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**METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY of DENVER  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
Friday, June 4, 2021  
MINUTES**

**Executive Session: 8:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. (Suite 440A – Trustees' Boardroom)  
Public/Full Board Meeting: 8:45 a.m. – Noon  
Jordan Student Success Building  
890 Auraria Pkwy., Room 400 (University Advancement Boardroom)  
and via Zoom**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairwoman Barb Grogan read the Trustees into Executive Session at 8:00 a.m. and asked for a motion. The motion was made and seconded, and unanimously approved.

**II. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board of Trustees business meeting was called to order at approximately 7:30 a.m. by Chairwoman Grogan. Vice Chairman Russell Noles, Trustee Mike Kopp, Trustee Kristin Hultquist, Trustee Mike Johnston, Trustee Marissa Molina, and Student Trustee Alaura Ward were also in attendance, along with President Janine Davidson, Board Secretary David Fine, Vice President/Chief Operating Officer Larry Sampler, Treasurer/CEO George Middlemist, Assistant Secretary Melinda Olivarez, various faculty, administrators, and staff.

**III. CHAIR'S WELCOME & REPORT**

Chair Grogan opened the meeting by bidding farewell to Student Trustee Alaura Ward. President Davidson and members of the Board thanked Ms. Ward for her service and valuable contributions to the Board and welcomed Student Trustee Savannah Martel as the new Student Trustee to the Board.

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approval of March 19, 2021, Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

B. Office of Human Resources report of personnel actions for the Board's approval, which have occurred since the last Board Meeting on Friday, March 19, 2021

C. Approval of Recommendations for Tenure Upon Appointment

D. Approval of Faculty Tenure Recommendations

Trustee Noles **moved for approval** of the Consent Agenda, with a **second** by Trustee Molina. The motion was **unanimously approved**.

**V. REPORTS and ACTION ITEMS**

**A. President's Report – President Janine Davidson**

President Davidson reported that Spring Commencement was held during the week of May 3 at the Regency Athletic Complex. Graduates from 2020 joined 2021 graduates at this year's ceremony to receive their diplomas in person. A virtual Commencement ceremony was hosted May 14. Both events were livestreamed to allow friends and family to share in the ceremonies. Of the 2,229 students who graduated, 55% were first-generation, 924 were students of color, and 130 were veterans. 1,940 undergraduates and 289 graduate students graduated.

The first-ever Marathon Award was awarded to Lieutenant General Laura Richardson, a 1986 MSU Denver graduate. While at MSU Denver, Lieutenant General Richardson studied Psychology and completed the University's ROTC program. She is the highest-ranking woman in the United States Army. She is a Blackhawk helicopter pilot and was recently nominated for promotion to Four-Star General. The Marathon

Award will be presented each May and December at Commencement to a distinguished individual who reflects the University's values of tenacity, drive, and perseverance.

President Davidson said that the University is focused on bringing students back to campus in person.

Senior leaders and directors have been developing plans for their teams. Alternative work schedules for the post-COVID world are being considered.

President Davidson congratulated the Health Center staff for their work regarding the virus, from testing in the beginning to setting up vaccine sites which are now offered as walk-up and drive-through centers on campus. Sam Jay, Ph.D., Presidential Faculty Fellow, has monitored the University's vaccine policies and communication strategy. Dr. Jay said that a form has been submitted to registered students requesting that they provide vaccination verification or an exemption submission. At this time, 3,346 of approximately 12,000 students have submitted a response, for a 28% response rate. Of those, 82% are fully or partially vaccinated; 3% intend to be vaccinated prior to the start of Fall; and a group of 488 students, approximately 14%, plan to ask for exemptions. An additional survey will be sent to unregistered students and employees which will provide a more holistic picture of vaccination rates on campus. President Davidson added that, like other institutions of higher education, the University made an announcement that vaccinations will be required; however, Colorado law allows an exemption for health, medical, religious, or personal reasons. Exemptions at MSU Denver must be actively pursued, and those given an exemption are asked to agree to wear a mask and to quarantine in the event of an outbreak. Dr. Jay said that students are now being given the option of attending classes in person as well as online. From initial surveys, nearly 90% of faculty and staff have been vaccinated or are planning to be vaccinated.

