

Colorado College Board of Trustees

Business Meeting

February 19, 2021

1-3 p.m.

In attendance: Sue Allon, Onyx Bengston, Sam Bronfman, Susie Burghart, Bill Campbell, Heather Carroll, John Chalik, Dan Cooper, Carolyn Cullen, Jerome DeHerrera, Eric Duran, Mike Edmonds, Frieda Ekotto, Joe Ellis, Jane Franke, Lisa Hastings, Ryan Haygood, Jesse Horn, Jeff Keller, Amy Louis, Tafari Lumumba, Liza Malott Pohle, Kishen Mangat, Manuel Martinez, Robert Moore, Eben Moulton, Doug Norberg, So Yong Park, Jane Rawlings, Bob Ross, Bob Selig, Van Skilling, Andy Stenovec, Phil Swan, Brian Thomson, John Troubh, Thayer Tutt, Lauren Watel, Elliott Williams, Jack Wold, Alan Woo

Not in attendance: Neal Baer, Bill Hybl, Mike Lampton, Bob Manning, Natalie Pham, Adam Press, Kyle Samuel, Mike Slade, Winddance Twine, Cole Wilbur, Brian Williamson, Nancy Woodrow, Sue Woolsey

Staff in attendance: Andrea Bruder, Molly Bodnar Pedro de Araujo, Rochelle Dickey, Claire Garcia, Lori Hamacher, Mark Hatch, Lesley Irvine, Jane Turnis, John Wallace, Lyrae Williams, Brian Young

Guests:

Introductory Remarks

Chair Susie Burghart welcomed trustees to the meeting, which took place virtually due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. She shared good news that Colorado College has 12 Fulbright semi-finalists. ***She motioned for approval of the November 6, 2020, Business meeting minutes. The motion was moved and approved.***

Ms. Burghart introduced Acting Co-Presidents Mike Edmonds and Robert Moore, who gave their Presidents' Report.

Presidents' Report

Mike Edmonds reported that faculty, staff, and students have done an exceptional job during the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that the community at Colorado College has been doing its best under the circumstances to fulfill the college's mission.

Due to the uncertainty of the pandemic, the college may admit 300 more applicants than usual to yield enough students for an incoming class.

Mr. Edmonds shared that the college has exceptional candidates for tenure as well as exceptional candidates for honorary degree recipients.

The hockey team is attending the hockey tournament at the University of North Dakota and we are working with the SCAC conference to carry out a sports season.

The Presidential Leadership Awards will honor faculty and staff during Spring Conference.

Mr. Edmonds congratulated Trustee Ryan Haygood for being honored by his law school alma mater, the University of Colorado Law School, at their alumni awards ceremony. Mr. Haygood, a renowned civil rights lawyer, is president and CEO of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice.

After Mr. Edmonds concluded the Presidents' Report, Jeff Keller provided information about gift planning opportunities.

Gift Planning

Mr. Keller, who is co-chair of the campaign, emphasized the importance of bequests and planned gives and the impact these philanthropic contributions can have. He asked trustees to consider making a planned gift and emphasized the importance of full trustee giving during the campaign.

Mr. Young, the interim vice president for development, shared that the college has recently received a "wonderful seven figure gift," which was not expected.

Molly Bodnar, associate vice president for development, explained the estate bequest process and thanked the Board of Trustees for their participation and leadership during the campaign. She explained that part of the intention of the campaign was to ensure that all trustees can participate. To-date, trustees have made \$10 million in new estate commitments during the campaign.

The campaign concludes on December 31, 2021.

COVID-19 Update

Brian Young gave an update on the college's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, explaining that testing strategies continue to work well and that the pipeline for testing supplies is strong.

The college continues to conduct random sample tests. Recently, the college has returned to Level 1, which allows more access to facilities. The college continues to work with local and state health providers to evaluate capacities of these spaces.

