



Meeting Agenda
7:30 P.M. Wednesday, April 1, 2026
Meeting Room: Perry Boardroom

Call to Order: 7:30 PM

Present: Morgan Smith, MJ Miller, Ella Ningen, Sam Hartman, Tyler Caldwell, Eme Starbuck, Rylee DeVaughn, Bettie Chambers, Derek Silva, Brayden Boehle, Carly Rains, Harrison Sjuts, Doane Lifting Club Exec, Active Minds Exec, DaMarcus Cannon, Mariah Tessman, Isaac Gibbs

Absent: Lauren Maly, Gunner Lippold

Best Dressed: Jordan's Outfit, Carson's Outfit, Preston's Outfit, John's Outfit, Tyler's Loafers

APPROVED (11-1-0)

Approval of previous minutes: **APPROVED (9-1-2)**

Thank You: SPB Bouquet Making Night, Doane Lifting Club for Bake Sale, High Stakes Poker Tournament

Presentations:

- **7:30pm - SPB NACA Trip Special Allocation**
- **7:40pm - Doane Lifting Club Standard Allocation**
- **7:50pm - Active Minds Standard Allocation**
- **8:00pm - Doane Relay Standard Allocation**
- **8:10pm - President Roger Hughes and Dr. Judy Kawamoto, Doane Forward**

Discussion:

- **SPB**
 - Requested: \$2,187.00, \$546.75 per student
 - Approved: \$2,187.00 **APPROVED (13-0-0)**
 - Reasoning: Approved in full
- **Doane Lifting Club**
 - Requested: \$600.00
 - Approved: \$600.00 **APPROVED (11-1-1)**
 - Reasoning: Approved in full
- **Active Minds**
 - Requested: \$1,200.00

- Approved: \$1,100.00 **APPROVED (13-0-0)**
- Reasoning: Decrease in end of year banquet (\$150 → \$50) in alignment with Allocations guidelines
- **Doane Relay**
 - Requested: \$2,276.00
 - Approved: \$2,120.00 **APPROVED (13-0-0)**
 - Reasoning: Cannot allocate for Relay Exec Food on Night Of (\$156.00) in alignment with Allocations guidelines
- **President Roger Hughes and Dr. Judy Kawamoto, Doane Forward**
 - Working to be as open and transparent as possible. We're listening to all constituencies and are open to ideas
 - The "Doane Forward" name has a huge meaning:
 - Not planning just to get through a year or two, but for the next 150 years
 - We are not the only school going through this
 - Want to be able to answer questions, going to share as much as they can of what can be shared. Legally, some things (like personnel discussions) can't be shared
 - Being intentional about inclusion of stakeholders, following shared governance
 - Can take longer, but results in the best answers
 - Not all parts of the university are equally affected and that will be reflected
 - Do not want to lose the liberal arts focus
 - Building skills and habits for long after you are at Doane
 - Want to hear student perspective on what makes Doane special and what you see as the culture
 - Since the first day, the only interest is making Doane better and giving the best experience possible
 - Care about the people and the institution
 - Every decision based on "What makes us better"
 - Problems were long-term, solutions must also be long-term
 - Heard your request for clear, consistent communication to students
 - Have already started implementing, had open hours in the dining hall today, email update was sent out to all students
 - Rumors never cease, so please ask questions rather than let a rumor get out there
 - What do you think makes the Doane culture special?
 - Acceptance letter came with a handwritten note from President Hughes, made a difference
 - "Never underestimate the power of a handwritten note"
 - No other university has this level of personalization, small class sizes, accounting classes (more than any in the area by a lot), connections through Doane make a big difference, real world connection
 - Professors actively involved in research, real world experience brought to the classroom, push everyone to be better
 - Application workshops offered by HMOC push the academic element
 - "I can tell you why I stayed"
 - Connection with the track coach and joining the team, positive attitude, show up every day, give your best