The University has negotiated with RTD to provide bus passes to faculty, staff, and students.

Because of the pandemic, many employees were furloughed or did not take vacation days. A new policy will allow them to roll over and extend leave balances for a full year.

Fall enrollment is lower than hoped for but leadership is working diligently to ensure that numbers increase. Assessments are being conducted to determine whether the low enrollment numbers are a short-term result of the pandemic or indicate a trend, and the results of the assessments will be brought to the Board.

President Davidson thanked the Trustees, Ms. Gerhart, Ms. Staberg, the MSU Denver Champions and students who carried the University's message to legislators in a cohesive way to deliver a more accurate picture of MSU Denver and its mission. She said that the result is obvious when she or Chair Grogan meet one-on-one with legislators and they have already heard about the University's many initiatives, programs, and the students it serves.

John Mazzarini has joined MSU Denver as Dean of the College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences.

In April, MSU Denver student Dominique Hunt finished second in the Stanford Center on Longevity Design Challenge, a global competition to encourage students to design products and services that improve the lives of people across all ages. Mr. Hunt is a recent graduate of MSU Denver's Industrial Design program. He designed a 3D-printed dock which converts a smartphone into a laptop interface. A removable keyboard houses a rechargeable battery pack, and the phone functions simultaneously as a receiver for the screen and a trackpad. Out of 222 entries from 37 countries, and against designs by students from Harvard, Northwestern, and Stanford Mr. Hunt was the top U.S. finisher. The 2021 Design Challenge asked students to examine their lives for lessons they had learned during the huge cultural shift brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic and to use those lessons to innovate for a healthier future.

In May a group of MSU Denver undergraduate researchers published an article in the academic journal, *Sensors*. Working under Andrew Bonham who is the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department Chair, undergraduate students Anna Nguyen, Marcos Maldonado, Dylan Poch, Tyler Sodias, Andrew Smith, and Teisha Rowland developed a simple blood test to detect celiac disease. Dr. Bonham has taught more than 12 undergraduate students who have authored articles in international peer-reviewed journals.

Former MSU Denver baseball pitcher Julian Garcia was promoted to the AAA affiliate of the Philadelphia Phillies. Garcia was the highest-drafted Roadrunner in University history and if called up from the AAA, will be the first MSU Denver alum in the major leagues.

Cade Crader pitched a nine-inning perfect game against CSU-Pueblo. The Roadrunners improved their best-ever start to the season to 17-1. They are 13-1 in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference and scored at least 11 runs for the sixth straight game.

**B. Government Affairs & State Legislative Update – *Kaycee Gerhart, Director of Government Affairs and Christine Staberg, Founding Partner of The Capstone Group***

Ms. Gerhart reported that the legislative session was extremely successful for MSU Denver. The University received an \$8.47 million increase in base funding, received funding for three capital requests, and saw the passage of nine priority bills. Four other priority bills are still under consideration. Bills passed included making standardized-test scores optional in college admissions, removing barriers for undocumented immigrants to obtain professional licenses, and strengthening civics education. The AES Supplemental was achieved, releasing the University from the obligation to return funds related to construction and completion of the AES Building. The Health Institute request was not funded, but legislators were reminded of the project's importance. The project will be reconfigured in a way that is responsive to the feedback received, and a successful proposal will be presented in the coming year.

Governor Polis signed the state budget on May 17. It includes a 13.3% increase in MSU Denver's base funds, the highest jump for any university in the state, as well as new funding for two critical information-technology projects and continued funding for cybersecurity and Open Educational Resources programs. MSU Denver received a \$62,000 Open Educational Resources grant through the Colorado Department of Higher Education. MSU Denver's Emily Ragan is one of the leaders on Colorado's statewide OER task force and was an early supporter of OER. MSU Denver is leading the way in increasing the availability of open resources for its students.

