



Saint Vincent Alumni Council Meeting Minutes

MAY 17, 2019

Meeting Location: Fred Rogers Center

Presiding Council Member: Jason Winters, Council President

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM

The opening prayer was given by R. Zadzilko, followed by the Alma Mater led by J. Winters and general introductions.

Alumni Office Update: S. Gouch shared the updated capital campaign promotional video with Council. S. Gouch then gave an update on the campaign and noted that they are currently at the mid-90% range toward the fundraising goal and that the construction of the Library and fine arts space is progressing well. The Alumni Office has numerous upcoming events, including the Prep Reunion Weekend (June 7th-9th), Alumni and Friends golf outing (June 7th), Peter Pan at the Pittsburgh Ballet (July 13th) and the Pirates Game (June 22nd).

Action Item: Approval of the Minutes – A motion made by F. Susko and seconded by F. Nelson to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 16, 2019 was unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive committee: J. Winters thanked the members of Council for the accomplishments over the past two years, focusing specifically on the revisions to the Council Constitution to improve the structure of Council. Council still plans to hold a Friday meeting to occur during the fall of 2019. R. Sossong was appointed as Secretary, effective May 17, 2019. R. Schulte thanked A. Simmons for serving as Secretary of Council for six years and for working to expand the public relations role of Council. R. Retter will be looking to fill the vacant position of Treasurer as he begins his term as Council President. Council giving has continued to improve, but several council members still need to contribute in order to reach the 100% goal prior to the June 30th end of the fiscal year.

Membership Committee: A. Simmons provided an update that there have been three resignations from Council since the last meeting. The committee has been soliciting recommendations for new members and has formulated a slate of candidates for election at this meeting, all of which have completed a Council Interest Form and discuss the position as a member of Council with a current Council member. A. Simmons explained that the Council Constitution, Article VII, Section 2, provides that ten members are to be elected at each May meeting of Council. The proposed ballot contains 12 candidates. The Amendment process for amending the Council Constitution was explained, specifically that it requires notice of a proposed amendment to be provided 30 days in advance of voting on such amendment. A. Simmons requested that a motion be made to waive the 30-day notice period for purposes of amending the election provision to allow for a 12 candidate ballot at this meeting. R. Schulte made the motion to waive the 30-day notice period for purpose of proposing this amendment and E. McCormick seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. K. Colonna next made a motion to amend Article VII, Section 2 of the Council Constitution to read as follows: "An appropriate number of members of the Association shall be elected to Council each year and shall serve for a term of three (3) fiscal years to fulfill the guidelines of Article IV, Section 2." This motion, which was seconded by J. Cherubini, was unanimously approved. A. Simmons and J. Winters then presented the ballot consisting of: David Braum (C'04); Bill Casey (C'90); Jack Cherubini (C'75); Charlie Cleveland (C'72); Domenic DeYulis (C'13); Megan Farrell (C'19); Mitchell Farrell (C'18); Hannah Kahn Brinker (C'16); Olivia London (C'18); Jerry Marsico (C'99); Carey McMonagle (C'70); and John Wojtechko (C'18). The election of the members on this ballot would take the number of council members up to 28. Motion to accept the ballot, which was made by R. Schulte and seconded by F. Nelson, was approved by a unanimous vote.

Student/Alumni Networking Outreach Committee: The Executive Committee noted that it will be considering new leadership for this committee. While it was note that good initial steps were taken by the current committee (*i.e.*, the Mimosa Toast), R. Retter suggested a discussion be had during New Business regarding new ways this committee could be active.

Fr. Gilbert J. Burke, O.S.B. Alumni Scholarship Fund Committee: R. Retter introduced the Summer Picnic to be held Saturday, July 20th at Pleasure Acres Farm. The timeline for the event has been developed and there will be a focus on digital marketing for the event. Events and Conference Services will handle the RSVPs for events for a charge of \$2.00 per transaction. The maximum number of attendees for the event is 150. J. Winters inquired if the Committee had developed plans for next year's event after this year's picnic and R. Retter explained that nothing was planned yet. A brief discussion was had about Wimmerstock and Council's involvement moving forward. R. Retter has discussed Council's involvement in Wimmerstock with Professor Abramovich in the future - likely in 2021 - since Institutional Advancement is planning events for 2020 to coincide with the conclusion of the Capital Campaign. The Executive Committee is looking for a new chairperson for this Committee since R. Retter is beginning his term as Council President.

