

**THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
OF THE COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
Conducted Remotely  
February 5, 2021**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2021**

**ROLL**

**Governors present:** Nancy Tuor, Chair; Kim Jordan, Vice Chair; Jane Robbe Rhodes, Treasurer; Dean Singleton, Secretary; Polly Baca, Russell DeSalvo; Nate Easley; Steve Gabel; Armando Valdez; Harriet Austin, Faculty Representative, CSU Global; Melinda Smith, CSU Faculty Representative; Hannah Douglas, Student Representative, CSU Pueblo; Nicole Hulet, CSU Global Student Representative; Neb Jaksic, Faculty Representative, CSU Pueblo; Hannah Taylor, Student Representative, CSU.

**Administrators present:** Tony Frank, Chancellor, CSU System; Joyce McConnell, President, CSU; Timothy Mottet, President, CSU Pueblo; Pamela Toney, President, CSU Global; Jason Johnson, General Counsel/Secretary to the BOG, CSU System; Lynn Johnson, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, CSU System, and Vice President of Operations, CSU; Becky Takeda Tinker, Chief Education Innovation Officer, CSU System; Rick Miranda, Chief Academic Officer, CSU System; Pat Burns, CIO, CSU System; Susy Serrano, Director of Internal Auditing, CSU System; Henry Sobanet, Senior Vice Chancellor for Administration and Government Relations/Chief Financial Officer, CSU System.

**CSU System Staff present:** Melanie Geary, Board Liaison; Adam Fedrid, IT Manager; Allen Sneesby, IT Technician; Wayne Hall, CSU IT Professional; Josh Pinsky, LSC IT Professional

**Staff and Guests present:** Dr. Alegria Ribadeneira, CSU Pueblo; Mohamed Abdelrahman, Provost, CSU Pueblo; Johnna Doyle, Deputy General Counsel, CSU Pueblo; Margaret Henry, Treasurer, CSU System; CSU Global; Jannine Mohr, Deputy General Counsel, CSU; Alejandro Rojas-Sosa; VP Administration and Finance, CSU Pueblo; Mary Pedersen, Provost and Executive Vice President, CSU; Jocelyn Hittle, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Spur Campus and Special Projects; Yvonne Harris-Lot, CSU Global; Cara Neth, Director of Executive Communications, CSU System; Chrissy Holliday, VP of Enrollment Management, Communication and Student Affairs; Ajay Menon, President and CEO, CSURF; Brett Anderson, Special Assistant to the Chancellor, CSU System; Dr. Paul Savory, Provost, CSU Global.

**BOARD MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Tuor called the meeting of the Board of Governors of the Colorado State University System to order at 9:02 a.m. and reminded the Board members the meeting was being livestreamed. The meeting was conducted remotely with live video and audio of the meeting livestreamed publicly through YouTube, as described in the public notice.

**BOARD CHAIR'S AGENDA**

Chair Tuor provided an overview of the agenda, she then introduced Melinda Smith, the newly elected faculty representative for CSU Fort Collins and asked General Counsel Johnson to administer the oath of office. Dr. Smith took her oath of office and acknowledged her commitment to perform the duties as a member of the Board of Governors.

Chair Tuor then introduced Dr. Alegria Ribadeneira, recipient of the CSU Pueblo Excellence in Teaching Award. Provost Mohamed Abdelrahman provided background on Dr. Ribadeneira and highlighted some of the reasons she was selected for the Award. Dr. Ribadeneira thanked the Board for the recognition.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Tuor then discussed the customary Public Comment that occurs at every meeting. She noted that due to current public health guidance, the Board meeting was being conducted remotely and the Board was unable to accommodate public comment in person and had requested all public comment be submitted via e-mail. No public comment was received.

### **CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

Chancellor Frank allowed the Chancellor's Report to stand as written and asked Jocelyn Hittle to provide an update on the CSU Spur campus. AVC Hittle provided an overview of the progress on Spur facilities and programming.