House Bill 1330 would allocate stimulus funding to a number of higher-education initiatives that could help MSU Denver students through scholarships and support services for stopped-out students.

Faculty and staff members from the University have helped shape many bills this session. Ms. Staberg pointed out that the University's visibility has increased greatly.

A new position of Chief Educational Equity Officer was created at the Colorado Department of Higher Education. MSU Denver advocated for and supported an addendum to the budget to ensure that funding would be available to create this position.

House Bill 1067, the test-optional bill supported the University for several years, was adopted. A broad coalition of higher education institutes worked together, along with groups that have historically been in opposition to the policy.

Trustee Molina was instrumental in the passage of Colorado Senate Bill 77 which eliminates the requirement of lawful presence for professional licenses.

Last year the University sustained a 50% reduction in state funding. In the last few weeks, the legislature decided to allocate federal funds to the state immediately and will set up an interim committee to meet this summer and fall to develop the allocation of nearly \$1 billion set aside for next year.

Higher education was fortunate to make the case for immediate access to some of the federal stimulus funds. Approximately \$48.5 million is included in House Bill 1330, which is a complex bill that has several pieces that will be very positive for the University. \$48.5 million will be distributed to institutions through the COSI program, which the University has been a partner of for many years, in a broader way. COSI has been a competitive grant program in the past that required a match from institutions. Those pieces are not included in this allocation, so 50% of the funds will go out based on head count and 50% will be appropriated based on FTE. COSI funds can be used for student scholarships and student support services.

The stackable credentials portion has changed over the last six months. A new program referred to as Core will be established through COSI that will allow institutions to grant an associate degree to qualifying students who have stopped out, called the Finish What you Started Program.

The bill includes several pieces recommended by MSU Denver, including that K-12 school districts make FAFSA completion a requirement for graduation. A working group is going to research other recommendations that could increase FAFSA completion rates in Colorado to ensure that students access federal funds.

A Future of Higher Ed Task Force will be established with one representative from each governing board.

Ms. Staberg and her team have tracked 72 bills this legislative session in addition to 42 bills relating to K-12 education. In the K-12 Public School Finance Act, \$1.7 million in federal stimulus money is going to go to concurrent enrollment programs, and \$1.7 million is going to a program that helps engage high school students early on, either through college courses and/or work opportunities and internships.

Ms. Staberg stated that in this transition period, K-12 districts have begun to view MSU Denver as an expert resource and are turning to the University for input.

HB 1264 is still pending. It has stimulus funds in it and would put \$17.5 million into local workforce boards, \$17.5 million into the Colorado Workforce Development Council, \$10 million into the Department of Higher Ed around career and technical education, and \$5 million into CDE for adult education.

Trustee Johnston asked what Colorado's percent of FAFSA completion is at this time. Ms. Staberg said that she will forward that information to the Board, but her recollection is that right now, Colorado is 46th in the country in FAFSA completion rate, making it by far one of the worst and consequently leaving upwards of \$30 million per year on the table. President Davidson noted that FAFSA completion is cited as one of the primary barriers to applying for college.

Trustee Molina expressed concern over making FAFSA completion a requirement for graduation. While CASFA exists for undocumented students, high school counselors must be provided with accurate information in order to be able to help undocumented students navigate the college admissions process. Undocumented students are hearing from their high school counselors that they cannot go to college because they are undocumented, which is untrue. Trustee Molina hopes MSU Denver can give its recommendations on the issue and to be mindful of this gap when it comes to requiring FAFSA completion for graduation. She suggested that a component of the bill be included mandating training for high school counselors. FAFSA is also a barrier for students who are U.S. citizens but whose parents are undocumented. They don't know if they can or cannot complete the FAFSA.

