

River Campus Board of Managers Minutes

December 8, 2017

Noon in River Campus Seminary Conference Room

Attendees: Rhonda Weller-Stilson, Victoria Rust, Scott Meyer, Bob Cerchio, Dennis Vollink and Karl Kunkel

Absent: Bill Holland

Minutes from September read. Dennis Vollink made a motion to approve, Scott accepted, and Victoria seconded; motion accepted.

Budget updates for next year's touring shows – include becoming more strategic with programming. Internal competition with academic departments has resulted in us becoming our own worst enemy. In addition, rehearsal schedules and dressing rooms have become problematic due to lack of space. Finally, there is some concern that so many events tend to wear out audiences. For these reasons, we are trying to build different packages in order to be the best stewards of our resources. Bob provided handouts showing tentative productions for next year that include an International group, one Christmas offering and two musicals. Touring shows, symphonies and dance especially have been difficult genres to sell and, so we are looking at cutting those moving forward. Email blasts have been eliminated due to cost cutting efforts and have been replaced with a free service offered through Tickets West that has served to improve our sales. In addition, social media efforts have been increased and are showing positive outcomes. Scott will be sure to engage the city in social marketing that includes the River Campus.

Board re-appointments - Victoria Rust has been re-appointed at the December 4th City Council meeting. Provost Kunkel will be up for re-appointment at the Board of Regents meeting to be held December 15th.

Fault Line Film Festival - was a huge success with over fifty film entries from as far away as Utah and Boston. We were thrilled that four major awards were presented to Southeast students. In addition, this year we opened the event to high school students and there were a total of eleven entries; we believe this will be an excellent recruiting tool. Actress Shelby Leverington, Southeast alumna and professional performer, was this year's guest artist. During her visit, she served as a keynote speaker and taught master classes. Attendance for the keynote was around 250, 350 for the gala and around 200 for Saturday's event. A special note of thanks was mentioned for the City of Cape Airport and their continued support.

Academic Successful productions - started with American Hero that has been nominated for several collegiate awards. And Dracula was a big success with larger than expected attendance. In addition, Fall for Dance included guest artists and the show was well received. The Symphony had a wonderful Gala Opener and *Gloria* was well attended. The audience for the Jazz Ensemble was very enthusiastic and the touring shows have all done well. We are looking to keep up the momentum.

New Faculty - have been very impressive. Elizabeth McFarlin is working well with the College of Education, Joseph Jefferson, the new trombonist, is very enthusiastic and Sophia Han, our violinist is popular with students. Jenna Moore is the new 'Judith' and has committed to direct the summer production of Legally Blonde Jr. In addition, Justin Miller designed the set for Dracula and will begin work on Mary Poppins in the spring. Mick Keathley is our new Assistant Production Manager and Southeast alum.

Job Search Updates – were provided by Rhonda that includes two retirements, one in Art and one in Music. In addition there is a current search for a Theatre Dance Lighting Designer who will also teach. The Provost office has approved a Music Theatre voice position with a search starting in the spring. New hires have been driven by record high enrollments. Scott thanked the Provost for the continued support and commitment to academic success and Karl assured the board that the university would do everything possible to retain faculty lines. The river campus is high profile and does so much for the community and the university. Because of this, we have been able to hire the highest caliber faculty. There was some discussion related to scholarship events that are bringing in national interest from Chicago, Memphis and Nashville.

Possible Parking Alternatives - have been a topic of discussion again. Parking for 80 residence hall students and sold out shows are creating a space shortage. The second parking lot has helped very much but we could still use more options for patrons. One idea is to make use of the Knights of Columbus parking lot. Dennis has agreed to follow up with the organization regarding usage during touring productions and will coordinate with Bob on those details.

Dennis Vollink made a motion to adjourn - meeting adjourned.