### **ANNUAL SAFETY/CLERY REPORTS**

General Counsel Johnson remarked on how campus safety is a priority for the Board, the CSUS, and the campuses. Annual safety reports are published by October 1<sup>st</sup> but due to the Pandemic the Federal Government had extended the annual reporting deadline. He provided an historical overview of the Clery Act and outlined the three primary requirements: policy disclosure to the campus, records retention and reporting, and campus alerts. Deputy General Counsel Jannine Mohr from CSUFC discussed campus safety at the Fort Collins campus. Deputy General Counsel Johnna Doyle provided an overview for the CSU Pueblo campus. General Counsel Johnson noted the Clery Act focuses on geography and physical campuses and, accordingly, there were no crime statistics or reports for CSU-Global.

### **AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Governor Robbe Rhodes, Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee, convened the committee at 9:39 a.m. and asked Internal Audit Director Susy Serrano to begin with Audit items.

#### **Audit Items**

Internal Audit Director Serrano introduced the Internal Auditing Dashboard and Status of the Audit Plan. She reported on the financial reporting consultation with CSU Pueblo and on audits of supplemental pay at CSUFC; controlled unclassified information at CSUFC and the protection of sensitive research information; and the Energy Institute at CSUFC and its business processes and controls. She closed noting that overdue recommendations stood as submitted.

#### **Finance Items**

Governor Robbe Rhodes introduced CFO Sobanet to begin the Finance portion of the meeting.

#### *State Budget Update*

Senior Vice Chancellor Sobanet provided an update on the status of budget discussions and progress at the state level.

#### *FY 2021 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Financial Statements*

SVC Sobanet and Deputy CFO Lynn Johnson shared the latest financial statements.

#### *Campus Budget Updates and Tuition Discussion*

Senior Vice Chancellor Sobanet introduced the campus budget discussions.

CSU Fort Collins: President McConnell provided introductory context, and CFO Johnson shared the updated E&G budget schedules for the campus.

CSU Pueblo: President Mottet provided introductory context, and VP for Administration and Finance shared the updated E&G budget schedules for the campus.

CSU Global: CO Yvonne Harris-Lott reported there are no updates on the CSU Global budget.

Chancellor Frank provided context to inform overall budget discussions and set the stage for the May Board meeting. He began with an update on the current fiscal year, compared to the projections shared with the Board in June 2020. He reviewed estimated shortfalls for FY2022, and discussed what information the campuses will bring forward for decision-making later in the Spring. A number of expense reduction options remain available to the campuses, of varying degrees of impact, and there remains a high degree of uncertainty of what the Fall 2021 reopening will look like. He shared an update on the Scoop and Toss refinancing, Coronavirus Emergency Response Fund, Board Resources Available for FY22. He provided an update on use of the \$80M CERF. Chancellor Frank noted that all of the numbers shared are preliminary and will be updated for the next round of budget discussions. In May, when there will be an updated resource picture for FY22 and a near final picture for FY21, there will be more specific campus plans for addressing deficits and potential impacts. The Chancellor also noted he expects to be cheerier in May because of the arrival of baseball season.

Board members thanked the campuses and System for their work to date. Chair Tuor said the System has been disciplined, thoughtful, and wise in its approach, and should also be thinking about how to strengthen its competitive position going forward. Governor Valdez added that the Board has to discuss how to balance being aggressive and still prevent debt from being a drag on the System going forward. This sets the stage for strategic conversations at the Board's upcoming meetings. Chancellor Frank discussed the difficult choices and complex communications the campuses have to take on, related to any budget reductions, and he recognized the strong leadership of the campus presidents, CFOs, and faculty and staffs.

#### *Action on CSU Non-Resident Undergraduate Summer Tuition*

CSUFC CFO Johnson presented a proposal to reduce non-resident tuition and fees by 30% for summer session.

**Motion/Action:** Governor Valdez moved to approve the reduction in CSU Non-Resident Undergraduate Summer Tuition. Governor Jordan seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. This action item is included in the Board materials.

