

## NDSCS Foundation Full Board Meeting Minutes

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, as a regular meeting of the Foundation Full Board of NDSCS, Wahpeton, North Dakota, was duly called and held via Zoom on November 20, 2020.

Present: Mark Beyer, Josh Dozak, Bob Gette, Jeff Hilgemann, Linda Hopkins, Kelly Hubrig, Chris Johnson, Joel Kaczynski, James Kapitan, Megan Kummer, Jeff Leinen, Justin Neppl, Roger Richels, Hugh Veit, Adam Wahler, Margaret Wall, Chad Wehri, Mike Worner, Dr. John Richman, Stu Engen, Michelle Nelson, Kim Nelson, Perry Miller, Yoney Fobb, Melissa Wynn, and Stephanie Curtis

Absent: Laurie Christianson, Art Grochow, Andrew Mauch, Mike Neppl, and Trudy Tischer

Joel Kaczynski opened the meeting. ***A motion to approve the minutes was made by James Kapitan and was seconded by Megan Kummer, motion carried.***

President Richman gave a campus update. There are no plans to change the current delivery of instruction which consists of a hybrid model. Both in-person and online classes are and will continue to be offered. Positive Covid-19 cases on campus have been manageable on the student side, however, there have been some staffing challenges related to increasing numbers and quarantining.

Dr. Richman also shared his legislative priorities for the upcoming session.

- Employee Compensation - Seeking 100% vs. 75% compensation from the state to ensure that salaries and benefits remain competitive. This will also keep tuition increases lower.
- CTE Funding- Increasing career awareness and dual credit support would allow more high school students equal opportunities to dual credit classes.
- Enhancing Student Affordability – Expanding awareness of the ND Career Builders student sponsorship program and continuing the ND Challenge Grant program.
- Higher Education Funding Formula – Changing the current funding formula model may affect the planning time institutions have to make budget changes.

Dr. Richman and Kim Nelson reported on the Career Academy. The NDSCS Foundation is planning the next steps in selling 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. property and an appraisal is expected to be done in December. A signed land agreement is in place for the new site. Ten acres have been donated and an additional five acres will be purchased. The Foundation is working on the EDA grant criteria processes. The Foundation will secure a gap loan to cover expenses until pledges are in. A two-phase plan is anticipated for the Career Academy, designed in a horseshoe configuration. An agreement will be set in place between the Foundation and NDSCS with a triple net lease like the one that they have had the last 25 years.

Stu Engen shared an NDSCS Athletics report. Winter seasons are still being planned and will begin in January of 2021. Practices will start mid-January. Fall sports were allowed 60 practices and some scrimmages but did not compete in any games. Athletes have continued strength and conditioning training. CATBACKERS membership is down. Athletics will work with the Foundation to reach out to previous members and check mailing lists to ensure all potential members are being reached.

Roger Richels shared information from Becky Walen at Bell Bank on the current economic factors affecting investments. The Foundation's total investment balance is \$29,595,880. Roger explained how markets will vary in the coming months due to the Presidential election, Covid vaccines, and Covid numbers. He is cautiously optimistic as the Foundation's portfolio is doing well despite the market. Kim stated that \$205,000 was deposited into investments in the last couple of days.

Kim shared the Operating Report. She pointed out that the Foundation's negative balances are less than budgeted for this time of year. Some larger expenses were paid in October and November, including insurance and taxes. There was nothing unusual to report.

Yoney Fobb gave a brief synopsis of the first online "Day of Giving" held on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Forty donors gave for a total of \$3,335.00. It was a positive learning experience and the goal is to increase social media engagement for the next online event. Overall, the team was encouraged by the fact that we reached 21 new donors and see this as an area for potential growth.

Melissa gave an Annual Giving Campaign update. Giving has increased in comparison to this time last year. We are at 62% of the campaign goal of \$122,000 with \$75,596.00 in so far. Melissa thanked the board members for their support throughout the past 6 years.

The ND Challenge Grant IV status was presented. Kim recognized Perry Miller's efforts in the campaign. With a couple of donors left to come in, it is anticipated that we will meet the goal of 1.9 million to receive \$950,000 in matching state funds. If approved, the next round of fundraising will begin in July 2021. Perry will work with Yoney in transitioning out of his role with the Foundation but has agreed to help intermittently with special projects. Perry also thanked the board and Foundation for the opportunity to assist as the Interim Director of Giving.

An Ag Land Lab update was given by Chris Johnson. The advisory committee met on 11/10/2020. Due to wet conditions, only 30 acres of wheat were planted. RDO was able to do some surface drainage with a rotary ditcher. Wilkin County and the NDSCS Diesel Department seeded a crop cover. Chris would like to see more in-kind donations for expenses and the board agreed. Six Ag scholarships were awarded 2 (\$1,000) and 4 (\$500). Wheat is still being held and the committee will report back after it is sold.

Michelle Nelson gave the results of the audit which was complete in September by Julson's. There were no findings. Kim shared that she and Michelle are looking into software to ease Michelle's workload and allow for the Foundation to prepare financial reports versus having the auditors do them. More information will be shared after quotes are received.

Homecoming nominations were discussed for 2021. Nominations are due by January 1<sup>st</sup>. Criteria and past winners are listed in the board packet. Board members may contact Kim, Melissa, or Stephanie with their nominations. Voting will take place at the February board meeting.

Other business included information on the 2021 Giving Hearts Day which will take place on February 11, 2021. The funds raised will be directed to the Wildcat Care Fund, an emergency fund for students.

A Foundation Board Strategic Planning Meeting was brought up and discussed. The Board agreed it should be scheduled next fall. The board thanked Melissa for her years of service and commitment to the Foundation. She will retire at the end of the year.

Meeting Adjournment – **A motion to adjourn was made by Margaret Wall and seconded by Chris Johnson. The motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Curtis

**Approved 2/5/2021**