

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF
SOUTH DAKOTA FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP BOARD**

First Premier Bank Board Room, 500 S Minnesota Avenue, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dana J. Dykhouse at 11:00 a.m. CDT, Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at the First Premier Bank Board Room in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Members present were Dana J. Dykhouse, Chris Houwman, Miles Beacom, and Phyllis Heineman. Member Diana VanderWoude joined by phone. Others present were Stephanie Judson, Elli Haerter, and Brandy Drew of the South Dakota Community Foundation; Brett Koenecke and Cash Anderson of May Adam; and Scott Lawrence, Austyn Freeman and Courtney Carmody of Lawrence and Schiller.

Agenda

Heinemann moved and Beacom seconded to approve the agenda. The motion carried with a voice vote.

Minutes

Beacom moved and Houwman seconded to approve the minutes from October 11, 2022. The motion carried with a voice vote.

Program discussion

Stephanie Judson gave the Board an update on the endowment funds. Chairman Dykhouse reviewed the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 allocations and noted that the Board will need to make some determinations about Presentation College's allocation at a future 2023 meeting. Elli shared a review of the past year's operational expenses. Operational expenses are funded by the PREMIER Scholarship Fund.

Lunch Break

Chair declared a break for lunch at 11:30. Chair declared meeting back in session at 11:45 am.

Action Items

Austyn Freeman and Courtney Carmody shared a review of the 2022 activities for the Freedom Scholarship and proposed some ideas for 2023. Elli Haerter shared the work of a short-term consultant to create a communications channel and design and implement some project management tools for the future scholarship work. Haerter also shared the expenses related to setting up scholarship year two agreements in the database as well as starting to create the employment verification process.

Beacom moved and Dykhouse seconded the 2023 Freedom Scholarship budget. Motion carried with a voice vote. Operating expenses for the Freedom Scholarship are paid for by the PREMIER Scholarship Fund, which looks to the Freedom Scholarship Board for recommendations.

Motion by Heinemann, second by Beacom to handle the current Presentation College Freedom Scholarship recipients due to Presentation College's pending closure as follows: If a 2022-23 recipient from Presentation College attends another Freedom Scholarship participating institution, they will be

eligible for a Freedom Scholarship for the 23-24 academic year. If they go to an institution out of state, such as St Ambrose University, their existing scholarship will be deferred and no more scholarship money will be issued. However if that same student on deferment graduates and then lives and works in South Dakota for three years after graduation, the scholarship will not revert to a loan. Motion carried with a voice vote.

VanderWoude departed the meeting at 12:58 pm.

Heinemann motioned and Dykhouse seconded for executive session for student matters (SDCL 1-25-2(2)) at 12:59 pm.

Chairman Dykhouse declared executive session over at 1:18 pm. No votes were taken in executive session.

Dykhouse motioned and Heinemann seconded to approve exceptions for students for the 2022-2023 school year.

2023 meetings

The board determined it will hear exceptions for the 2023-24 school year at its April meeting.

The board further discussed its student appeal policy. It was determined that it would hear exceptions to the requirements at board meetings, giving universities ample time to prepare.

Elli Haerter shared some additional detail about student withdrawals, noting that a student might re-enroll in spring semester after withdrawing in the fall, and could still complete their degree in five years or less. It was determined Elli would monitor the withdrawn students and report back to the board. Motion by Heinemann, seconded by Houwman to allow for six months before a student who has withdrawn begins to pay back their scholarship and also allow for a graduate to have 6 months before their employment obligation begins. Should employment begin before six months, that will count towards their obligation. Motion carries on a voice vote.

The Freedom Scholarship Board has planned the following meetings for calendar year 2023:

Monday April 24, 11-1 pm, August 3, 11-1 pm, October 23 11-1 pm.

Motion by Beacom, seconded Dana to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 1:39 pm.