#### *CSU System Treasury Update*

CFO Sobanet introduced Treasurer Margaret Henry. Ms. Henry reported on the CSU System Treasury performance, which went well both in the last quarter and last calendar year (10.72% return for Calendar Year 2020) realizing a \$46 M gain to the balance sheet from Tier II and III investments in the last quarter of 2020. She did note the expectation of some market volatility in the future. Ms. Henry highlighted that the portfolio is working well. She shared a draft operating portfolio report, required by legislation from 2008, that was prepared for submission to the State and for consideration by the Board. The report included an investment statement and a financial statement.

#### *Action on Twenty First Supplemental Resolution*

Ms. Henry explained that the CSU System has an opportunity to refinance its Scoop and Toss bonds at a three-year fixed rate with a two-year call option. The current loan was a variable rate (effective rate at 1.3%). The new rate would be a fixed rate of 0.75%. The refinancing would be a savings of about \$1.3

million. She noted that the Treasury received bids from three banks for both fixed rate and variable rate structures.

**Motion/Action:** Governor Gabel moved to approve the Twenty First Supplemental Resolution. Governor Jordan seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. This action item is included in the Board materials.

## **COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY REPORTS**

**Student Report** – Presented by Hannah Taylor

Governor Taylor reported on intern program, progress on You+2 discussions, and various projects to support students with COVID impacts. ASCSU is providing students with Lyft credits this year if they are impacted by COVID-related restrictions on Ram Ride. ASCSU has set up an executive website to share updates on projects.

**Faculty Report** – Presented by Melinda Smith

Report that was submitted by Sue Doe stood as submitted.

**President's Report** – Presented by Joyce McConnell

President McConnell's written report stood as submitted. She highlighted recent efforts focus on agriculture including meeting with local legislative delegation, participation in Sen. Kerry Donovan's agricultural roundtable, and meetings with AES faculty and Southern Rocky Mountain Agricultural Conference. She also noted that CSU will be moving forward on campus-level budget conversations. President McConnell provided an update on the ongoing Courageous Strategic Transformation Process; she explained the themes of focus are very aligned with the CSU System priorities and areas of emphasis at Spur campus. President McConnell also shared an update on Fall 2021 enrollment. The campus has been doing well, with an increase of about five percent (5%) in applications and transfer applications. She discussed the significance of enrollment declines among low-income students since Fall 2019, which are tracking with national trends (although CSU's declines are below national averages). CSU is working to close the gaps for low-income students in keeping with CSU's access and success missions. CSU has significantly increased COVID testing and is working toward maximum "face to face" learning in the fall. President McConnell credited the hard work of faculty and staff for their hard work. Governor Easley thanked President McConnell for the updates on enrollment and asked that this continue. Governor Gabel discussed challenges facing Livestock Judging participants and gratitude for support shown for those students.

Chair Tuor paused the meeting for lunch at 11:04 a.m. The meeting resumed at 11:34 a.m.

## **CSU PUEBLO REPORTS**

**Student Report** – presented by Hanna Douglass

Governor Douglass reported on projects, including recent student leadership retreat and noted that she is looking for opportunities to collaborate with student government at CSUFC. She highlighted that the ASG was working on ways to support students during COVID. Governor Douglass also reported that they had assembled goodie bags for distribution to local nursing homes.

**Faculty Report** – Presented by Neb Jaksic

Governor Jaksic reported on various discussions about CSU Pueblo's academic calendar. Separately, he noted that although the physical campus feels a bit deserted, CSUP cyberspace is crowded – and he appreciates that students now want to actually see their professors and their presence seems to mean something more.

**President's report** – Presented by Tim Mottet.

President Mottet's formal report stood as submitted. President Mottet discussed Spring 2020 enrollment, with new growth in areas where the campus has invested. He reviewed an assessment of FY21 performance related to Vision 2028.

### **CSU GLOBAL REPORTS**

**Student Report** – Presented by Nicole Hulet

Governor Hulet reported on the meeting of the Library Advisory Board, and she also wished everyone a happy tax season!

**Faculty Report** – Presented by Harriet Austin

Governor Austin noted that the faculty had a chance to meet with the new CSU Global Provost, Dr. Paul Savory. She highlighted that CSU Global Faculty is now up to 583, with 86% terminally degreed and about a third are underrepresented minority faculty.