- Coaches accommodating busy academic schedules, being able to compete and do hard things
- The amount of free resources - no other school had a CLS center, 3 full time counselors, President with an open-door policy
- Tight-knit communities “Locker Rooms”, making those connections builds the culture
- Sorority Recruitment Funnel - Doane doesn’t just recruit, we retain
 - This is done through resources and connections
- Emphasis on preparation for post-graduation sets us apart
 - Preparation for a first job, not just a final exam
- Doane is creative with the things we do have, elevated by people who care
 - May not have the same equipment, but have relationships and connections, the things Doane does aren’t just about what things we have
 - “The best movies aren’t the ones with an unlimited budget, but those who are working creatively”
- Doane recruits people who have a strong work ethic and will get the job done, figure it out and get better
- Don’t be afraid to fail! Professors have implemented this in classes
- Sports is the reason I came here, but belief that every student matters is what kept me here
- Professors and staff truly care about students
- Professor/Student connection, wouldn’t have been able to figure out what want to do without those connections
- LAR Classes - didn’t know you could connect with professors where they know you personally and encourage you personally and professionally
- Professors will continue to respond even after graduation
- Doane Education Program - didn’t realize how incredible it really was until here, other school’s students don’t have half the experiences that Doane offers, professors have been offering to help with out of state connections
- Practice the plan more than once to ensure success
- Just because Doane is a small school doesn’t mean it is not MIGHTY
- Doane Forward
 - How does Doane Forward affect education moving forward?
 - Could look somewhat different
 - The catalog you came in on is a promise
 - Not every major is attracting the same number of students
 - Class progression may need to be adjusted
 - Personnel may change
 - Will students find out about who may be retiring?
 - Will not be sent out by the university, privacy and legal reasons
 - Doane Forward plan must be approved by the Trustees, taking place in May
 - Information will come out before July 1st as the start of the new fiscal year
 - Professors may share themselves if they’re retiring

- What is the total timeline that we know?
 - Been gathering as much information as possible. In addition to meetings with StuCo, Faculty and Staff Councils have both been meeting and bringing forth information
 - Leadership Team will go through that information and utilize it to make decisions
 - Office hours are available to continue to ask questions and provide information
 - Don't want people to be concerned about things that may or may not happen, Board can have different thoughts on the plan
- AI Policy
 - Doane's approach is different, Students made the policy
 - Doane isn't afraid of AI, helping students learn how to adapt to a world with AI
- Is Tiger Grant something that is being looked at as a part of Doane Forward?
 - Doane is different, doesn't immediately take away scholarship if you no longer are a part of athletics
 - Utilize Tiger Grant to help the student, the university and make Doane better
 - The more students are working on the things Doane is doing, the better off we all are
- How do you suggest having conversations about the rumor mill on all levels?
 - Folks are scared, everything they knew is no longer true in the same ways
 - Education industry across the country is going through a shift, having to learn how to adapt
 - Go directly to the source of the information by utilizing Doane Forward office hours, in-person time with leadership team members
 - Make sure you understand what was said, not just what you heard
 - Try not to get caught up in the emotion
 - Here today to make sure you have the facts and the information so that you can respond
 - Professors are worried, no decisions have been made
 - Worried there may be a disconnect somewhere, want to make sure everyone has the information and still invested in the institution
 - [Shared Governance](#) helps to make sure that all voices are heard, does make the process longer but makes sure that decisions are well informed
 - [Kirby Smart - The Cost of Leadership](#)
- What else is being looked at right now?
 - Looking at a lot of things!
 - Math problem right now - looking at everything that can help balance the equation
 - Not just cuts, but looking at revenue
 - Need to grow our way out of this problem as well
 - Some costs are investments

- Looking at all viable options and adjusting based on the ideas that are coming through
- Constant conversations on multiple levels
- Decisions in one area can impact other areas, so we have to work together to come up with the best solutions
- Want to leave room to be able to pivot
- Not shying away from growth
- Interested in making Doane better, may come with some growing pains
- As new students enroll, how will they perceive differences as programs change and evolve?
 - Be upfront in the recruiting process
 - Changes to majors and minors
 - The experience new students have with upper class students is also what keeps them here at Doane
 - Being honest and supportive is crucial
 - Academic catalog you start with is the one you complete
 - This is true of almost all colleges
 - These types of changes to catalogs are not atypical, curriculum changes over time
- Without decisions being made, it can feel very uneasy and don't know what to expect, is there anything else that can be shared?
 - Cannot give definites in the spirit of Shared Governance
 - Will let folks know decisions as soon as can, but genuinely decisions have not been made
 - Transparency in shared governance can make it harder in some ways
 - Suspense of waiting for the decision
 - Would rather be upfront so folks can prepare
 - Time passes differently for folks with different levels of information
 - Can always verify the information you are hearing
 - Knowing what is being said can be utilized to help clarify information and conversations
 - Refine the message
 - Some of the struggle is lots of feedback is being given, don't get to see the other side of the information being given from other groups
- Understanding the list of possibilities would be helpful, could this be shared?
 - If a list is given, folks might extrapolate from that list and start to worry about things that may not even have been discussed
 - Understand the frustration and will take this comment back to the Leadership Team to discuss
 - Areas on the list of discussion could find themselves nervous and leaving based on not having the full picture
 - Want to avoid unnecessary panic and extrapolating, potentially continuing and exacerbating the rumor mill

