

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 in the Plains Room of the Hektner Student Center, on Friday, November 15, 2019, at 8:30 a.m.

The following members were present: Josh Dozak, Thomas Dryburgh, Bob Gette, Jeff Hilgemann, Kelly Hubrig, Joel Kaczynski, James Kapitan, Megan Kummer, Jeff Leinen, Harvey Link, Annette Loken, Michelle Nelson, Roger Richels, Dr. John Richman, Trudy Tischer, Hugh Veit, Margaret Wall and Melissa Wynn. Kim Nelson and Mike Neppl participated by conference call.

Absent: Art Grochow, Linda Hopkins, Chris Johnson, Andrew Mauch, Justin Neppl and Mike Worner.

Margaret Wall, Board President, opened the meeting with a welcome. President Wall commented that those who had not signed the Conflict of Interest forms or received their parking passes could complete the information and return to Melissa Wynn by the end of the meeting. The Board reviewed the minutes from the Aug. 8, 2019 meeting.

Approval of Minutes – A motion to approve the minutes made by Annette Loken and was seconded by Trudy Tischer. Motion carried.

Annette Loken gave an Investment Committee report. The Foundation Bell Wealth Management account has a balance of \$18,291,293. The Madge Vertin Fund, which includes the deposits from the original gift, loans that have been paid back and interest, is at \$3,217,992. The next Investment Committee meeting is set for Jan. 22, 2020. At that meeting, the committee will review and determine if the percentage paid out for scholarships will change according to the parameters set up in the Investment Policy.

Bob Gette shared the results of the Investment RFP process. The Investment RFP Sub-committee included Chris Johnson, Mike Neppl, Michelle Nelson and Bob Gette. The RFPs were sent out in September and due Oct. 18, 2019. Five proposals were submitted and reviewed. Bremer Wealth and Bell Wealth Management were selected to give presentations to the Sub-committee on Nov. 6, 2019. Bell Wealth Management was recommended by the Investment Sub-committee to the Executive Committee on Nov. 7, 2019. *Josh Dozak made a motion for the Full Board to accept the recommendation of Bell Wealth Management as the investment firm for the NDSCS Alumni Foundation for the next 3 years. Jeff Leinen seconded the motion, and it passed.*

Michelle Nelson & Kim Nelson reported on the Annual Operation Budget for FY20. Annual Campaign donations are starting to come in and many of the Foundation Business Sponsorships were received in October. The major expenses included the printing and mailing of the Annual Fundraising Campaign pieces and an insurance payment.

Joel Kaczynski shared a report on the NDSCS Kosel Family Ag Land Lab. The soybeans yielded about half of what we produced last year. Craig Zimprich took out crop insurance and will work with the agents to process claims. The corn is yet to be harvested.

Melissa Wynn gave a status report on the Alumni Annual Giving Campaign. The campaign letters were sent between November 7-13. She included information showing the number of letters mailed for the FY20 campaign (4495) compared to FY19 (7489). Last year's campaign had a 5% return rate. The staff segmented more intentionally and had the NDSCS Student Ambassador group reach out by calling previous donors and thank them for their past support. The staff are optimistic this year's campaign will yield a higher return rate.

Margaret Wall informed the group that the Board Strategic Planning Retreat will be postponed until Kim is back from medical leave.

Margaret and Kim updated the Board on the Alumni office staffing. They are working to secure a temporary interim for the Donor Development Manager position to assist with fundraising responsibilities. Melissa Wynn shared some areas where the staff could use Board assistance. They included reaching out to current Foundation Sponsors and thanking them for their continued support, assisting with events like the upcoming Scholarship Lunches, thank you calls to larger donors and just being active ambassadors for the Foundation.

Melissa also gave a quick review of the 2019 Homecoming events and activities. The week started with temps in the mid 70s for the Wildcat Fangs 5K and ended with a state-wide snow storm. The Homecoming Parade was replaced with an indoor Tailgate Celebration. The NDSCS Wildcat Football team won 31-6 over Minnesota West and the Hall of Fame inductions were postponed until Homecoming of 2020.

Tom Dryburgh gave an NDSCS Athletics report. Women's Volleyball ended the season 22-5. The Men's Football team were 8-2, losing the MCAC semi-final game in overtime 40-34. Men's and Women's Basketball teams both look to be very competitive in conference play. Chris Kappes was hired as the head coach for the NDSCS Baseball program and they will open with their first season in the spring of 2020. The NDSCS Clay Target Team is at a club level and had 62 students participate in its first year. The Catbacker Fund Drive is currently at 142 members with a goal of 150.

President Richman shared a Career Academy update. Progress has been made on development of a curriculum and the 5 agencies, 4 school districts and NDSCS, are working on a long-term sustainable operating budget. We will be watching the January & February County Commission decisions as they will determine future developments of the academy project.

President Richman's Report:

- NDSCS enrollment headcount is steady. Credit production is down, but part-time and dual credit numbers are up.
- The current NDSCS Strategic Plan includes processes to look at credit production, 3rd year options in many of the programs and retention.
- As one of the Top 150 Community Colleges named by the Aspen Institute, we can apply for an opportunity to be awarded a \$1 million prize. The top ten finalists will be named in the Spring of 2020 with the winner being recognized in Spring 2021. The application includes seven focus areas and will be completed by Dr. Jane Vangsness Frisch and Dana Anderson.
- NDSCS Audit investigations concluded with no findings of illegal actions. Dennis Gladen and Dr. Richman sent a 235-page response to items outlined in the Audit. The process will be complete in June of 2020. We have remained positive and been able to make improvements suggested through the process.

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

Submitted by Melissa Wynn

Approved 1.31.2020