

River Campus Board of Managers Minutes

September 1, 2023

Attendees Danielle Poyner, Kenneth Haskin, Rhonda Weller-Stilson, and Brad Koester
Guests Scott and Lisa Blank, Nick Kenney, Ellen Wood, Nancy Palmeri, Michelle Brune
Absent Brad Sheriff, and Sophia Han
Location River Campus Seminary, Conference Room (RCS305)

Minutes Motion made by Rhonda Weller Stilson and seconded by Kenneth Haskin for approval of minutes from April 22, 2022, September 2, 2022, and June 2, 2023. Documents reviewed and unanimously approved.

Danielle Poyner called the meeting to order, and introductions were made.

Agenda

- **New faculty and music chair** - Nick Kenney was introduced as the Interim Chair of Music. He announced the department's new faculty that include Debra Caldwell, Felipe Brito, and Frank Nawrot. Rhonda provided names of Theatre and Dance new hires. They are Tim Nicolai, Nyghel Byrd, Cathy Voecks, and Lily Blouin. Rhonda also explained that Dr. Michelle Brune is serving as Associate Dean and will be helping with multiple accreditation procedures due this academic year.
- **Introduction of Scott and Lisa Blank** - who assisted with the Marching Band project which has been a wonderful space for the students. There was discussion related to redevelopment in the area that would include a new police substation to offset concerns about safety. Scott presenting police substation renderings that will bring a law enforcement presence to the area. In addition, the City applied for a grant for partial funding of the substation and that has been approved. The substation should be up and running in 2024. Danielle talked about her personal perspective of having a student at St Mary's and the positive improvement this will be in the community.
- **Art and Design events presented by Nancy Palmeri** - posters provided to everyone which included events for the fall semester. In addition, Nancy talked about the ways the Arts Buildings are being utilized. Some of these include an upcoming welcome back picnic for students and in November, a Turkey Feast. These buildings that house ceramics, art galleries, and painting and drawing spaces, have created community attention.
- **Ticket Sales Update presented by Ellen Wood** - provided handouts by package type. It includes all inclusive packaging. Sales are encouraging with projected increase of 10 to 20% for this year.
- **Upcoming Productions** - new faculty Debra Caldwell recital, Symphony Sampler which is free and presented as an educational opportunity to hear and see all instruments individually. In addition, 'Head over Heels' is the first musical of the year. The Gala Season Opener and first Jazz concert is coming up along with Big Band Holiday Jukebox. The Holiday Percussion has been remade into a Halloween concert and will be free; come in costume.
- **Update related to the Lanford Wilson New American Play Festival** - this year's is called, Our Play and will be in the spring. Concord Publishing picked up Wintergarten.

Discussion

Shared Louise Bodenheimer's article related to her upcoming exhibition.

- Talked about getting Art and Design areas down to the River Campus. They worked off of a master plan from 2011. They noticed this area was prime for re-development. Wanted to be strategic in looking at commercial and residential development. Trying to give the campus plenty of room to expand. Handout provided of the Midtown Cape Master Plan. Complimenting development, restaurant space, and small retail areas and galleries. Overall vision is to create an artisan district. Residential redevelopment has been discussed to keep faculty, staff, and students near campus. Concerns about safety are being addressed. Scott presenting police substation renderings that will bring a presence to the community. The City applied for a grant for partial funding of the substation and that has been approved. The substation should be up and running in 2024.

Motion made by Brad Koester to adjourn, seconded by Rhonda Weller-Stilson. Meeting adjourned.