

Illinois State University Alumni Association

Board of Directors Meeting

January 23, 2021

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Zoom meeting

Alumni Association Mission: To support the University through the knowledge, skills, financial resources, and loyalty of its alumni; to communicate and interpret the University's goals and achievements to others; and to promote a spirit of unity and loyalty among former students and friends.

Members Absent: Reeves, Spann, Cattaneo (SAC)

Meeting Notes

1. Call to Order

Steve Smith

- a. Following a Presidential search listening session with Wittkieffer Search Firm and ISU Foundation Board, Smith called the meeting to order at 9:47 a.m.

2. ISU Leadership Updates

a. President's Report

President Dietz

- i. Extended wishes of good luck on the Presidential search, Happy New Year, and hopes for a better 2021
- ii. ISU is vigorously addressing priorities
 1. Follow science of Covid
 - a. Fall Covid positivity rates lowered after start of school
 - b. Antigen tests for asymptomatic
 - c. 3000 students in Housing required to Covid test prior to returning from Spring Break
 2. 80% hybrid or on-line classes, 20% in person (clinics/labs)
 3. 700 faculty received professional development/laptops, 10,500 students received 8.6 million in financial aid
 4. DEI initiatives continue with 850 people attending microaggression/anti racism workshops. Multicultural Center has July 2021 anticipated completion date
- iii. Twelve new academic programs
- iv. Temporary work at home continues until end of fiscal 2021
- v. ISU remains strong and stable, and on sound fiscal path
 1. Covid impact on campus cost more than 72 million
 2. Spring enrollment down 3%
 3. No merit based salary increases
 4. FY '22 budget cuts anticipated

5. Applications slower and fewer for Fall (down 30-40%)
- vi. Retirement will occur on June 30th as 19th President, and after 50 plus years in higher education. Plans to stay local and engaged. Feels ISU is on a “new path for a bright future”, and will continue to stay on as long as needed if the right person is not found. Will do everything to help ensure a smooth transition.

b. Trustee’s Report

Kathy Bohn

- i. Operating budget passed
 1. Connect Transit continued thru June 30, 2021
 2. U of I lab saliva testing thru May 14 (waiting on FDA approval)
 3. Additional dining and housing options thru May 14
 4. Naming rights at the Farm and Multicultural Center
 5. 2 day retreat
 6. Covid tests approved
 7. External search for President continues
 8. Performance bonus (\$46,000 for FY '20) and moving expenses for President Dietz

c. University Advancement Report

Pat Vickerman

- i. Appreciates involvement in Presidential search
- ii. This fiscal year has been challenging
 1. 20 million goal for this year
 2. 11.6 fundraising production to date
 3. 20 million target is 10% less than last year
 4. Birds Give Back is February 25th
- iii. Appreciation given to Kris and Alumni Engagement team
- iv. Special Covid Relief Fund?
 1. Red and White Scholarship really depleted
 2. Focus to rebuild for Annual Giving (half million spent to assist students)

d. Alumni Engagement Report

Kris Harding

- i. Thank you extended to all Committees
- ii. Committee interest survey will be sent out, and all members to think about leadership opportunities

- iii. Birds Give Back is February 25th and AA will be partnering with Annual Giving. Students will be featured in a virtual event this year.
- iv. Football games have been changed. “Redbirds in Flight” Homecoming is April 5-11, with the football game on April 10th.
- v. Planning on an in-person Fall ’21 Homecoming for the 100th Anniversary
- vi. Virtual events continue, and will not be going away. 22 programs were offered (half the number of programs typically offered), and were successful with 1400 alums in attendance. Will be compiling fall data regarding event reach. Events include home buying webinar, Peoria Network Bradley game pep rally with Athletic Director Kyle Brenna, goal setting, and Cook with a Redbird Chef.