Mr. Young explained the different phases that Colorado has put in place for COVID-19 vaccinations. Under the current phase of 1B, K-12 teachers are eligible for vaccination, but college faculty and staff are not, unless individual criteria such as age qualifies them for a vaccine at this time.

The college continues to work with the Governor's Office as plans form for vaccination rollout. Colorado College is planning to participate in a pilot program with UC Health that will begin at the end of the month [February 2021].

Colorado College continues to be one of the safer environments in the state and the country. The college is still operating as a de-densified residential experience. The college is maintaining 50 percent density in larger residence halls, but is close to 100 percent in smaller populated places. About 1,100 students are living on campus.

Pedro de Araujo, vice provost and associate professor of economics, stated that during Block 5, 1,900 students were enrolled and six classes were in-person. He predicts that 38 classes will be in-person by Block 8 and that 35 percent of classes will be held in hybrid or flex format during blocks 5-8. A total of 310 students are registered for Block A, about a 25 percent increase compared to summer 2020. Many students have been taking advantage of the college's 10 Block flex schedule.

The COVID-19 updated concluded and Chair Susie Burghart announced that committee reports would begin.

Executive Committee

Acting Co-President Mike Edmonds began the report of the Executive Committee. There were three actions that required a vote.

1. Nominees for Honorary Degree Recipients for the Class of 2021 Commencement
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Mr. Edmonds moved to grant these nominees honorary degrees. Ms. Burghart called for a second. Secretary Jerome DeHerrera seconded the motion. The vote was approved.

Mr. Edmonds referenced the bios by Acting Provost and Dean of the Faculty Claire Garcia of faculty nominated for tenure and promotions.

Alan Woo motioned to approve the nominations. The vote was approved.

The third and final action item of the Executive Committee was to vote on the names of faculty who had been advanced for emeritus status. The move to vote was seconded and the vote was approved.

Investment Committee

Investment Committee Chair John Troubh stated that the college's endowment returned 3 percent, representing a weak year. However, that total return includes the last quarter that coincided with the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Troubh explained that an interim committee meeting will need to be held to discuss the investment policy statement.

A successful bond offering has provided \$15 million in proceeds and was secured at a very low rate. These funds are not designated for spending, but in reserve should they be needed to respond to an emergency.

Budget and Finance Committee

Budget and Finance Committee Chair Phil Swan said the committee has discussed the budget and the fee for 2021-22. The committee recommends a 2 percent increase of the comprehensive fee. Mr. Swan shared that impact for families has been carefully considered and thus the Colorado Pledge, which provides financial aid for qualifying students from Colorado, would continue. A 2 percent increase for 2020-21 is \$1,482. ***The increase was put to a vote and passed.***

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Buildings and Grounds Committee Chair Brian Thomson reported that the Ed Robson Arena project remained on budget, but a small crack in a pipe in the ice making system needs to be repaired and will delay opening the arena by four-six weeks. With the change, the opening is anticipated for early-mid September 2021.

KVA Architects have been contracted to provide estimates for a replacement for the 3D Arts Building, which was taken down so Ed Robson Arena could be constructed. The new space could be located in the current Bemis Art School. A longer-term plan would see the Bemis Art School move to the Van Briggie building. This second, more expensive plan will require additional fundraising.

A new science building is part of the college's Master Plan. Before this project can begin, 75 percent of its projected budget will need to be secured through fundraising. The board agreed to move forward with updating the cost estimate for this new building. During this process, the departments that will be located in this building will be identified.

Governance Committee

Secretary Jerome DeHerrera brought three action items from the Governance Committee to the full board.

Student Trustee: Two finalists were put forth to be voted upon in the student trustee election through the Colorado College Student Government Association (CCSGA). ***The board approved both of the finalists selected to move forward in the election.***

Charter Trustees: the committee recommends two candidates, Justin Chester White and Tony Rosendo. Mr. Rosendo will defer for one year due to a high volume of current commitments.

Mr. DeHerrera opened the floor for discussion. A vote was called, taken, and approved.