Mr. Simpkins noted that the Undocuhub hosted by MSU Denver might be a good place to put together some materials on the matter. MSU Denver would like to partner with a school district to guide policy around the FAFSA/CASFA completion initiatives.

Ms. Gerhart said that there is a valuable opportunity within this bill for greater partnership between MSU Denver and K-12 school districts to share expertise in a way that benefits students across Colorado in the K-12 system as well as those matriculating to MSU Denver.

Ms. Gerhart thanked the lobby team comprised of grassroots advocates and leadership at MSU Denver. Through their efforts there have been 41 one-on-one touch points with key decisionmakers at the legislature, including JBC staff, CDC staff who make capital decisions, members of the JTC Committee, and other leaders in the legislature that ultimately are hearing the University's messages, informing their own decisions and encouraging others to get on board with its priorities. They are echoing the University's messages of access, opportunity, and equity. Other institutions are proactively reaching out to MSU Denver. Legislators are relying on the expertise and unique perspective of the University to be able to inform their work.

Capital Development Committee staff have been asked about doing a campus tour. Most of the CDC members are the same and so building on those existing relationships will be important to make sure that a compelling case is built for the coming year.

Ms. Gerhart said that work at the federal level will continue throughout the year. Senator Bennett is focused on infusing dollars specifically tied to apprenticeships, creating a grant program for employers, workforce centers, and potentially institutes of higher education to grow and expand their apprenticeship programs. Ms. Gerhart stated that once again, MSU Denver is being consulted as the expert and as a model to replicate, not only in Colorado but across the nation. This is an exciting opportunity to benefit from this legislation and elevate the University's profile across the country.

Chair Grogan asked how Trustees can assist the lobbying team. Ms. Gerhart responded that many wonderful advocates of MSU Denver have stood up for the University, brought their friends with them, and made a significant difference. A gratitude campaign has been launched to let them to know how much their work is valued. Students, faculty, and staff are joining in expressing those messages and Ms. Gerhart said that it would make it even more meaningful if the Board were to join them. She has some assignments in mind and will be in touch with Board members in the next week, asking them to pick up the phone and share messages of gratitude.

### **C. Finance Committee Report – *Trustee Russell Noles***

Vice Chairman Noles reported that Finance Committee has met twice since the Board's last meeting in March. At its May 6 meeting, student internal audits were presented regarding (1) the student conduct process, and (2) data governance. Both audits were well done, Vice Chair Noles said, and students demonstrated expertise in identifying issues, working collaboratively with management, and developing constructive recommendations. The recommendations of both audits were accepted, and staff is moving forward to address the issues.

Three action items were voted on and approved. The Student Affairs fee will increase by 2%. The Student Affairs board put forth three proposals around different enrollment scenarios. The final proposal will be approved when the Fall census comes in.

Fiscal year 2021-'22 tuition and fee rates were discussed. There will not be a tuition increase in '21-'22, but the tuition window is being closed. A study of the window indicated that the students for whom the window was intended were not served by it.

The Health and Wellness fee will increase by 5%, and the AHEC pass-through fee will increase 2.7%.

Mr. Middlemist reviewed the Phase I budget which reflected flat tuition, additional state funding of approximately \$11.9 million, offset by an assumed 7% enrollment decline or approximately \$500,000.

Finance Committee approved the refinancing of approximately \$48 million of Series 2020 Bonds for the Hotel. The University refinanced the debt of the Hotel at the time the asset was brought over to the University. Market conditions at that time were not favorable but have improved considerably in the current environment. After circulating an RFP for proposals, the Finance team procured new financing for a five-year term generating present value savings of over \$6.4 million.

Trustee Kopp **moved for approval** the refinancing of the Series 2020 Bonds, with a **second** by Trustee Grogan. The motion was **unanimously approved**.

Mary Saucedo reviewed enrollment numbers. Vice Chairman Noles noted that enrollment typically improves as Fall approaches, and despite the somewhat slow recovery from the pandemic, that trend is expected to continue this year. On an FTE basis, current undergraduate enrollments are down 14.9%. Graduate enrollments, however, are increasing, consistent with the national trend.

