

Illinois State University Alumni Association Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes June 24, 2017
Illinois State University Alumni Center

Members Present: Kathy Bohn, Lisa Castleman, Bob Freitag, Michele Guadalupe, Maggie Im, Jerry Kerber, Daniel Lopez Jr., Ashley Mayor, Joe McGuire, Kathy Murdoch, Bob Navarro, Tim Pantaleone, Scott Preston, Alicia Ramos, Doug Reeves, Kaci Rollings, Alice Spann, Mike Willis, and Linda Yap

Members Absent: Jeff Charnogorsky, Ryan Gilbert, Dave Horstein, Brian Sher, Steve Smith, Ron Whitton, Jen Wiebel, and Jerry Wright

Alumni Staff Present: Doris Groves, Ashley Pritts

Guests Present: Interim Provost Dr. Jan Murphy, University Advancement Vice President Pat Vickerman, Trustee Julie Jones, University College staff member Wendi Whitman, and new Alumni Association board members Fellicia Foster, Danny Mielneczek, and Stacy Ramsey

1. **Call to Order:** President Tim Pantaleone called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. He reminded board members that the meeting was being recorded.

2. **University Update (Interim Provost Dr. Jan Murphy):**
 - Unfortunately, President Dietz is on vacation and is unable to attend the meeting. Interim Provost Dr. Jan Murphy is pleased to present the university updates on behalf of President Dietz.
 - There is still no budget from the State of Illinois. It has now been over 2 years since we had a full budget from the State (since FY15).
 - Illinois State University is still stable because of strong enrollment (tuition helps with the budget), careful financial planning (remaining very conservative), and a lighter debt load (reserves are strong). We remain fiscally conservative.
 - Dr. Dietz has continued to advocate for ISU with all of our state government officials in Springfield.
 - We are asking for funding similar to FY15. We do not want budget cuts to affect the student experience and are committed to continue MAP funding at this time.
 - We want to continue to show physical growth and improvement. We will go ahead with the Bone Student Center renovation, stressing that no state funding will be used on the project. Other non-safety related construction that would use General Revenue funding remains on hold.
 - The freshman class size will be slightly lower this fall with 300-500 fewer students. Enrollment management remains a constant University priority, but ISU is looking at new avenues to recruit students including the international sector. We hope to attract 2000 international students over the next 3-4 years. This initiative will benefit all students and financially benefits the University.
 - The University is researching the value of increasing online programs and classes as a way to possibly increase the nontraditional student population. Research is also being conducted to determine the plausibility of adding an engineering program.
 - Murphy noted that while recruiting new students is important, retention is also a big component. Our unofficial motto is “to never accept a student that cannot succeed.” Programs like TRiO greatly contribute to student retention.
 - Dr. Murphy warned that we cannot compare Illinois State University too much to the University of Illinois, because ISU and U of I have very different budget and tuition models. These differences are reflected in the student experience.

- The new Vice President of Finance and Planning, Dan Stephens, is bringing new ideas to the table that will greatly benefit the University.
- The search for Provost will start again soon. Dr. Dietz recently created a search committee.

3. Vice President's Report (Pat Vickerman):

- Vickerman reviewed the comprehensive fundraising report for FY17. University Advancement boasts \$20.4 million in total fundraising production for this year. The FY17 target has been \$23 million. This year's cash receipts total \$13.5 million which surpasses goal of \$12 million.
- This fiscal year, 11,000 alumni have made a gift. This is a record-breaking number.
- The Campaign Kickoff event is set for September 2017, and final planning is under way. Save the date cards have been sent.
- Jim and Carole Mounier, Ken and Deb Glover, and Dan and Pam Kelley are the three couples who have been identified as volunteer co-chairs for the Campaign efforts.
- Vice President Vickerman announced we have crossed the \$100 million threshold, well on our way towards the \$150 million Campaign goal.

4. Trustee's Remarks (Julie Jones):

- The Board of Trustees is transitioning as four members have left the board (J.D. Bergman, Anne Davis, Betty Kinser, and student Trustee Ryan Powers) and three new members have come on board (Julie Jones, Sharon Rossmark, and John Rauschenberger). The three new members are all Illinois State University alumni.
- Jones told the group that the ISU Alumni Association is highly respected by the Board of Trustees and the campus as a whole. She urged the group to keep up the good work.
- Commencement weekend was very exciting and is the ultimate goal of this institution. Trustee Jones thanked AA president Tim Pantaleone for speaking at all of the ceremonies.
- She reminded the group that the Board of Trustees meetings are open to the public, and she encourages board members to attend sometime.
- President Dietz's contract is still being negotiated. The Board of Trustees does very much want to retain Dr. Dietz at ISU and appreciate all the work he's done for the University.

5. Presentation on ISU's Human Library Project (Wendi Whitman):

- University College associate director Wendi Whitman presented on the The Human Library project. The event is based on the idea that everyone has a story to tell, and we can all learn from the experiences of others. It's an effort to create more social cohesion, encourage dialogue, and respect for diversity and human rights and utilizes volunteer "books" to tell their stories.
- The Human Library event was started in 2014 with an annual budget of \$3000. The initial goal was getting the buy-in from the campus community and establishing an audience.
- There are two different presentation styles: Best Sellers and Small Table Books. Best Sellers are large group presentations, and Small Table Books are much more intimate with only a few people interacting with the human book. Staff ask students to challenge their own views and go in open-minded and willing to sit in on a "book" that may not mesh with their personal ideals.
- Human Library serves about 450-700 students, and both those who volunteer as books and those students who attend are offered training on how to get the most out of the experience while being respectful. The event is very popular with freshman groups and boasts a 99% positive feedback with attendees. Students follow up with their professors regarding the event in order to debrief.
- The next presentation date is Wednesday, September 20, 2017, and staff and volunteers are networking now to recruit new volunteers.

