yamaha on an official 'roll out' date where we will be designated as a *Yamaha School of Excellence*. The Symphony Sampler will also provide an opportunity to demonstrate all the technology that is incorporated into these instruments. This includes many that never need to be tuned and the ability for students to plug in headsets to practice so that no one is disturbed.

Students can also collaborate with others online, from hundreds of miles away. And there is still the option of playing on a Steinway if students prefer. An additional benefit to the community is the opportunity to purchase a retired piano at a great price. Anyone interested can find offers at govdeals.com. Money raised goes directly back to the initiative.

Other Notes and Information

Art Building Updates –

The university is partnering with Scott Blank and there have been ongoing meetings with the architect and written drawings are nearly complete. Phase one will be focused on Ceramics and Painting and phase two will address Sculpture. Ultimately this reconstruction will support retention by keeping students together in learning communities. Once completed, main campus buildings, like Serena, can then be remodeled for urgently needed space. These upgrades will also impact the community and city. Scott has met with Dr. Vargas regarding enhancements to city property around the new university property. Discussions included adding better lighting and adding more pedestrian access. Scott noted that the city is already seeing improvements from private investors who are developing areas within this section of town. One example is Rob Lorenz, a former university alum, who is moving his pottery business into the old synagogue located on Spanish Street.

Discussion

University board members asked for input in developing relationships with potential donors. Trudy explained that there are many opportunities for contributors to have their names included on spaces. And it was noted that before we can start phase two, more sponsors will be needed. Scott discussed the possibility of having smaller donation opportunities.

No other business noted. Danielle made a motion to adjourn; Victoria seconded. Meeting was adjourned.