
Minutes of the Regular Session of the EDUCAUSE Board

Thursday, December 17, 2020 | Virtual

Note: All times listed are Eastern time (ET)

Attendance

Board members: Elias Eldayrie (Treasurer), Keith McIntosh (Vice Chair), Joseph Moreau (departing board member), Helen Norris, John O'Brien (President and CEO; ex officio), Amelia Parnell, Sharon Pitt, Mark Roman, Celeste Schwartz, Carol Smith, Jennifer Sparrow (Secretary), Cheryl Washington, Sue Workman (Chair)

Unable to attend: Tony Moore

Staff: Eden Dahlstrom, Susan Grajek, Karen Mateer, Mairéad Martin, Nicole McWhirter, Stacy Ruwe, Catherine Yang

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Call to Order

Board Chair Sue Workman convened the meeting at 3:02 p.m. and welcomed Cheryl Washington, attending her first board meeting.

Workman provided a brief report on the Annual Business Meeting held on December 16. John O'Brien shared that there were over 90 participants, making this the largest attendance we have had for a virtual business meeting in his five years as President and CEO of EDUCAUSE.

Workman reviewed board subcommittee assignments, noting that everyone was given their first choice of assignment. Nicole McWhirter shared that members need to approve assignments in the portal. Workman reminded the group that board members have been asked to review the spreadsheet with non-renewing members and, where possible, reach out to these members to encourage reengagement.

2021 Budget

Vice President for Business Services and Chief Financial Officer Stacy Ruwe thanked outgoing treasurer Keith McIntosh and incoming treasurer Elias Eldayrie for their role in preparing the budget and invited their comments. Ruwe presented the 2021 budget documents, including the 2020 budget forecast and the proposed three-year budget. She pointed out an expected 5% decrease in member dues revenue and no adjustments to dues levels; however, she noted that her team would begin the process of implementing changes to the Carnegie Classification used

to calculate dues, which may result in dues changes for institutions in 2022–2023 with advanced notice for campuses planned for the fall of 2021.

Ruwe noted the planned draw down on the reserves for 2020, 2021, and 2022, but she also shared expected revenue gains from the showcase events, rate changes for .edu domains, and the sale of second domain names.

Ruwe reported that we are working through the Small Business Administration process for our Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan and expect full forgiveness of this loan. Regarding the Louisville office space, we are in final stages of negotiating out of our lease and Ruwe highlighted the amount of savings realized from giving up this space and having a smaller office lease in Washington, D.C.

McIntosh noted that the Finance/Investment Committee spent extensive time going over the budget with Ruwe to understand the implications and discuss various scenarios, and Eldayrie agreed with this comment. Eldayrie raised the idea that EDUCAUSE runs on a different fiscal year than most of the members and suggested that we may want to reconsider this.

Keith McIntosh moved to approve the 2021 budget. Jennifer Sparrow seconded. The motion was approved.

Closing Remarks

Workman again expressed her thanks to the EDUCAUSE staff, who really helped to pull the community together through a difficult year. O'Brien added some final comments to thank board members and the executive team for everyone's grace and patience during a challenging year when we needed it most. Cheryl Washington thanked the group for the warm welcome she was given by board members and shared with the group the happiness expressed by the cybersecurity community that a chief security officer is now represented on the EDUCAUSE board.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.