The Hotel is among the top ten hotels in the Metro Denver area. It ran a small loss in the third quarter from lower occupancy rates relating to the pandemic. The fiscal year forecast indicates a net profit of

approximately \$100,000. A good recovery from the pandemic is expected in 2021-'22. The Hotel's budget for fiscal year 2021-'22 was presented and approved at yesterday's Finance Committee meeting.

The Committee discussed the Higher Ed Emergency Relief Funds in the approximate amount of \$128,000, and restrictions on their use. The relief funds may partially backfill revenues lost during the pandemic.

#### **D. Academic and Student Affairs (ASA) Committee Report – *Marissa Molina, Trustee***

Trustee Molina reported that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee heard a presentation from Dean Elizabeth Hinde of the School of Education at its meeting yesterday. Dean Hinde discussed the ways in which MSU Denver plays a role in finding solutions to the most troubling challenges in K-12 education.

ASA welcomed Dr. Alfred Tatum, Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs, who made a call to action for setting a clear vision around excellence and inclusion to ensure that all MSU Denver's students have access to a high-quality education that sets them on a trajectory to success in their lives.

##### **1. Approval of New Certificate – Quality in the Chemical Industry Certificate**

Trustee Noles **moved for approval** of the Quality in the Chemical Industry Certificate, with a **second** by Trustee Grogan. The motion was **unanimously approved**.

#### **E. Sustained Racial Justice (SRJ) Committee Report – *Russell Noles, Trustee***

Vice Chair Noles stated that the Sustained Racial Justice Committee meeting was updated at its meeting yesterday on many related activities and engagement with faculty and staff. Sean Petranovich and his team gave a presentation about data and analytics available to better understand diversity at MSU Denver as well as help in making comparisons with other institutions of higher education in the state. The data will ultimately influence decisions to better serve students. Dr. Michael Benitez agreed that the next steps will be to determine effective use of the data within the context of the Committee and its work against racism.

#### **F. Foundation Update – *Christine Márquez-Hudson, VP University Advancement & MSU Denver Foundation***

Ms. Márquez-Hudson said that 2021-'22 was an extraordinary year for University Advancement. While the Advancement team could no longer bring faculty, staff, and students together with donors for one-on-one meetings due to the pandemic, the team worked around this significant handicap and exceeded its financial goals. Contributions are currently at \$6.3 million, far exceeding its goal for this year of \$5.5 million.

During the pandemic, Advancement continued to make improvements to its database, Razor's Edge. It has been working with a consultant who analyzed the database and made recommendations, and 75% of those recommendations have been implemented. This is critical at a time when Advancement is close to kicking off a major campaign and will rely on data to drive conversations and inform decisions around growing the donor database in order to sustain the University long term.

Total net assets are \$36.5 million. Endowment dollars are invested and provide sustainable funding for scholarships, programs, and other future needs. The endowment has grown exponentially over the last few years. The Foundation has contracted with a new investment manager, Syntrinsic, a local group which is also very diverse. Akasha Absher, its president, will be working with the Foundation and incorporating the University's values of diversity, equity, and inclusion into its investment strategy.

Recent gifts include \$900,000 from the Patton Estate. James Patton was a 1984 MSU Denver graduate who included MSU Denver in his estate plans.

Two new gifts were received from the Buell Foundation totaling over \$100,000 to support the Trauma Informed Practice Work in the School of Education.

Former Foundation board member Bob Grabowski gave \$20,000 in honor of his late wife, Anthea, to support the University's Latinx students.

Dagmar Kress, who leads the University's extremely successful aerobatic flight team, made a gift of \$20,000. Ms. Kress also provides her own plane for aerobatic flight students. Chair Grogan noted that the flight team beat the Air Force and is number one in the country.

