**Saint Paul School of Theology**

**On Zoom and On Location at the Saint Paul Kansas Campus**

**April 2023**

**Friday, April 14, 2023**

Board Members Present: Amy Hogan, Jennifer Ahrens-Sims, Arden Borgen, David Wiggs, Tino Herrera, Sharon Cleaver, Jabari Wamble, Andy Bryan, Rogers Strickland, Tex Sample, Dana Aldridge, Mark Faulkner, Linda Shipman

Guests Present: Kris Kvam, Nancy Howell, Elaine Robinson, Jeanne Hoeft, Margaretta Narcisse, Michelle Hatcher, Richard Liantonio, Sharon Betsworth, Neil Blair, Jennifer Smith, Jay Simmons, Shannon Hancock, Matthew Mills, Tiffany Nagel-Monroe, Baylee Cook

**1:02 pm**

**Devotion -** Andy Bryan, *Trustee*

Andy shared a song, a reading from Ecclesiastes, and a reflection on his time serving on the Board.

**1:08 pm**

**Board Business -** Amy Hogan, *Chair of the Board*

* Set the Agenda
* Vote: Approval of October Board Meeting Minutes

**MOTION to approve October Minutes moved by Dana Aldridge, seconded by Jennifer Ahrens-Sims. Passed unanimously.**

**1:15pm**

**Trust and Collaboration Report & IDI Activity Follow-Up -** Jennifer Ahrens-Sims, *Trustee*; *Trust and Collaboration Committee*

Jennifer began by explaining the Group Profile Report as it pertains to the IDI Assessment, along with acknowledging the current members of the Trust and Collaboration Task Force. Jennifer posed a question related to the diversity of the Board and asked for sources of evidence. Review of Strategic Planning Goals as related to the assessment. Discussion of the Group Profile Report results. Discussion of next steps and practicality of an equity audit.

Break

**3:16pm**

**Great Plains Conference Update and Conversation** - *Bishop David Wilson*

Bishop Wilson responded to the President’s question: How might Saint Paul respond to the needs of the Great Plains conference?

**3:33 pm**

**Recruitment and Retention Presentation** - Shannon Hancock, *Director of Admissions and Communications;* Jay Simmons, *Vice President for Institutional Advancement;* Amy Hogan, *Chair of the Board*

Jay Simmons provided details and statistics on church attendance along with seminary enrollment trends between 2021-2022. Dr. Simmons also elaborated on sources of decline in M.Div. degree programs. Shannon Hancock presented on Saint Paul’s enrollment trends from 2018 to present, including discussion of a large number of applications from international applicants. Dr. Hancock discussed impediments to admissions for these students and non-UMC students. The group broke into small groups to discuss ideas to promote SPST, generate more aid for students, the advantages of our locations, and potential new degree offerings. The four groups came back together to share highlights of the conversations. Shannon distributed a SPST flier to board members and exhorted them to distribute them to people.

**4:36 pm**

**President’s Comments -** Neil Blair, *President*

President Blair directed the board’s attention to the previously distributed report on how he is working toward his stated goals. He reported that, though the UMC may be going through difficult times, multiple conversations with Bishops have given him hope for the future.

**4:43** **pm**

**Closing Prayer** - Sharon Cleaver, *Vice Chair of the Board*

**4:46** **pm**

**Adjourn**

**Saturday, April 15, 2023**

Board Members Present: Linda Shipman, Amy Hogan, Dana Aldridge, Tino Herrera, Mark Faulkner, Tex Sample, Andy Bryan, Lee Myane, Jennifer Ahrens-Sims, David Wiggs, Rogers Strickland, Arden Borgen

Guests Present: Sharon Betsworth, Neil Blair, Shannon Hancock, Jay Simmons, Matthew Mills, Nancy Howell, Elaine Robinson, Jeanne Hoeft, Jennifer Smith, Jack Gregory

**8:30 am**

**Prayer**

**8:40 am**

**Committee Reports**

**Resource Committee** - Linda Shipman, *Committee Chair*

Saint Paul completed an annual internal audit and surpassed expectations, with the Committee accepting that report. Discussed meeting related to 2nd quarter financial statement. Discussion of changes of 3-year rolling budget (Document 4.1.7 in Moodle). Elaboration on budget cuts as indicated in the Document. Discussion of five investment firms that will present to the Committee. Discussion of proposed tuition increase (Document 4.1.8 in Moodle) and communication strategy around announcement. Jay Simmons provided an update on campaign planning.

* **Vote: Approval of Updated 3-Year Budget**

**MOTION to approve Updated Budget moved by Amy Hogan, passed unanimously.**

* **Vote: Approval of Tuition Increase**

**MOTION to approve Tuition Increase moved by Amy Hogan, passed unanimously.**

**9:41 am**

**Governance Committee** - Dana Aldridge, *Committee Chair*

Discussion of presidential search work and process.

**9:43 am**

**Academic Committee** - Lee Myane, *Committee Chair*

Discussion of faculty hires and clarifying voting processes and board communication. Discussion of future conversation to update Board Policy 6-4. Acknowledgment of Dr. Howell’s research leave item in Moodle. Dean Betsworth shared some of the recent publications of faculty, including three books.

* **Vote: Approval and Affirmation of New Faculty Appointments:**

**MOTION to approve and affirm the hiring of Dr. Heesung Hwang moved by Lee Myane, passed unanimously.**

**MOTION to approve and affirm the hiring Dr. Jacob Randolph moved by Lee Myane, passed unanimously.**

**9:59 am**

**Presidential Search Update** - Amy Hogan, *Chair of the Board*; Dana Aldridge, *Governance Committee Chair*

Discussion of candidates reviewed by the consulting firm (EFL), with five candidates not moving forward. Semi-final reviews will occur next week. Discussion of candidates’ qualifications and the documentation reviewed so far. Review of the members on the Presidential Search Committee.

**10:11 am**

**Break**

**10:28 am**

**Strategic Planning and Evaluation Committee** - Tex Sample, *Committee Chair*

Discussion of the SPEC’s last meeting.

**Strategic Planning Task Force** - Tex Sample, *SPEC Committee Chair*; Sharon Betsworth, *VPAAD*

The Task Force is working on three broad goals related to Advancement, Academic Programming, and Student Recruitment with 3-5 indicators of effectiveness in each area. A few more meetings are scheduled for the future, with a reevaluation of the Task Force’s utility. The Task Force invited questions and comments from the Board related to their work.

**10:38 am**

**Open Discussion and Strategic Planning Time** - Amy Hogan, *Chair of the Board*

**11:08 am**

**Breakout Sessions / Reflection Activity**

Sharing of ideas from group discussions. Discussion of ideas pertaining to Board involvement with Alumni and Students in a mentorship capacity.

**11:40 am**

**Closed Session** - *Trustees*

**Closing Prayer/Adjourn**

Submitted by

Baylee Cook, President/Board Executive Assistant