

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Zoom Webinar - 7:00 p.m.

August 3, 2020

### MINUTES

#### **Members Present**

Cynthia Sherwood  
Ashley Osburn  
Norman Chambers  
Val DeFever  
Kevin Brannum  
John Eubanks

#### **Others Present**

George Knox, President  
Cordell Jordan, Sr. Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer  
Jonathan Sadhoo, Vice President for Administration and Finance  
Beverly Harris, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk  
Lori Boots, Vice President for Human Resources  
Vincent Bowhay, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Mark Allen, Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Eric Figurski, Athletic Director  
Taylor Crawshaw, Associate Dean/Tutoring and Accessibility/Registrar  
Paul Molnar, Associate Professor of Theater  
Ben Seel, Professor of Political Science  
Bruce Peterson, Inge General Manager  
Jim Correll, Fab Lab Manager

#### **Guests**

Susan Scovel, Reporter  
Andy Taylor, Montgomery County Chronicle  
Lea Shepard, Community Member  
Hannah Joyce-Hoven, Inge  
Kevin Mahan, Inge  
Mike Wood, Inge  
Heather Wilson, Inge  
Kym Kays, Inge  
Ken Brown, Inge  
JoAnn McDowell, Community Member  
Stacy Near, Inge  
Todd Young, Inge  
Lisa Wilson, Inge  
John Lloyd Stafford, Inge  
Janice Bolt, Inge  
Daniel Barwick, Community Member  
Elizabeth Benin, Inge  
Ray Rothgeb, Community Member

#### **I. ROUTINE**

- A. Call to Order – Dr. Sherwood called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
- B. Approval of Agenda – To allow adequate time for public comment, this step was not conducted.
- C. Welcome Guests – Dr. Sherwood welcomed the guests and informed the group that several individuals submitted requests for comment regarding the William Inge Theater Festival, and Hannah Joyce-Hoven requested a lengthier presentation. Dr. Sherwood allowed everyone wishing to address the Board through submitted requests two minutes each; Hannah Joyce-Hoven was allowed ten minutes.
- D. Mission Statement – To allow adequate time for public comment, this step was not conducted.
- E. Vision Statement – To allow adequate time for public comment, this step was not conducted.

## II. INSTITUTIONAL OPERATIONS

A. Public Hearing – The proposed 2020-2021 budget was published according to statutory requirements. Public hearing commenced for the purpose of answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds, and the amount of tax to be levied, and to consider amendments.

- Hannah Joyce-Hoven provided an overview of her background and history with Inge programming, as well as highlights of the letter previously addressed to the Board. Ms. Hoven reviewed the Inge budget and noted budget reductions each of the last two years. The Board was encouraged to reconsider cuts to the Inge budget, as grants received require matching funds and once lost may not be received in the future.
- Mike Wood informed the Board how the Inge Festival came to be through Margaret Goheen's and Jerome Lawrence's initiation of honoring playwrights, not directors or actors, in the hometown of William Inge.
- Kevin Mahan shared that William Inge was his great uncle; he thanked everyone for efforts to keep Inge's work alive and noted that he hoped it would continue.
- Paul Molnar informed the group that he drove 1300 miles to take a position in the Fine Arts department of ICC due to his knowledge of the William Inge Theater Festival; Mr. Molnar also shared that he stayed in the Inge home for four months until alternative housing was located. Mr. Molnar went on to say that over 700 High School students watched portions of the Festival last year; he also spoke of the opportunity students have for interaction with well-known artists.
- Bruce Peterson shared that since 2002 he has worked in various positions for the Inge Festival and Inge Center. Mr. Peterson noted one of the most valuable Inge program offerings has been the Four County Mental Health Program for emotionally disadvantaged youth.
- Heather Wilson informed the group that as a Labette County High School instructor she has sent fifty-six students to work with the Inge Center and Inge Festival over the last fifteen years. Ms. Wilson shared that she encourages her students' enrollment at ICC for the capacity to work with prestigious professionals; she noted a Playwright in Residence visited their campus last year.
- Elizabeth Benin spoke of the truly unique and academically rich William Inge Theater Festival and the opportunities for interaction with Pulitzer Prize winning artists.
- John Lloyd Stafford read a statement about his history with the William Inge Festival, his education, and theater experiences. Mr. Stafford noted how his life was shaped through these interactions and shared that he is now a Theater instructor.
- Stacy Near spoke of the Independence Children's Summer Theater program and how the Inge Festival shaped her daughter's life giving her a career path to her current position working for a Theater Company in Oregon.
- Kym Kays spoke of her position on the Inge Foundation Board and work with the Inge home. Ms. Kays stated that visitors to Independence are impressed with the Inge home and Festival history which provide a powerful marketing tool when bringing individuals to town. Ms. Kays shared her hopes that the Inge Festival would continue.
- Lisa Wilson shared her connection with the Inge Foundation Board and provided an overview of the economic impact the William Inge Theater Festival has for Independence.
- Todd Young read a letter written by Brian Hight about the Inge Festival being the business and cultural fabric to our town.
- Janice Bolt informed the group that she grew up in Independence and has a strong commitment to theater. Ms. Bolt shared that only four of the highly competitive \$50,000 NEA grants were received in the state of Kansas and noted her concern that cancellation of the Festival for two consecutive years would jeopardize chances of receiving one in the future. Ms. Bolt also stated that Independence is known nationally as a playwright's town.
- Ken Brown shared his history as an instructor at ICC from 1966-2006 and his involvement with the Inge Festival through hosting guests for dinner in his home and conducting tours of Inge's Independence. Mr. Brown noted that the Inge home is on the national registry; he also spoke of the donation to ICC of Mr. Inge's entire work which is housed in the library.
- Lea Shepard informed the Board that the Inge Foundation Board hoped for help from ICC. Ms. Shepard stated that the Inge Foundation Board had no prior knowledge of the budget cut to the Inge Festival as things happened behind closed doors; the Inge Foundation Board is now scrambling to find funding to keep the grants received which require matching funds. Ms. Shepard reiterated that it would have been nice to know beforehand about the budget cut and that the Inge Foundation Board and College administration need to talk.