Proposed modification to bylaws: Moving forward with plans to have faculty representation on committees of the Board of Trustees will require changes to the board's bylaws. Each faculty committee member is recommended by the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) and serves for two years.

Mr. Edmonds said this change represented an opportunity to give faculty a voice as well as an opportunity to have different faculty involved.

A vote will happen in 30 days, in accordance with rules for bylaw changes that require a 30-day period after a proposal of a change.

Student Success Committee

Student Success Committee Heather Carroll explained the purpose of the committee is to monitor whether or not students have the support and resources they need to be successful.

Senior Associate Dean for Equity, Inclusion, and Faculty Development Peony Fhagen gave a presentation to the committee on her work with Colorado College faculty. She reported that faculty have been very receptive to working with her and that ongoing coordination is needed across the college.

Fhagen will be joined by Senior Associate Dean and Director of the Butler Center Rosalie Rodriguez, Senior Associate Dean for Equity, Inclusion and Interim Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Staff Barbara Wilson for a presentation to the Board of Trustees on March 5.

Ms. Carroll reported that the college compares favorably to 15 peers through its work in student learning. About 150 students are accessing the admission hub. However, there are only four specialists in the hub who can accommodate this heavy demand for services.

Ms. Carroll also shared a report from Heather Horton, director of Colorado College's Wellness Center. Dr. Horton reported that students' top concerns during COVID-19 have been: loss of extracurricular activities, concern over potential loss of friendships, and concerns about health and well-being.

Campaign SPT

Vice Board Chair and Campaign Co-Chair Jeff Keller reported that the college is closing in on its goals for the *Building on Originality* campaign.

Remaining funding priorities in the campaign include Creativity & Innovation, Scholarships, and achieving 50 percent alumni participation.

Athletics SPT

Chair Andy Stenovec introduced Vice President, Director of Athletics Lesley Irvine, who spoke about the future of the Athletics SPT, affirming that she sees the value in it becoming a standing committee.

Ms. Irvine also spoke about new branding for the athletics annual fund and collaborations with the college's Annual Giving office. She also provided updates on Ed Robson Arena and spring sport. She reported that the Tigers won a SCAC cross country championship.

Financial Model SPT

Chair Jesse Horn reported on the current recruitment and enrollment climate for fall 2021. A report to the SPT by Vice President for Enrollment Mark Hatch detailed national trends that likely will also impact Colorado College. Mr. Hatch's report also detailed long-term impacts on the discount rate for tuition.

Size and Makeup of the Student Body SPT

Chair Tafari Lumumba presented a vision concerning what the student body at Colorado College should look like, affirming that it should reflect the makeup of the world students will enter after graduation in terms of racial and economic diversity.

Short term goals call for making progress toward the college's diversity goals and benchmarking with peer institutions. Longer term goals will be required to achieve our vision, however.

Additional goals include benchmarking with other four-year colleges in Colorado and increasing the number of schools Colorado College is recruiting students from. It's also important for Colorado College to continue to have a top-tier Career Center that meets our students' needs.

Fine Arts Center Advisory Board

Chair Sue Allon reported that the Fine Arts Center (FAC) has found surprising success with online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The FAC has embarked on a consulting project to address infrastructure changes as they come on board with Colorado College. Plans call for maintaining community engagement as well as emphasizing diversity, equity and inclusion. Fundraising and antiracism goals are complementary efforts.

Additional Business

Chair Susie Burghart raised several additional items as additional business for the board.

A motion was made, and a vote passed, to name the Charles L. Tutt Library's east entrance and third-floor study lounge for former Colorado College President Jill Tiefenthaler.

Ms. Burghart explained the charge of the Special Nominating Committee, which has been charged with recommending the next slate of officers for the Board of Trustees. Three names were nominated for the roles of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. The nominees were placed in waiting while the board discussed. ***A motion for a vote was made. A vote was taken and the new slate was approved.***

With no additional business, Ms. Burghart adjourned the meeting.

