

Trustees Present: Jodi Hart Wilson, Eric Schmutz, Michael Wankier, Carson Brown, Sydney Nakken, Beverly Burgess, Lance Hatch, Caytee Wankier. **Trustees Excused:** Marilee Eyre.

Others Present: Mindy Benson, Jon Anderson, Mary Pearson, Jared Tippets, Stuart Jones, Tiger Funk, Doug Knuth, Bailey Bowthorpe. Matt Zufelt, Meb Anderson, Maureen Redeker, Mark Siemon, Selwyn Layton, J. Tony Oliver, Pamela Powell, Kevin Price, John Lisonbee, Steve Carpenter, Mary Jo Anderson, Chris Younkin, Jean Boreen. **Attending virtually:** Daneka Souberbielle, Scott Carlile, Jill Whitaker, Jamie Campbell, Bill Heyborne, Makalya Brown, Matt Zufelt, Allison Bulloch, Nate Esplin, David McGuire, Valeena Wood, Meagan Beesley, Mark Whittaker, Matt Mckenzie, Tessa Anderson, Gina Marston, Pat Palmer, Ken Hall.

Welcome and Call to Order by Chair Jodi Hart Wilson

Chair Jodi Hart Wilson called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m.

President Oath of Office

In order to be compliant with state requirements, the President must take an official oath of office during a public meeting. Bailey Bowthorpe administered the oath of office to President Mindy Benson.

Trustee Roles and Responsibilities Training - Interim Commissioner Landward

Interim Commissioner Landward shared about Trustees duties and responsibilities and how those interplay with the role of the Board of Higher Education, the President, and the Commissioner and how all four of those areas work together to govern the Utah System of Higher Education. There have been some significant recent changes at the state level with the Board of Higher Education that impact the role of the Trustees. The Board of Trustees have the responsibility to control, oversee, and regulate for their institution. They provide guidance to set vision and goals for the institution – not to manage it. Trustees also play a larger role in evaluating the president on an annual basis and monitor the president's progress in achieving the vision and goals of the institution and ensure the institution is making progress on system-wide goals. They also have oversight and responsibilities over strategic planning, approving policies, setting tuition and fees, budget and finance oversight, facilities, approving and reviewing new programs that fit within the institution's mission.

ACTION ITEMS

Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes of the June 9, 2023 meeting were presented for approval by Chair Wilson. Michael Wankier made the motion to approve the minutes. Second by Carson Brown. Vote was unanimous.

Policy 9.10 - Sick Leave

VP Mary Pearson presented Policy 9.10 Sick Leave. The policy defines who qualifies for sick leave, what it is, and how sick leave can be used. Any eligible employee can use their sick leave for personal illness, well care, and medical, dental, and vision appointments and employees can also use sick leave for immediate family and parents/parents-in-law care. Trustee Caytee Wankier asked about the definition of well care. VP Pearson explained that it was purposely left broad so it can apply to many situations like mental health, etc. Faculty and staff are supportive of this policy.

Motion to approve Policy 9.10 by Sydney Nakken second by Caytee Wankier. Vote was unanimous.

R401- Master of Science in Nursing in Family Nurse Practitioner

Provost Anderson introduced the R401 proposal MSN in FNP program. This would be the only FNP degree in Southern Utah offered by a public institution and there is a significant regional demand for FNP's in southern Utah and rural areas of the state. This is a much needed program for our region.

College of Health Sciences Dean Tony Oliver, Nursing Department Chair Dr. Selwyn Layton and Nursing Professor Dr. Marc Siemon shared more details about the program. This will be a 5 semester, 52 credit online program with an in-person clinical intensive component. It is a small program that will start out with 10 students once a year for admissions. It meets all of the standards required for licensure, except for accreditation which will come after program approval. Provost Anderson publicly commended our nursing department. They have been innovative in meeting regional needs and they have been creative and collaborative with industry partnerships. Chair Wilson commended the team for their work.

Trustee Michael Wankier asked about the financial aspect of the program, which is forecasted to run a deficit each year. Is there a plan to address that and make sure it doesn't grow larger? Dr. Siemon acknowledged that this is going to be an expensive program. We believe we can make up some of that deficit through federal grant

opportunities - there is a grant specifically for rural FNP programs that we will apply for as soon as we have the program in place. Provost Anderson explained that more broadly in academic affairs there is a balance between two different kinds of master's programs. Programs like this will always be small because they have a heavy clinical component and we have to subsidize them and anticipate that. On the other end we have programs with high growth like our MBA program that is now the largest MBA program in the state. So we try to balance smaller programs like this that have huge regional needs with high growth programs that generate revenue.

Trustee Lance Hatch made the motion to approve the Master of Science in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner proposal. Second by Trustee Carson Brown. Vote was unanimous.

CONSENT ITEMS

- Tenure and Rank Advancement - New Dean - Pam Powell
- HSS 7-Year Program Review
 - Provost Jon Anderson and Dean Jean Boreen shared that there were two external experts brought in to review every department in the college. Dean Boreen said it was a good report that identified strengths, weaknesses, and challenges that HSS can work on and continually improve. The reviewers also came away with ideas to take back to their own universities based on what we are doing at SUU. Positive experience for all involved.
- Investment Reports May-July 2023
 - Investment committee meeting was on Wednesday of this week, the committee met with our investment advisors. They have done a good managing our portfolio and have tried to have a return on our endowment of 8-9%.