e. Alumni Association President’s Report

Steve Smith

- i. Reviewed “Hopes and Aspirations”
- ii. Strategic Plan work continues
- iii. DEI Committee work continues
- iv. Ongoing participation in committee calls
- v. Continuation of virtual events (Board Happy Hours)
- vi. Virtual commencement address was given
- vii. Participation in the Presidential search committee
- viii. Upcoming Past Presidents and Network Leaders roundtables

3. ISU Campus Conversations

a. Dr. Christa Platt, Director, Multicultural Center

- i. Brief history of how Multicultural Center came to be
 - 1. Started prior to 1986 when she arrived
 - 2. 2005 – turned into Diversity Advocacy
 - 3. 2016 – goal to create a space for students of color
 - 4. 2019 – Multicultural Center approved
 - 5. 2020 – construction started
- ii. Vision and Mission are to be accountable to marginalized students, and be a place where everyone’s identity has value and everyone feels they belong
- iii. Visuals shared showing gathering space, multipurpose room, library, 4 offices (ALAS, APAC, BSU, Pride), Trans clothing/closet/dressing room, 3 conference rooms, reflection/prayer room, green room for self care/wellness, media room, kitchen/server, staff offices, 2 sets bathrooms
- iv. Invited all Board members to be a part of this. Opportunity to support thru Birds Give Back, and to follow on social media and promote video,
- v. Naming options are still available.

4. Consent Agenda (Action Items)

- a. Approval of September 19, 2020 minutes
- b. FY21 Financial Report as of January 8, 2021
- c. Griffin moved to approve Consent Agenda. Brandon seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

5. Continuing Business

Steve Smith

a. Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives – Dave Horstein

- i. Over 20 people responded
- ii. Purpose is to align goals and objectives as a Board
- iii. “Guardrails” for moving forward
- iv. What’s Next?
 - 1. Adopt today
 - 2. Publish statement
 - 3. Committee Chairs meeting in February
 - 4. Committees align activities to objectives (Feb-April)
 - 5. Review progress every 6 months
- v. Document reviewed and changes made
- vi. Mielneczek motioned to approve plan. McGuire seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.
- vii. Work begins now to bring this to life. The focus will be on the Committee leaders to keep it moving.

6. New Business

Steve Smith

- a. No new business

7. Committee/Liaison Updates

a. Awards Committee: Susan Nelson-Brown

- i. Postponed 2021 February awards ceremony to 2022. Recommendations have been given to President and Vice President for comments. Same recommendations have been made. If a candidate is not selected, they will stay on another year rather than being dropped off after 4 years. May give more than one award in certain categories.

- b. Board Development Committee: Lisa Castleman**
 - i. Working to ensure representative new board members to alumni population. Rubric being used to select interview candidates. Application closes February 17. Working on the process to ensure quality, diverse members on the Board.
- c. Executive Committee: Steve Smith**
 - i. Nothing new to report
- d. Homecoming Committee: Stacy Ramsey**
 - i. Working on virtual ideas. Will compliment with University activities.
- e. Redbird Engagement and Development (RED) Committee: Leah Walton**
 - i. Virtual blood drive took place in November with great success. Redbird Table Talks continue, Student lobby day training is scheduled, virtual Lobby Day is set for February 3. Board service project is still being planned once in person Board meetings resume
- f. Redbird Prime: Tim Griffin**
 - i. On pause at this time. Will have double (two year) celebration for Half Century Club.
- g. Scholarship Committee: Danny Mielneczek**
 - i. Increase in number of scholarships
- h. Liaison Updates**
 - i. Athletics (Stacy Ramsey) – the athletic council is meeting virtually and doing a lot of work.
 - ii. Bone Scholar (Dakota Pawlicki) – work is getting ready to get underway
 - iii. DEI (Michelle Guadalupe) – DEI ad hoc committee is continuing listening sessions.

8. Gratitude and Adjournment

Steve Smith

Small group share on topic of “joy and what we hope for”. Griffin moved to adjourn. Preston seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