**President's Report** – Presented by Pamela Toney

President Toney's formal report stood as submitted. President Toney said they are seeing impacts on undergraduate student enrollment, particularly among low-income students. CSU Global will have grant funds available, thanks to CARES Act funding, which they will be able to use to assist students who are struggling financially. She also reported that *US News and World Report* ranked CSU Global in the nation's Top 10 Best Online Bachelor's Degrees and Best Online Bachelor's Degrees for veterans – the only fully online institution ranked. Governor Robbe-Rhodes asked if the broadband concerns facing rural Colorado have impacted CSU Global. President Toney said they are going to be pulling relevant data to take a look at that issue and see how CSU Global can support those communities. Governor Valdez mentioned the potential for doing more to make devices available to students who need them. Governor Easley asked where enrollment has remained steady or is increasing, and also discussed with all three campuses whether they are seeing any difference among students who participate in pre-collegiate programs.

### **ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Chair Gable convened the meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee at 12:13 p.m. and asked System Chief Academic Officer Rick Miranda to lead the Board through the agenda items. CAO Miranda discussed the changes to the CSU Faculty Manual related to Elected members. He also noted that the Sabbatical Reports for CSU and CSU Pueblo stood as submitted and asked for any questions. He also shared updates from CSU Pueblo. CAO Miranda also highlighted that former Board of Governors faculty representatives, Clemons and Lenk, had sabbatical reports in the materials.

### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion/Action to Approve Consent Agenda:** General Counsel Johnson presented the Consent Agenda to the Board of Governors for approval. Governor Baca moved for approval of the Consent Agenda. Governor Gabel seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. The Consent Agenda included the following items:

- Minutes of the December 3, 2020 Board and Committee Meetings
- Minutes of the December 29, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting
- CSU Pueblo Administrative Professional Handbook revisions regarding Performance Evaluations
- 2020-2021 Academic Faculty and Administrative Professional Manual Revisions: Section C.2.1.3.1 Elected Members

### **REAL ESTATE/FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

Chair DeSalvo convened the meeting of the Real Estate and Facilities Committee at 12:18 p.m. and asked that the Board move into Executive Session for the Real Estate and Facilities Committee agenda, and for the general Executive Session matters. Following a motion, second and unanimous vote by the

Board of Governors, General Counsel Johnson moved them into Executive Session for the remainder of the meeting.

**Motion/Action:** Governor Valdez moved for the Board to go into Executive Session of the Real Estate and Facilities Committee and to go into the regular Executive Session for the reasons listed in the meeting notice. The motion was seconded by Governor Robbe-Rhodes and carried unanimously. General Counsel Johnson read the Board into Executive Session at 12:19 p.m. and noted the reasons for going into Executive Session under the Colorado Open Meetings Law, as stated in the meeting notice:

1. The Board moved to go into Executive Session of the Real Estate and Facilities Committee under C.R.S. § 24-6-402 (3) (a) (I) and C.R.S. § 24-6-402 (3) (a) (II) for discussions relating to the sale of property at competitive bidding, and to discuss specific legal questions related to the Hughes Stadium property and the CSU solar power project.
2. The Board also moved to go into Executive Session under C.R.S. § 24-6-402 (3) (a) (VIII) and C.R.S. § 24-6-402 (3) (a) (II) to discuss and consider the naming of a facility at the CSU Fort Collins campus and awarding an honorary degree, and to receive specific legal advice on questions regarding the meeting topics referenced in this public notice and the meeting agenda, and to receive the Litigation Report from General Counsel related to pending and imminent litigation, as well as specific claims or grievances.

Following a motion, second, and unanimous vote to leave Executive Session, the Board of Governors returned to open session at 1:02 p.m.

**Motion/Action:** Governor Jordan moved to approve the proposed naming of a facility at CSU, as discussed in Executive Session. Governor Easley seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. This action item is included in the Board materials.

**Motion/Action:** Governor Rhodes moved to approve the proposed honorary degree from the College of Liberal Arts, as discussed in Executive Session. Governor Easley seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. This action item is included in the Board materials.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:04 p.m.