Due to the pandemic, the annual scholarship dinner at the Tivoli could not be held. This event brings together donors and scholarship recipients. The Advancement team developed eight virtual scholarship celebrations. Ms. Márquez-Hudson will send a videotape to each Trustee featuring MSU Denver scholars and communicating to donors the importance and value of the scholarships received by each student. More scholars and donors were accessed through the virtual event than was possible in person, she said.

The Foundation Office and Advancement are gearing up for their comprehensive campaign. At the Joint Board Retreat on Thursday, October 28, the Board of Trustees and the Foundation board will receive a full presentation on the campaign. Board members will be given an opportunity to understand the marketing and messaging around the campaign and will help critique the presentations that campus partners will be delivering to ensure that the most compelling aspects are being highlighted. Trustees' feedback will be very important. The Joint Board Retreat will provide Trustees an in-person opportunity to develop relationships with each other and with Foundation board members.

Ms. Márquez-Hudson stated that following the Board retreat the Advancement team plans to meet with each Trustee to talk about the areas they are most passionate about. A key element to the success of the campaign is for the team to be able to say that the University's leaders have made gifts to the University, which may be immediate gifts, planned gifts, or gifts of assets. Ms. Márquez-Hudson stated that Advancement will begin immediately to deepen existing relationships and reaching out to new people. She asked Trustees to begin making introductions now. The return to campus provides many exciting opportunities for engagement.

#### **G. Alumni Representative Report – *Jamie Hurst, Development Office***

Ms. Hurst provided an update on the Alumni Association. Officer cycles end June 30 and the Association is accepting nominations and will hold elections. A new Alumni Trustee will join the Board of Trustees.

Jamir Fitch recently joined the Association board. Mr. Fitch, a veteran, began his studies at MSU Denver in 2012, but stopped out in 2015 with 22 credits remaining, because he had children and a full-time job. He later returned to MSU Denver and completed his degree in 2020.

The Alumni Association launched a social justice movie club. Like the Association book club, this is a free opportunity for alumni to build dialogue and discourse about difficult issues. The book club has more than 300 members, and the company that the Association works with asked if its social justice movie club could be tested out with the Alumni Association. The first movie was shown three days ago and so far, 97 alumni have joined.

Alumni Admissions Ambassadors are a pool of approximately 80 alumni who have agreed to work closely with the Admissions team to connect with prospective students and applicants who have not yet enrolled. The Ambassadors assist them throughout the process of enrolling and provide insight and coaching to set their expectations and help navigate barriers to admission. During the pandemic, Ambassadors mentored high school students to familiarize them with the process of applying for admission. As discussed earlier today, FAFSA stands out as a huge barrier to students seeking admission. Having the Ambassadors explain that process has proven to be very helpful. Admissions Ambassadors will conduct a campus tour for their mentees next week, along with a visit to Elitch's.

The Dare to Care Challenge was the Alumni Association's year-long volunteer challenge put into place during the pandemic. Sixty-one alumni participated and logged over 3,500 hours of service. These alumni are committed to giving back to their communities and helping them return to MSU Denver.

The Women of MSU Denver is a new event that will launch September 29 through a partnership between the Association and alumna Francesca Smith and her family's company, Pivot to Power. A panel of four

MSU Denver women will be featured, and the panel will be moderated by alumni and Staff Senate President Rebecca Reed. This will launch the Women of MSU Denver Alumni Affinity Group.

The Colorado Rockies 50/50 Partnership sold \$158,000 in raffle tickets over the first two months of the season with fewer volunteers and limited capacity at Coors Field. MSU Denver receives 25% of all tickets sold. Over \$300,000 was raised in the last season, and the Partnership is a great revenue generator for the institution's campus clubs and programs. MSU Denver will be allowed to sell during All-Star Week, which will provide a great opportunity to attract volunteers. In any given year, between 600 and 700 volunteers participate.