- Those who wish to volunteer as a “book” can submit their story to humanlibrary@ilstu.edu. The catalog of books should vary in order for the students to be exposed to many different types of stories and experiences. All are welcome to submit their story.

6. Approval of Minutes from the April 8, 2017 Meeting:

- The motion to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2017 meeting was made by Bob Navarro and seconded by Scott Preston. The motion was passed with unanimous consent and no discussion.

7. President’s Report (Tim Pantaleone):

- The Illinois State University Alumni Association Scholarship fund balance is over \$500,000 for the first time, and 100% of the ISUAA Board of Directors financially supported the scholarship fund this year. Pantaleone thanked the Board for their support of the mission of this fund.
- The Executive Committee sent handwritten thank you notes to all donors who contributed to the Illinois State University Alumni Association Scholarship fund.

8. Executive Director’s Report (Doris Groves):

- The full Executive Director’s report was included in the Board packet.
- Executive Director Groves noted there were many successful events coordinated by Alumni Relations since the last meeting in April, and she encouraged board members to review all of the upcoming events listed in the meeting packet, including the Campaign kickoff on September 16, and to attend if available.
- As a reminder, Homecoming is October 16-22, 2017. More details regarding volunteer opportunities are to come.
- The Black Colleagues Association will be hosting a family friendly picnic on July 9 in Chicago.
- Alumni Board member Joe McGuire is leading a painting event in Peoria on July 13.
- That Latin@ Alumni Network will be hosting a summer gathering on August 19 at Daniel López’s home.
- The Central Illinois Young Alumni Network will be hosting a Lunch & Learn slated for June 28. They are looking forward to this new event concept.
- Alumni Relations staff are officially searching for a new registration system and hope to have the new system in place by the end of FY18.
- Groves has continued to meet with campus leaders to update them on how the Alumni Relations office can be of service to them.
- Groves reminded the Board that she and the Executive Committee will be reviewing committee assignments and asked that board members please complete their individual requests online.
- She also reminded the Board to complete the Board Involvement Form online with information regarding their engagement over the last quarter.
- Groves and associate director Rachel Kobus are working on proofing and adding the bios of the Alumni Association board members to the online Board page with members’ photos. Their goal to complete the project in August 2017.
- Again, discussion has been raised regarding the ISU alumni magazine. Publication costs continually increase, but funding has remained stagnant. Groves and her team have put forth the recommendation that we decrease to three regular editions to be sent out to entire alumni population in August, November, and April. The fourth issue, a much smaller newsletter, would only be sent to donors and would include an annual report. This change could potentially save approximately \$70,000 and still maintain the discounted periodical postage rate.

9. Continuing Business (Tim Pantaleone):

- Pantaleone mentioned that they are looking at how to increase funding the Marion H. Dean Legacy Scholarship.
- The Board Priority Action Items will be reviewed along with last year's activity in order to determine if the Board is attaining set goals. President Pantaleone thanked board members for all their participation this year.
- The Directors on Campus Tour at the Horticultural Center and the ISU Farm at Lexington was held yesterday and went well.

10. New Business:

- President Pantaleone proposed a motion to make a statement from the Alumni Association Board of Directors to the Board of Trustees in support of maintaining the presidency of Dr. Dietz and continuing his contract. The motion to approve was made by Jerry Kerber and seconded by Daniel López, Jr. The motion was passed with unanimous consent and no discussion.
- The Board recognized new alum Alicia Ramos as the outgoing president of the Student Alumni Council and congratulated her on her graduation.

11. Committee/Liaison Updates:

- Lisa Castleman provided an update on behalf of the Awards Committee. The subcommittees have been selected, and they will begin making their way through the nominations for this year.
- Kaci Rollings provided an update on behalf of the Board Development Committee. Four new board members are being welcomed today. This year they are excited to have a new mentoring program in place.
- The Homecoming Committee update was provided by Doug Reeves. The committee is looking for volunteers for judging the Campus Decorating Contest. New guidelines for use of the tram during the Homecoming parade were presented. Seats on the tram will be reserved for past and present alumni who serve on the board. Immediate family members (spouse/significant other and children) may also participate in the parade entry, but they will be expected to walk alongside the tram.
- Mike Willis provided the RED Committee update. He thanked the volunteers who participated at the Home Sweet Home Mission at the April service event. Special thanks to Lynda Lane for hosting the fellowship gathering at her home following the service project.
- Kathy Bohn noted on behalf of the Redbird Prime Committee that the Half Century Club weekend events went very well.
- The Scholarship Committee had no report.
- Alicia Ramos, outgoing SAC president, noted that the new executive committee is working hard to organize next year's events.
- The Foundation Board liaison had no report.
- Linda Yap, liaison to the Bone Scholarship Committee noted that they have selected recipients.
- Athletics liaison Joe McGuire mentioned recent changes in the MVC line up with the addition of Valparaiso.

12. Director's Comments:

- None

13. **Adjournment:** The motion to adjourn was presented by Linda Yap with a second by Maggie Im. The motion was approved, and the meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.