Delta College
Board of Trustees Dinner Meeting
Delta College N7
Tuesday, December 12, 2023
5:30 pm

Board Present: A. Baldwin, A. Clark, S. Gannon, B. Handley-Miller, D. Middleton, M. Nash, M. Rowley, M. Wood

Board Absent: M. Thomas

Others Present: D. Allen, R. Archer, R. Battinkoff, T. Brown, J. Carroll, P. Clark, R. Curry, S. DuFresne, J. Foco, M. Gavin, S. Gregory, D. Hopkins, T. Khalil, D. McQuiston, J. Perry, W. Ramirez, S. Raube, K. Schuler, A. Ursuy

Press Present: None

Board Vice Chair, S. Gannon called the meeting to order at 5:56 pm. She turned the meeting over to Sarah DuFresne, Vice President of Business and Finance. S. DuFresne introduced Ryan Archer from TowerPinkster and stated that this session was for trustees to provide input.

R. Archer began his presentation by saying that TowerPinkster is working to complete a comprehensive spatial analysis as including utilizations of spaces and classrooms; the program development of the CARES Center; new signage and wayfinding; and the development of a campus plan. They have enlisted Corbin Design to help with the wayfinding piece.

The CARES Center (Center for Access, Resources, and Engagement for Success) will house two groups of services – student services such as Financial Aid, Admissions, Records and Registration, etc. and support services such as the Food Pantry, Counseling, Advising, etc. R. Archer said that he had spent a few hours early in the day meeting with these groups to see what resources were needed for space. He also talked about the visitor experience and what is all involved from preparing what they need before they get here, what they need to head in the right direction, and what they need to determine they are in the right place. The new wayfinding and signage will help to enhance the visitor experience. He shared some examples of a recent project at Grand Rapids Community College showing their updated and consistent signage which was designed by Corbin Design.

R. Archer reviewed the process which included 3 months of research on utilization data, department meetings, campus tours, analysis and work on the CARES Center. The next step is outcomes – CARE Center scenarios, plan recommendations, wayfinding, engagement session and refinement. This will take about 4 months. Finally, there will be information sharing through workshops, draft master plan presentations and ultimately the final plan. This phase will take around 3 months.

 In the workshops held during Fall Learning Days, two questions were asked: 1. What three components of the college's physical environment should be addressed? 2. How can the master plan help improve student retention and equitable completion of programs? R. Archer said he was impressed by the number of faculty and staff that attended these sessions. The common themes for the college's physical environment were signage and wayfinding, enhanced student spaces and collaboration space (students

and staff). In terms of the master plan, the themes were to help students feel welcome, improve student services spaces and develop better navigation throughout the campus. The common themes among user group meetings were acoustic privacy, large flexible spaces and collaboration spaces. In the student workshops, the students were asked: Where do you stay? How do you get to campus? Where do you take classes? What does your normal day look like? The students noted needing a space for cohort gathering, a way for navigating from the bus stop into the campus since it is a challenge, wayfinding to special events. They also stated that they hang out in the Mezzanine (Food Court Area) and the Library.

R. Archer asked the trustees the same questions: What three components of the college's physical environment should be addressed? How can the master plan help improve student retention and equitable completion of programs? The trustees shared their thoughts on both questions.

There being no further business, the dinner meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm.

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Talisa Brown, Assistant Board Secretary

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Andrea Ursuy, Board Secretary