#### **H. Faculty Trustee Report – *Bethany Fleck, Faculty Trustee***

Faculty Trustee Fleck participated in the Undergraduate Research Conference on April 23. Faculty and students engaged in research projects. She congratulated faculty for transforming their entire research programs and maintaining productivity while working remotely during the pandemic. She said that the student researchers who participated in the conference did outstanding work and she encouraged Trustees to read more about the Undergraduate Research Conference, including the research abstracts, for more information on the students' accomplishments.

Faculty look forward to teaching in person and the camaraderie they experience within their departments and are eager to return to campus. They invested an immense amount of work in creating excellent remote courses, and many faculty hope for some level of continued flexibility in their work environment, especially around committee meetings. These types of conversations are not unusual as the world shifts to a new normal, and faculty are partnering with their chairs, deans, and the provost on these issues.

Faculty Senate voted in favor of the Safer Spaces resolution. While the entire faculty believes in the spirit of the resolution, its details are controversial. Faculty Senate committees will delve more deeply into specific ways in which faculty can support the BIPOC community.

Recruiting and maintaining excellent and diverse faculty is a priority at MSU Denver, and fair faculty compensation is a key element in achieving that. Faculty and senior leadership are investigating ways in which they can partner in the interest of achieving equitable faculty compensation.

The *Early Bird* releases faculty sightings each month, and Faculty Trustee Fleck encouraged Trustees to read examples of the excellent scholarship of faculty. Student authors are frequently featured as well.

#### **I. Faculty Senate Report – *Katia Campbell, Faculty Senate President***

Faculty Senate President Dr. Katia Campbell stated that the BIPOC Safer Spaces resolution was crafted through the collaborative work of students and the chairs of the Department of Africana Studies, the Department of Chicano/Chicana Studies, and the Gender Institute for Teaching and Advocacy. The resolution was based on feedback received from a student survey. Faculty agreed with the spirit of the resolution but not with parts calling for severing ties with some community partners or with changes to the General Studies requirement. Dr. Campbell said that conversations about race and equity such as these are bound to be a difficult but necessary part of becoming an anti-racist institution. The vote on the resolution was 57 in favor, 47 opposed, with one abstention. Faculty asked for more dialogue on the issues. Participants would like the Auraria Police Department to be included in the dialogue so that they may better understand issues on campus related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and bias, and they also asked that training be provided to the police.

Dr. Campbell said the Faculty Senate Diversity Committee is working with faculty to think about what the campus community can do to create safer spaces, and to identify issues that faculty and students may face. The Student Affairs Committee is working with students and student associations to address some of the same issues over this summer. The committees will continue their work in the Fall. Dr. Campbell is also asking the Dialogues Program team to have intentional dialogues around these issues throughout the Summer and Fall.



The officers of Faculty Senate were voted to serve an additional term in order to provide continuity moving from the crisis created by the pandemic to finishing the work that was begun last year.

**J. Student Trustee & Student Governance Report – *Alaura Ward, Outgoing Student Trustee***

Student Trustee Ward noted that, like Faculty Senate, students voted on the Safer Spaces resolution and the results were split.

SGA is transitioning into TSAC. SGA Senate held a vote to remove all the governing documents of SGA and eliminate positions except for Student Trustee, as that position was created by the state legislature. Out of a total of 116 votes, 83 voted in favor of eliminating the governing documents and essentially getting rid of the Student Government Assembly, and 33 voted against. As of May 14, the Student Government Assembly has been replaced by the Student Advisory Council. The student that was elected president, Shane Bowman, will now be a Council member. Ms. Ward introduced the new Student Advisor to the Board of Trustees, Savannah Martel. Only one SACAB representative was elected as no one ran for the second position. According to AHEC's rules, two SACAB representatives must be elected by July 1. Six people ran for Student Senate positions, also now known as TSAC Councilmembers. There are no bylaws or committees of TSAC currently. The structure of the Council is yet to be determined. Ms. Ward said that the Student Affairs Board dealt with the Student Affairs Fee and managed the budget and position requirements.

