

Approved February 24, 2023

**Remote via Zoom**

*Governors Present:* **Chuck Nelsen, Chair**; Cathy Pleasant, Vice Chair; David Hodson, Past Chair; David Heinsen  
**Absent:** Tom Giustina

*Ex Officio Present:* Gayle Hutchinson, President; Ahmad Boura, Vice President for University Advancement (CEO); Ann Sherman, Vice President for Business and Finance (CFO)

*Staff:* Pam Hollis and Robin Carter University Advancement

**MINUTES**

Chair of the Board, Chuck Nelsen, called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

**Chair's Report: Nelsen**

Nelsen asked for discussion on the meeting schedule and draft agendas. There were no additions or changes requested by the governors. Pam Hollis addressed minor changes. There were no changes to the Schedule of Meetings, but Ahmad Boura noted that the meetings on October 3 are virtual and include a Zoom link. There are many Homecoming events happening during the October board meetings and a schedule will be sent. The governors are encouraged to attend events and bring their families.

The Governance Committee meeting includes the policy review of Sections 5 and Section 6. The Development and Advocacy committee and the Finance and Investment committee meetings will include two presentations from University Foundation Governors' Award recipients. The General Session will possibly include two education sessions from Arnerich-Massena. New staff will join the General Session meeting after lunch.

Dennis Heinsen moved to approve the meeting schedules and amended the draft agendas. The motion was seconded, and the meeting schedules and draft agendas were approved.

**President's Report: Gayle Hutchinson**

President Hutchinson gave an update on the return to the fall semester, which began Monday, August 22. Over 81% of classes are in-person. Campus is full of energy and life. Students are happy to be back and in-person receiving the on-campus college experience. In the classrooms, students and staff are welcome to wear masks, but it is not required.

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The number of COVID cases is around 100. The isolation policy in place seems to be working well and cases are less than spring semester. There has been one case of Monkey Pox, but that has been contained. All policies have been upgraded and in place for contagious diseases. Campus is encouraging the next booster shot.

Campus is not immune to the “great resignation”. University Advancement has been creative in hiring staff. The Business and Finance and the Information Technology divisions have also been challenged with hiring staff.

The President was on a committee to propose policy for earmarks. The President lobbied for money for the Human Identification Lab and for the farm. The farm received \$18.5 million in one-time money to help renovate the meat lab, classroom improvement and irrigation.

With COVID, there is an increase in mental health challenges. There are also students who have not had experience being in a college setting. Enrollment has continued to decrease since the Camp Fire. The reduction of tuition of fees has resulted in a decrease in \$14 million in revenue. In the spring of 2024, if we are not able to show an increase in enrollment, the state will reallocate fees based on current enrollment. The campus has \$94 million in reserve, which the campus will use to replace the \$14 million decrease. The campus will need to practice fiscal conservancy which may mean reducing part-time staff or curriculum with lower attendance. Admissions and recruitment have been ramping up retention. VP Boura and the President are about to release a major marketing campaign focused on enrollment.

#### **CFO’s Report: Ann Sherman**

Vice President Sherman gave an update on the State Budgeting Process. They are using multi-year look-backs (3-4 years) to see what the trends have been. Also looking at budget-to-actual spending and multi-year forecasting. There was an increase by \$13 million in direct support from the state, but with enrollment down and some unfunded centrally managed and salary-related costs, the budget situation is still concerning.

#### **CEO’s Report: Ahmad Boura**

Boura reported on University Advancement staffing. Three new part-time regional directors of philanthropy have been hired. Additional hires will be in communications, scholarships and endowments, and personnel to support the new capital campaign.

An update was given on the ad hoc committee that met regarding the Student Managed Investment Fund. The board devised language that was approved by the governors and the project will move forward.

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Boura is working closely with the faculty senate and staff council on the new staff recognition program. He is planning on presenting recognition proposals in February. In addition, Boura is working with the President and David Alexander on the Presidential Award to bring recognition to the campus. President Hutchinson spoke about the student presidential scholarship, a four-year award. The President would like to see the new presidential scholarship as a mentorship opportunity resulting in an ambassador for the college. On the faculty-side, the President wants to focus on rewarding innovation and leading-edge ideas. She also described the robotic hands and haptics demonstration that was presented in the Fall Convocation. The virtual reality technology demonstration created by Chico State professor, Jeremy Fishel and his team is the kind of innovation that is going to catapult Chico State to recognition on a global stage.

Nelsen adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m. and looks forward to seeing everyone at the October 2022 meetings.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be Wednesday, January 25, 2023.

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