- These conversations are not easy and constantly evolving based on ongoing information received from constituencies, information is only as good as the moment it is discussed
- Could revenue possibilities be shared?
 - Revenue streams
 - Tuition
 - Room and Board
 - Fundraising
 - Campaign
 - Any changes will affect people in the roles associated
- With potential increasing enrollment, would Doane be looking at building another Residence Hall or looking at more off-campus students?
 - Looking at options
 - Strategic Growth Task Force is submitting a report on the impact that increasing enrollment would have across all of campus
 - When increasing, have to address housing availability
 - A big part of the collegiate experience is living with people different from yourself and helps you build strong relationships
 - Data supports living on campus
 - Share this information out to the students, they want to see the data and understand the **why**
 - That information also will help with admissions and ambassadors visits
 - Reinforce the benefits for staying on-campus
 - Great information for incoming families as well
- Is Doane considering offering summer classes?
 - Conversations have taken place and continue to take place
 - Exploring lots of possibilities
- Looking at fundraising with athletic alumni to support athletic teams
- Could information be shared with ambassadors? Want to make sure that the information shared on tours is correct!
 - A really good point
 - President Hughes is going to follow up on that question tomorrow
 - May get those questions more often, need to equip ambassadors appropriately to have those conversations
 - Want to give the information and how to share it well!
- Board of Trustees conversation about Doane Forward will take place in executive session for privacy purposes (staffing, etc.)
 - Please give some grace immediately following the Board meeting, as all feedback will need to be incorporated into the plan before it is shared out to all parties
 - Board members see the university through you as Student Congress members, share honestly about your individual experience and have it be relevant to the committee if applicable
- President Hughes is always approachable, but not always available

Committee Updates:

- **Outreach Committee:**
 - Nothing
- **Programming Committee:**
 - Election graphics will be going out soon on social media.
- **Food Committee:**
 - Caf is closed from Wednesday Night to Monday Lunch
 - Monday dinner is the first meal back
 - "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." - Eleanor Roosevelt

Exec Reports:

- **Tyler:**
 - "Adapt yourself to the life you have been given, and truly love the people with whom destiny has surrounded you." ~ Marcus Aurelius
 - Have a good Easter
 - April 8th, we have AIGA, AG Club, Kindness Project, and Doane Players
- **Ella:**
 - Trash Pickup April 19th at 2 PM, meet in Brodie at 1:50 PM.
- **Sam:**
 - ZooCo dates - *new senators will be invited as well*
 - May 9th.
 - Load vans at 7:30am
 - Leave Doane 7:45am
 - We will invite new senators to join us and if you are a senator not joining us again next year, you will also be invited
 - RSVP by next Meeting, April 8th
- **Mo:**
 - Senator applications/interest form opens April 13th !!! Anyone interested email morgan.smith7936@doane.edu
 - ANY Doane student can run to be a senator (experience or not)
 - Senator candidates can submit one poster to be put outside the perry pod, will not go across all of campus
- **MJ:**
 - Student Leader Training Sunday, April 26th
 - Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/LTEVFKW5ZSQ4U1gV6>
 - Reminder, Student Leader Awards nominations are OPEN until April 13th!
 - Submit here: <https://forms.gle/3N3GAg7fRxh7NPBQA>

Student Concerns:

- Communication for SLRSTA jobs and how they are decided/why students aren't getting hired
 - They are super organized this year so people will be communicated with if you do not get an interview/job and why.
 - If these things are not happening, please email mj.miller@doane.edu

Open Forum:

- High Stakes 2v2 Pool Tournament
 - <https://forms.gle/W61BYawaTs8dLkj96>

Adjournment: 10:22 PM