Since so few students voted in the election, a special election may be held in the Fall. Many of the members who were elected were in favor of revising the governing documents instead of abolishing them. Because of the pandemic, the election was all online. It was difficult to get students engaged in the Student Government elections, Ms. Ward said. In more typical times when students were on campus, it was not unusual to have four or five thousand students voting in Student Government elections.

A key issue in the resolution is the pay structure for students in SGA or TSAC, and whether they should move from being paid hourly, in which case the positions are subject to minimum wage requirements or receive a bi-monthly stipend. There may not be enough money in the budget to pay stipends ranging from \$700 to \$1,500 paid every other month.

The resolution also called for new advisors. The students supporting the referendum did not want to use the resources offered by the University because higher ed is historically a White-supremacist institution, and by using University resources there might have been some bias in keeping the White-supremacist structure. A request to use SGA funds to hire outside mediators to conduct the process was voted down as there was not enough money in the budget for the allocation request which was approximately \$10,000 or \$15,000.

**K. Athletics Report – *Todd Thurman, Director of Athletics***

Todd Thurman, Athletics Director, reported that the COVID pandemic has made the year especially difficult for student-athletes. Protocols were put in place to test athletes and quarantine students as necessary. After nearly 40 days in quarantine, Dr. Davidson played against members of the Women's Tennis team.

MSU Denver student-athletes played and competed wearing masks, although their competitors in the NCAA and the RMAC did not. The COVID infection rate among MSU Denver student-athletes was less than .5%.

During COVID, MSU Denver's student-athletes had a GPA rate of 3.6. Once it was safe to do so, student-athletes and their coaches put in over 1800 hours of community service, and most teams put in approximately 500 hours.

Despite the challenges, there were many outstanding successes in Athletics.

Mr. Thurman said that the NCAA recently made a change to the transfer process for student-athletes, who may now transfer via a Transfer Portal. Mr. Thurman is concerned that the process may have unforeseen consequences and leave students without a school to transfer to.

#### **L. Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC) Board Report – *Janine Davidson, President***

President Davidson stated that there is energy and enthusiasm for collaboration among the three higher ed institutions on campus. UC Denver will be hiring a new provost and that person will be developing strategies with Dr. Tatum. Colleen Walker, the director of AHEC, is working on reimagining the Tivoli in a project called Auraria 3.0. Dr. Davidson said that moving into the Fall semester, it will be important for the three institutions to work together to create an inclusive process that encompasses the strategic initiatives of each of the different institutions.

The Auraria board is very active with their legislative agenda and will partner with MSU Denver to bring the Capital Development Committee on campus sometime this summer.

SACAB, the student organization that sits on the Auraria board, is very concerned that MSU Denver has only one student representative when it is supposed to have two. Dr. Davidson stressed the importance of filling these positions, especially as critical issues are coming up.

SACAB has been very engaged in a number of campus safety issues, talking to Auraria leadership about training campus police to become more responsive to the community, and has had discussions about body cameras. An oversight committee comprised of faculty, staff, and students has been established for overseeing policy. Safe policing is another big issue on the AHEC board's agenda.

On June 17 and 18, the Downtown Denver Partnership will conduct its urban exploration event. This year the event will be in Denver. Campus leadership is taking the opportunity to showcase Auraria as an important part of the city and will be sponsoring parts of the event. The kickoff on the first day will be held outside on the Tivoli Quad. The leaders of each of the four institutions on campus may hold a panel discussion showcasing the campus's rich history and highlighting its siting in the middle of the city and stressing the need to collaborate in building better bridges, politically, academically, physically, and enhancing community engagement.

Student Trustee Ward reiterated the importance of filling the SACAB representative vacancy. Mr. Will Simpkins stated that the University is working to fill that position as quickly as possible.

#### **VI. INFORMATION ITEMS**

A. Human Resources report of personnel actions for the Board's information, which have occurred since the last Board meeting on Friday, March 19, 2021.

#### **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were none.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The Board of Trustees meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.