Homecoming Liaison Update: G. Maurer provided an update on the process of identifying the class representatives and opened the floor to updates from class representatives. J. Winters explained that Events and Conference Services is working to expanded Homecoming events for families and children. Further, picnic foods will no longer be provided to class groups, but the College will be setting up a concession stand area where food can be purchased by individuals. The College is focusing on having one large anniversary class event in the Rogers' Center at which tables will be set up for specific anniversary classes. S. Gouch provided an update on the eleven Alumni of Distinction recipients; who will each be recognized on the Friday of Homecoming Weekend. A brief update was then provided that the Hall of Fame induction process for this year is continuing as anticipated.

Prep Reunion Liaison Update: R. Stillwagon provided a brief update that registration is currently opened for the Reunion Weekend (June 7th-9th) and noted that Fr. Vernon Holtz, O.S.B. and Dr. Fred Soisson would be the recipients of this year's Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Legal Advisors Update: Council thanked K. Colonna for her service in this role as this is her last meeting with Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Admissions Update: P. Conroy provided an update on the status of the Admissions department. The new student applications fell short of the goal with the Boyer School being the strongest school for admissions to date. Admission numbers are down at peer institutions as well due to the fact that high school graduation numbers regionally are down, with Catholic high school graduation numbers down approximately 20%. P. Conroy explained that the Alumni Grant continues to be a great way for Alumni to connect with prospective students to help solidify the interest of the incoming class and to help decrease the cost for new students. P. Conroy closed by asking Council members to pray for D. Collins.

Presidential Search Update: An internal ad hoc committee was formed with the objective of developing a list of the qualifications that the new president should possess and the challenges/opportunities that the new president will likely face. J. Santoro noted that this was not a specific search committee, but that it developed a report to Board of Directors and the Chancellor. It was noted that the committee did not include any members of Council. A recommendation/nomination process has been started, asking faculty, staff and community members to make nominations. The new president will likely be announced by July 1, 2019. R. Schulte noted that Council could look to the Ad Hoc Committee's report for guidance as to how Council can be helpful to the College and the new administration.

Student Networking Committee: R. Retter opened the discussion by noting that the Committee should be focused on prospective students, current students and graduating students. R. Schulte explained that this Committee has many potential opportunities to engage with current students (GADs, connection to admissions; internships and jobs). He encouraged the Committee to obtain more assistance from the Administration and stressed the importance of being clearer about the assistance that it needs from Council and Committee members at certain events. A discussion followed regarding how Council and the Committee can obtain feedback from current students on how alumni can be helpful to them and how the Committee can overcome any communication

issues with the various groups within the College. It was noted that the Career Center is undergoing some marketing/branding changes and that there continues to be a need to increase student ex officio member participation at Council meeting. A discussion ensued regarding having younger Council members make up most of this Committee as they are closer to the population Council is trying to serve. R. Retter confirmed that Council and the Committee will be involved with Freshman Move-In Day.

J. Cherubini expressed his continued appreciation for being able to serve as a member of Council.

R. Retter suggested that Council invite Br. Norman Hipps to the August meeting of Council.

After a brief discussion of the Bearcat Best Program and the recent promotional video that was prepared, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by E. McCormick, seconded by G. Martin and unanimously approved.

ATTENDANCE

D. Aceorsi

D. Braum

H. Brinker

J. Cherubini

C. Cleveland

K. Colonna

P. Conroy

C. DeGroot

G. Fetkovich

A. Jeffers

G. Martin

G. Maurer

E. McCormick

F. Nelson

A. Panebianco

J. Reilly

R. Retter

R. Schulte

M. Sigg

A. Simmons

S. Simmons

R. Sossong

R. Stillwagon

F. Susko

C. Toy

J. Winters

R. Zadzilko

L. Zecchini

Guests:

D. DeYulis

S. Gouch

K. Laswell

J. Santoro

Respectfully submitted by Renold Sossong, Alumni Council Secretary.