PRESENT: EXCUSED:

Mr. Troy J. Broussard Mr. Buddy Boe

Ms. Anne Candies Mr. James Carter

Ms. Judy Reese Morse Ms. Catherine Morrell

Ms. Beth Scioneaux Ms. Nadine Ramsey

Mr. Gary Solomon Mr. Christian Rhodes

Mr. Jefferson Turner Ms. Raquel Richmond

Ms. Sarah Usdin

EX-OFFICIO:

Mr. Kyle Wedberg

COUNSEL:

Mr. Mark Beebe

CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Mr. Troy J. Broussard, called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was taken. There were seven of thirteen members present. Quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Broussard welcomed public comment regarding the Board Meeting minutes of February 12, 2019. There was none. Mr. Buddy Boe moved to approve the minutes of the NOCCA Board Meeting of February 12, 2019. Ms. Sarah Usdin seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

STUDENT PRESENTATION

Kieva Banks, 11th grade Classical Vocal Music Level II, and Sarah Faust, 11th grade Drama Level II, entered NOCCA’s Academic Studio as part of the first Junior/Senior Entry in 2018-19. Both shared with the Board about their experiences in the Academic Studio. Kieva talked about the experience of being taught by teachers who “really want to be here”. Sarah felt it was the “best decision” she ever made. Both felt welcome and “one of the group” very quickly. Sarah stated that the style of teaching in the Academic Studio was a better match for her than a more traditional approach. Kieva stated that information was easier to remember because the teachers presented material in a way that helped to remember it. Scheduling was an issue for both because they needed certain classes in order to graduate. These classes required that they join different groups or required them to miss other classes they wanted to take. Kieva felt the program was “character building” and Sarah commented on how much the teachers care.

Mr. Kyle Wedberg, NOCCA President/CEO, told the Board about the recent NOCCA Jazz Masterclass held at the Governor’s Mansion. The 1 ½ hour long presentation is on the Governor’s website to view. The class was conducted by two current Jazz faculty members, Michael Pellera and Khari Allen Lee, two NOCCA alums, Miles Labat and Jason Weber, five NOCCA Jazz students and Jazz Master Mr. Wendell Brunious. In attendance were about 20 East Baton Rouge Parish music students. The Board was shown a video of part of the event. The Board commented on how this type of event was in line with Strategic Planning goals, how moving it was to watch NOCCA students in a leadership role and in ensemble, and how gratifying it was to see the East Baton Rouge Parish students move from observers to participants. Mr. Wedberg stated that there are plans to schedule more Masterclasses around the state.

STUDENT SERVICES UPDATE

Dr. Kit Nelson, Director of Academic Studio, discussed the document entitled Academic Studio Enrollment Trends. Dr. Nelson stated that the goal for enrollment in the Academic Studio is 246. That consists of 66 in the 9th grade, and 60 in each other grade. Factors affecting retention and yield include:

* Providing clarity to families on philosophy of teaching, strategy for education, and schedule of Academic Studio so parents are making more informed decisions for their students to join Academic Studio
* Providing better support for students by studying records before they start school and conducting testing in the summer to determine needs
* Onboarding juniors and seniors to maintain numbers affected by attrition

Discussion followed regarding the challenges and advantages of having 9th grade students in the Academic Studio. Unique challenges and plans to improve transition for the onboarding of 12th grade students were discussed as well, including transcript follow-up with schools and potentially offering a summer course to address some of the course needs during the school year.

One small change to the NOCCA School Calendar 2019-2020 was shared. Ms. Usdin moved to approve the NOCCA School Calendar 2019-2020. Ms. Candies seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

The 2018-2019 October 1st Enrollment Statistics document was shared. Of note, was the addition of on and off campus workshop students which greatly increased the total number of students served this school year.

Potential revisions to the NOCCA Lottery Policy were discussed. Mr. Wedberg expressed his desire to consider revising the policy to allow for students from partner schools, such as Arts Schools Network schools, to move into the Academic Studio mid-year should the situation present itself. At this point, our policy would not allow for that because of the obligation to the wait list. Although all different, some schools in the Arts Schools Network have policies which provide for this type of admission. Mr. Wedberg shared that NOCCA has had the occasion to ask other schools to admit a NOCCA student who had to leave mid-year. Mr. Wedberg would like feedback from the Board.

BUDGET

Ms. Lotte Delaney, NOCCA Chief Financial Officer, stated that she and Mr. Wedberg would be testifying before the House Appropriations Committee the next day on HB105. Their testimony would describe how NOCCA would be affected by the $90,000 decrease proposed in HB105. The Revenue Estimating Conference Committee was also meeting the next day. Ms. Delaney stated that more revenue may be identified that could help NOCCA’s budget.

THE NOCCA INSTITUTE REPORT

Ms. Sally Perry, The NOCCA Institute (TNI) Executive Director, was not present to report.

NOCCA PRESIDENT/CEO REPORT

Mr. Wedberg updated the Board on Academic Studio teacher Parvathy Anantnarayan’s leave and the challenge her family is facing with her son’s cancer diagnosis. Mr. Wedberg shared that the recent approval of the Leave Policy was greatly appreciated by Parvathy. He also shared that many members of the NOCCA campus expressed deep gratitude for the policy.

Mr. Wedberg stated that Retention and Hires will be discussed at the June Board Meeting.

Dr. Richard Collins, Director of Colleges and Advancement, shared many student joys. For example, Loyola continues to offer generous scholarships. Peabody Institute at Johns Hopkins has promised two scholarships a year. Jonathan Cole, Ben Franklin Classical Instrumental Music senior has been offered one and Emma Perez, Academic Studio Dance senior another. Olivia Gray, Classical Vocal student was accepted into numerous schools with a total scholarship offering of $787,000. Freddie Brimmer, Academic Studio Theatre Design student, originally had a 23 on his ACT. After taking the ACT course, he brought his score up to a 30. Freddie was offered full rides or almost full rides to Xavier, NYU, Boston University, and New School, and large scholarships to many other schools for a total of $1,142,000 in scholarship offerings. Freddie will not study Theatre Design, but will study medicine. These are just some of the examples that Dr. Collins shared.

Mr. Wedberg asked if the June 11 board meeting could be longer, from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. After the meeting, The NOCCA Institute Board of Directors has extended an invitation for a dinner gathering in Press Street Station. An overview of future events was provided: April 16 President Honors, May 17 Academic Studio Graduation, May 20 Celebration and Awards Ceremony.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Judy Reese Morse made a motion to move into Executive Session. Ms. Beth Scioneaux seconded the motion. All were in favor. The Board moved into Executive Session at 6:12 p.m.

Ms. Morse made a motion to return from Executive Session. Ms. Usdin seconded. All were in favor. Executive Session ended at 6:41 p.m.

Mr. Broussard asked for remarks and public comments and there were none. Ms. Usdin motioned to adjourn. Ms. Morse seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Submitted by: Reviewed by: Attest:

Leigh Traylor Kyle Wedberg Troy J. Broussard

Recording Secretary Secretary to the Board President of the Board

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_