George Knox thanked everyone for speaking on behalf of the Inge Festival and acknowledged the contribution to the College made by the Inge Festival. Dr. Knox noted the great new people employed in the Theater area and strides the College made toward correcting some financial issues prior to COVID-19. Dr. Knox referred to a pledge he made to retain all faculty and staff, his commitment to make Inge as strong as ever or stronger, and the projected decrease in revenue and enrollment that necessitated the cut to the Inge budget. Dr. Know stated that the College would assist in any way financially possible with the match required for grants received.

Ashley Osburn inquired about the minimum amount of funding required to meet grant obligations. Hannah Joyce-Hoven responded that \$50,000 must be spent to meet grant requirements and get the reimbursement from NEA; she added that her salary to oversee the area was also required as she was currently unemployed. Ms. Joyce-Hoven stated that a Strategic Plan containing various scenarios to accommodate flat funding and other issues would be developed. Hannah Joyce-Hoven noted that she could not oversee and plan for the Festival independently; therefore, additional staff and funding (in addition to the \$40,000 non-discretionary funding) would be required. Ms. Joyce-Hoven stated that presenting the play to meet obligations associated with NEA grant requirements and maintaining the Playwright in Residence Program this year could be a prelude to hold a full William Inge Theater Festival next year.

Trustee Osburn stated that the College must stay in a positive financial state while meeting the goals of the community and suggested the Board consider facilitating the grant or providing cash flow until the grant could reimburse the College.

Norman Chambers informed the group that the public hearing was scheduled for the purpose of hearing public comment on the published budget; he noted that all comments heard related to the operating budget. Mr. Chambers added that the operating budget is flexible, and funds could be allocated as needed throughout the year. Mr. Chambers suggested further discussion about the Festival with the possibility of some funding as financial conditions permit.

Dr. Sherwood asked Lea Shepard why the Inge Foundation didn't commit to \$50,000 in funding to meet grant requirements with their subsequent reimbursement in June or July following submission of receipts. Dr. Sherwood added that the Inge Foundation should provide funding for the play, as the College is unable to at this time and doesn't know the direction revenues, enrollment, circumstances related to COVID-19, and other issues are headed. Lea Shepard responded that Inge Foundation Board members were blind sighted by the budget cut and were waiting to see what funding the College would commit. Dr. Sherwood reiterated that the College is unable to provide financial support at this time.

- B. 2020-2021 Budget Approval – Kevin Brannum moved to approve the 2020-2021 Budget for Certification as presented. Norman Chambers seconded the motion and the motion carried 6-0.

#### I. ROUTINE

- F. Approval of July 20, 2020 Minutes – Val DeFever moved to approve minutes of the July 20, 2020 meeting as presented. John Eubanks seconded the motion and the motion carried 6-0.

#### III. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Non-elected Personnel.

Val DeFever moved that the Board recess for an Executive Session for ten minutes for discussion of a personnel matter pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). Dr. Knox was invited to attend. Open Session would resume through the Zoom link at 8:40 p.m. Kevin Brannum seconded the motion and the motion carried 6-0. The Board entered Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. and returned to Open Session through the Zoom link at 8:40 p.m.

#### IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Non-elected Personnel.

Ashley Osburn moved that the Board recess for an Executive Session for fifteen minutes for discussion of a personnel matter pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). Dr. Knox, Jonathan Sadhoo, and Lori Boots were invited to attend. Open Session would resume through the Zoom link at 9:02 p.m. Val DeFever seconded the motion and the motion carried 6-0. Dr. Sherwood informed meeting attendees that no action would be taken following Executive Session. The Board entered Executive Session at 8:47 p.m. and returned to Open Session through the Zoom link at 9:02 p.m.

- V. ADJOURN – Norman Chambers moved the meeting adjourn. John Eubanks seconded the motion and the motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

*Beverly Harris*

Beverly Harris  
Board Clerk

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