Trustee Michael Wankier made the motion to approve the consent items, second by Trustee Beverly Burgess. Vote was unanimous.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

Board Report: Carson Brown (Students)

Trustee Carson Brown shared an update from the Student Association. SUUSA is working on initiatives to help get new students connected and involved. They have a program called involvement captains specifically created for that reason. They are also investing more resources into events that can include a wider variety of students with different interests. SUUSA is also increasing student input opportunities with monthly town halls to get student's opinions on different issues affecting campus. They have also created a Student Advisory Forum for 20-25 student organizational leaders to come together to collaborate once a month. Also working on developing a mental health campaign on social media which

will include videos and other posts to help students connect with mental health resources. Campus recreation is another priority for students. SUUSA is doing research on the needs of students and ideas and solutions to increase those opportunities. SUU is participating in an intercollegiate day of service on October 14th - all the universities in the state are doing a day of service. SUU is working with the community engagement center to make blankets for families in need.

Board Report: Caytee Wankier (Alumni)

Trustee Caytee Wankier shared an update from the Alumni Association. The Alumni Relations office pillars are volunteer, experiential, philanthropic, and communication. These pillars help to give the alumni association more direction and intention and to stay consistent in what we are communicating to Alumni. The National Alumni Council has several initiatives incorporating those pillars including:

- Wear RED on Friday - a simple thing to do that brings more unity to T-Birds everywhere
- Tradition Keeper Program - 50 SUU traditions geared toward students, but anyone can participate. Helps connect to the power of place.
- SUU License Plate Program - funds raised from SUU license plates go toward student scholarships.
- Alumni Ambassador Program - 73 alumni who help recruit and share about SUU
- Don't Wing It, Just Vote - encouraging civic involvement
- Random Acts of T-Birds - challenging alumni to serve
- Stats about the alumni: 71,719 total alumni, most are in Utah, Nevada and California.

Faculty Senate Report:

Professor of Library & Information Science Chris Younkin represented the faculty senate and shared a brief update about the senate's initiatives. The faculty senate is reviewing Policy 6.3 the internship policies to give students more time to register for internship credit. Faculty have expressed questions and concerns about employee health coverage and Kelly Goonan (Faculty Senate President), along with the staff association president will be meeting with HR to discuss options and solutions. The Dean of Students office, the Disability Resource Center, and the Center for Teaching Innovation worked together to develop pedagogical resources for teaching students with disabilities. Excited to be working collaboratively to develop more resources for faculty to feel confident and compassionate in the way they work with students with disabilities. The executive committee of the Senate met with Scott Wyatt about initiatives the Board of Higher Education has tasked him with researching. It was a great discussion and the senate will continue to engage with groups across campus to explore the feasibility of these initiatives.

Staff Association Report:

Staff Association President John Lisonbee shared that the Staff Association changed up their opening social to better recognize staff years of service. This year, they will be recognizing 87 staff members with a combined total of 1,105 years of service and continue to look for more ways to recognize staff beyond the opening social. During the event, the staff association is kicking off an employee giving campaign. The goal is to have 250 contributors to the staff association scholarship fund. The Staff Association Board and Committees are: currently evaluating the process of staff association professional development funds and reinstating the salary equity committee. The policy committee worked on the sick leave policy with HR to ensure there was staff input. They also want to explore how to consistently help students throughout the semester.

President's Report & Campus Updates

Homecoming is a wonderful opportunity to bring T-Birds back from all over the country. There are reunions of various groups happening this weekend. It's a great time to reconnect and build community.

President Benson asked VP Stuart Jones to share a fall enrollment update. Our 3rd week report preliminary numbers came in yesterday. We are up 4.9% in headcount. Budget Related FTE is up at 5.1%. 15,033 in full headcount. That has us up 703 students compared to last year. Online up 26% from last year. International is up 80 students, which is above pre-pandemic numbers. New students up about 40 overall. We need to continue to grow face to face in a measured way. The number of face-to-face students in Cedar City is 8,650. VP Jones thanked the enrollment management and retention teams for all their work over the summer to make these enrollment numbers happen, it's been a challenging and long summer.

VP Jared Tippets shared an update on retention. Retention numbers are based on the subset of students - first time, full time bachelor's degree seeking students. It will take a few more months to get a retention rate. It is expected to be up from last year right around 73-74%. The graduation rate will be an all-time institutional high of about 60%. Meaning that 60% of students graduated within 6 years.

Michael Bahr named the permanent Executive Managing Director of the Utah Shakespeare Festival. We also have a new artistic director beginning on November 1st. The Festival has had a great season and are close to hitting their revenue goals for the season.

Had Scott Wyatt here on campus this week to discuss the initiatives the Board of Higher Education has tasked him with. We asked him to come and start talking about those and see how SUU might fit into those initiatives and how we can lead out.

Tiger Funk and Mary Pearson are new to the President's Cabinet and have been a great addition to the senior leadership team. The President gave time to Mary Pearson and Tiger Funk to share about the vision for their divisions and their respective teams.

The President ended her report by inviting all of the Trustees to the One Utah Summit hosted on SUU's campus on October 2nd-4th.

Training on Open Meetings and Public Records

Assistant Attorney General for SUU Meb Anderson presented a refresher training about open meetings and public records with the Trustees.

Marketing Update

VP Stuart Jones shared an update on marketing research that is guiding SUU's future marketing campaigns, including central brand elements and pillars. Next steps are to work with a firm to come up with a big idea that will help build a marketing campaign.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by Trustee Michael Wankier. Second by Trustee Eric Schmutz. Vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.