

## **Vision Series Committee Meeting: September 29, 2020, 6:00 P.M.**

**(via Zoom)**

The Vision Series Committee met via Zoom teleconferencing at 6:00 p.m. on September 29, 2020. Present were Robert Boehmer, President of the College; Dr. Carlos Cunha, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences; Dr. David Chevalier, Dean of the School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences;; Dr. Alan Brasher, faculty member; Precious Coleman, President of the Student Government Association; Matt Donaldson, Durden Banking Company (community representative); and David Morgan, community representative. Absent was Norma Woods, Vice President for Institutional Enhancement.

Dr. John K. Derden, Director of the Vision Series, chaired the meeting.

The following business was conducted:

The committee had not met for some time and the membership had been reconstituted. After introductions of the members, Dr. Derden briefly went over the history of the Vision Series, including mention of earlier programming efforts involving the Warren Fund (defunct) and the Lyceum Series, which was superseded by the Vision Series, and the creation of the Vision Series at the behest of Jean Morgan. He stressed the importance of the Vision Series to the life and mission of the college.

Dr. Derden went over the purpose of the Vision Series as well as the committee, referring the members to the documents e-mailed to them earlier (see at end of minutes).

Current account balance of the Vision Series: \$2,633.01

A discussion ensued relative to the question: "Where do we go from here?" the following points were discussed:

1. Given the reality of a significantly smaller budget, focus on smaller events, perhaps targeted at the two schools of the college. This could be facilitated by faculty networking with colleagues at other institutions.
2. Coordinate with other groups and institutions for programming and to share expenses.
  - a. Emanuel Arts Council
  - b. Other colleges/universities and consortiums—ex. Wind Ensemble from Georgia Southern University, ensembles from the University of Georgia, etc.
  - c. Other community arts or interest groups
  - d. Student Activities
3. Funding:
  - a. Seek grants from groups such as the Georgia Council for the Arts, Georgia Humanities Council, Mill Creek Foundation, etc., to support programming.
  - b. Ticket sales for larger events

4. The reality of COVID19 impinges on in-person programming. Dr. Boehmer suggested that we work on doing some virtual programming, starting in Spring Semester 2021
5. Several programming ideas were suggested:
  - a. David Morgan mentioned Dr. Brasher and friends.
  - b. Matt Donaldson said he had contact information on Archie Jordan, a successful country music songwriter who lives in Metter.
  - c. Dr. Boehmer suggested a program involving Dr. Cerpovic's work with bees on campus
  - d. Dr. Derden asked the committee to suggest programming ideas at our next meeting.

Dr. Derden brought up another idea that might be included under the Vision Series umbrella—Road Scholars (previously known as Elderhostel). This is a program that involves offering educational travel opportunities to senior citizens. East Georgia State College seems to have the basic ingredients—housing and food service—to be a host to one or more programs focusing on the history and natural environment of our region of the state. Programs could involve Civil War and Revolutionary War topics, the natural history of Wiregrass Georgia, sustainable farming efforts in the region, literary tours (Caroline Miller, *Lamb in His Bosom*; Brainard Cheney, *River Rogue*, *Lightwood*, *Devil's Elbow*, etc.; Erskine Caldwell; Flannery O'Conner; Janisse Ray, and so forth). Dr. Derden said he would follow up on this possibility.

The next meeting will be in January. As soon as a date is selected the committee will be informed. In the meantime, the committee members were encouraged to think about future programming and funding ideas,

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

## **ADDENDA**

Road Scholar website: <https://www.roadscholar.org/>

Georgia Council for the Arts website: <https://gaarts.org/>

Georgia Council for the Humanities website: <https://www.georgiahumanities.org/>

## **AGENDA**

**VISION SERIES COMMITTEE MEETING, September 29, 2020, 6 p.m.**

Introductions

History of Vision Series:

Warren Fund

Lyceum Committee

Vision Series

Purpose of the Vision Series

The Vision Series Committee

Current Account Balance: \$2,633.01

Discussion:

Programming

Revenue

Road Scholars (Elderhostel)?

## **VISION SERIES COMMITTEE**

The Vision Series is a privately funded initiative that seeks to bring programs of intellectual and cultural enrichment to the college and its constituency. Established at the encouragement and behest of Jean Morgan, it is aimed primarily at the students of the college, although faculty, staff, and the broader community are encouraged to participate as well. This includes members of local book clubs; students and faculty from public, private, and home school groups; and others. Except for out-of-town trips, Vision Series programming is free and open to the public. When space is limited, East Georgia State College students are given first choice.

Vision Series programming consists of a wide variety of events, including music and dance programs, readings and presentations by novelists and poets, lectures by nationally and internationally acclaimed scholars, appearances by media personalities, trips to art museums, dramatic presentations at out-of-town venues, and historical tours. Past programs include President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter, Dr. Maya Angelou, the Atlanta Pops, Ambassador Andrew Young and trips to the Fox Theatre and the High Museum in Atlanta.

### **I. Membership and purpose**

#### **A. Membership**

Statutory requirements: Chair, Director of the Vision Series; President of the College; the Deans of the two Academic Schools of the College;

Associate Vice President for Executive Affairs; and four– five additional members designated by the Chair upon consultation with the President and including at least one faculty member, one student and one community member.

The current membership of the Vision Series Committee is as follows;

Director, Dr. John K. Derden

President of the College, Bob Boehmer

School of Humanities and Social Science Dean, Dr. Carlos Cunha

School of Mathematics and Natural Science Interim Dean, Dr.

David Chevalier

Associate Vice President for Executive Affairs, Norma Woods

Faculty representative, Dr. Alan Brasher

Student representatives, Precious Coleman

EGSC Foundation representative, Matt Donaldson

Community representative, David Morgan

Status: Current membership as listed above

**B. Purpose**

The purpose of the Vision Series Committee is to advise the President and the Director of the Vision Series as needed to assure that the series continues to be a focal point for the intellectual life of the College and the community. Its function shall be to provide input concerning speakers, performers and presenters and the logistics of the series as needed.

Status: Future funding is uncertain; otherwise no recommended changes

**II. Future of Committee**

When Jean Morgan, our benefactor, moved to Memphis as her health deteriorated, we lost almost all our annual funding (which had run from \$30,000 to \$60,000 per year). This had enabled us to have very rich and stimulating programming for many years. I do not anticipate acquiring a similar level of funding again. The continuation of funding for the Vision Series is, therefore, in question. The last year of substantial funding was in the academic year 2014-2015. Since then we have operated on a shoestring, seeking funding via the EGSC Foundation and grants (primarily from the Mill Creek Foundation). Currently, no programming for 2020-21 is scheduled. Also, the COVID19 situation complicates things. The question for us is: "Where do we go from here?" Options include seeking other funding sources—i.e., grants from the Georgia Council of the Arts, Georgia Humanities, Mill Creek Foundation, etc.—utilizing available University System resources, and working with college consortia, etc. , to continue to bring enhancement programming to the college.

Status: Uncertain