

NDSCS Foundation Full Board Meeting Minutes

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, as regular meeting of the Foundation Full Board of NDSCS, Wahpeton, North Dakota, was duly called and held in the Red River Valley Room of the Hektner Student Center, on Friday, August 8, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.

The following members were present: Josh Dozak, Bob Gette, Art Grochow, Jeff Hilgemann, Linda Hopkins, Chris Johnson, Joel Kaczynski, James Kapitan, Megan Kummer, Jeff Leinen, Harvey Link, Annette Loken, Michelle Nelson, Dr. John Richman, Trudy Tischer, Hugh Veit, Margaret Wall, Mike Worner, and Melissa Wynn. Kim Nelson and Roger Richels were on conference phone. Becky Walen with Bell Bank Investments attended the first segment of the meeting.

Absent: Thomas Dryburgh, Kelly Hubrig, Andrew Mauch, Justin Neppl and Mike Neppl.

Margaret Wall, Board President, opened the meeting with a welcome. The Board reviewed the minutes from the May 3, 2019 meeting. Joel Kaczynski corrected he was on the phone for the May meeting and not absent.

Approval of Minutes – *A motion to approve the minutes made by Trudy Tischer with the correction and was seconded by Linda Hopkins. Motion carried.* President Wall reported that Tim Neumann decided to retire from the NDSCS Foundation Office effective August 15, 2019. She expressed thanks to Tim for his contributions to the Foundation and passed a card around for the members of the Board to sign.

Becky Walen, Bell Bank, Senior Wealth Management Advisor, shared a four page report in the areas of equity and fixed income, NDSCS Foundation summary of accounts, investment policy statement and benchmark and portfolio performance. Jeff Hilgemann complimented Becky on the summary report and commented it is a good tool for the Board.

Annette Loken reported the Investment RFP process will start in September with the goal of being completed in January.

Kim Nelson reported on the Annual Operation Budget for FY20. With the start of a new financial year, there was not much activity.

Melissa Wynn highlighted the 2018/2019 Foundation Metrics Report. The report included donor, activity & operations, giving and revenue and scholarship statistics. The Foundation strives for consistency in its reporting processes and provide support documentation for noticeable changes.

The Madge Vertin Scholarship will award \$2,000 to 40 students for the 2019-20 academic year. The committee will work with the Fargo Loan Center to decide how to collect outstanding debt. Our current Foundation Endowment Policy will apply on the percentage to be awarded annually.

President Richman informed the Board of House Bill 1171 which appropriated \$6 million for a scholarship/loan forgiveness program aimed to attract people in high-demand fields. It requires matching funds from local employers. NDSCS is getting ready to launch ND Career Builders scholarship opportunities.

Joel Kaczynski reported a that a group from RDO utilized NDSCS facilities for a training seminar this summer and that a John Deere Senior VP and 6 directors would be visiting and looking at their collaborative efforts with NDSCS and the Kosel Family Agriculture Land Lab. Harvey Link informed the Board the Ag Department has a new hire, Jaerod Hanson, as the Precision Ag Instructor. They brought Ag students back for 3 field days this summer. Chris Johnson has a road trip planned to look at the Hope land and visit with the tenants farming it.

Kim Nelson presented the status of Challenge Grant IV. She currently has \$352,475 to put forth for the first round on Sept. 24, 2019. The goal is to raise another \$1.5 million.

Melissa Wynn shared a brief report of the Alumni Foundation Social Events that were held this past summer in St. Paul, MN, Killdeer, ND, Otter Tail Lakes Area and Moorhead MN. She also highlighted upcoming events: NDSCS Homecoming – Oct. 7-12, 2019; Mesa, AZ – Feb. 21, 2020; DREAMS Auction – April 3, 2020. A schedule of the Homecoming week events was included in the Board packets.

Kim Nelson confirmed the date of November 15, 2019 for the next board meeting/retreat. She will be passing on more information on the retreat soon.

Dr. Richman addressed the status of the Career Workforce Academy. The GFMEDC (Greater Fargo/Moorhead Economic Development Corporation) and the Fargo - Moorhead - West Fargo Chamber of Commerce presented a plan for \$15 million in public funding for the Cass County Career Workforce Academy. The proposal to the Cass County Commissioners included a one-mill levy increase to the Capital Projects Fund for 2020 Cass County budget. They decided to move forward by authorizing the County Administrator to continue discussions with representatives from the Career Workforce Academy Project. A site preference has been identified and the next step is to seek out an architectural group and finalize ownership of the facility. Work needs to continue on a memorandum of agreement with the four school districts on an operations budget. We had received permission from the State Board of Higher Ed to raise and secure funds. A marketing firm has been recruited to assist in educating the region on the career academy concept. It was agreed that it should be referenced as the “Career Workforce Academy” without reference to region or location at this point.

President Richman's Report:

- NDSCS is in its 117th year with 800-900 students moving to campus
- Enrollment is at a 2-3% decline
- NDSCS will be working with Stamats to explore integrated marketing communications and recruitment strategies.
- It is a strategic planning year for the college and will align with the Alumni Board retreat planning session
- NDSCS is adding three sports this fall. Trap Shooting and E-sports at a club level and Baseball as a collegiate sport. The Women's Softball and Men's Baseball teams will be able to travel together much like the Men's & Women's Basketball teams.
- Area high school collaboration efforts include Diane Cordes reaching out to Minnesota legislators requesting state funding for high school students taking CTE courses and NDSCS teaching a high school level welding class for Wahpeton high school students.
- NDSCS's retention rate is well above the average at 71%.
- Virginia Foxx, North Carolina Congresswoman, will visit NDSCS to learn about how we deliver career and technical education. She works with a variety of national foundations.

A motion to adjourn was made by James Kapitan and seconded by Josh Dozak. The motion passed.

Submitted by Kim Nelson / Melissa Wynn

Approved 11.15.2019