

**Gettysburg College Alumni Association Board of Directors**  
**Quarterly Board Meeting**  
**17 April 2004**

The meeting was called to order at 1.22pm in Glatfelter Lodge.

**Present:** Jeffrey Blavatt '88, President; Laurie Baty '76, Vice-President for Administration; Don Burden '63, Vice-President for Campus Programs; Jesse Diner '69, Vice-President/Treasurer; Barry Kain '61, Vice-President for Outreach; Cathleen Bonner '94, Secretary; James Chemel '71; Lori Kono Clapp '73; Troy Datcher '90; Paul Hopke '87; Bill Hockenberry, Jr. '61; Helen Hohman '75; Greg Islan '70; Bob MacFarland, '67; Tom Moore '91; Frank Nieves-Fernandez '82; Dave Sowers '97; John "Buck" Stahle '40; Phyllis Hicks Utterback '58; Jack Vandever '62; Susan Gibble Wolf '57; and Joe Lynch '85, Ex-Officio.

**Absent:** Dianne Kareha '73; Bill Keers '53; Claudia Bard Veitch '80.

**Guests:** Katherine Haley Will, College President Elect; Chuck Widger, Board of Trustees Chair; Bruce Guenther '65, former BOD member.

We will be flexible in the meeting agenda; our primary objective is the retreat, reviewing the Strategic Plan, and looking where we've been and consider where we need to go.

Lori Kono Clapp '73, the newest Board member is introduced.

Important 2004-2005 dates are:

October 15 & 16	Campaign Celebration and Cupola event
October 17	Inauguration
October 22	Board of Directors meeting as part of Homecoming and Family Weekend (Late this fall because of other conflicts; date is open for discussion.)
February 12	Winter BOD meeting (after discussing 19 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> as options)
April 16	Get Acquainted Day
June 2-5	Reunion Weekend

## **Officers' Reports**

### **President's report**

Jeff did not have so much to report, except to invite all Directors to make a gift to the Campaign if they haven't already done so yet; we want to keep our 100% participation continuing.

### **Kate Will's visit**

President-Elect Will came to the Board meeting for a brief visit. Jeff gave her a history of the Alumni Association and included our recent restructuring which included a new Constitution

and By-Laws. The Alumni Association has been reactive in the past, but is pro-active now. We have a good working relationship with the administration, faculty, trustees, and students.

Kate Will said she will be here on campus beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>, for Reunion. She plans to take the College to the next level. She has fallen in love with the place, which she believes deserves to be better known. She thinks the College has made great strides and is looking forward to making it even better--alumni will be critical to these goals.

### **Secretary's Report**

Cathleen asked for approval of the February minutes which had some additional changes not updated on the printed version distributed (thanks to Don for pointing them out over email). Bob seconded Cathleen's motion to accept the minutes and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Retreat Format/Goals Overview**

#### **Board History – Jesse Diner**

In the mid-90s, there was a need to revamp that Board. There were too many members and the size was not realistic. The 'new' Board went through some growing pains with the Constitution and by laws and has worked through those issues. Jeff stepped forward as President when the seated President abruptly resigned. Once it was reformed, the Board set about to redefine itself. In 2000, a retreat was scheduled which raised the question of how to communicate with other organizations within the College to result in a more vibrant Alumni Association.

The Board has a valid place at this College. The significant accomplishments since the revamping (on white paper handouts) are impressive; there's also more commitment to giving now. We've really come a long way. We've done some great things, for example, Don's efforts with the Alumni Magazine, 'Bright Lights, Big City', reaching out to alumni clubs, and starting up of affinity groups. We are a much more relevant committee for the College and interact more with alumni trustees. A case in point is the Alumni House. We said that if there was a desire for the A. Board to step up again to give, we wanted to see what the College would do to show commitment. Jesse is pleased to note that contributions to the Alumni House as of Feb. 7, 2004, stood at \$704,000, but since then an additional \$278,978 has been raised. We're going forward! As early as May 2004, construction might start, and by Homecoming possibly completed. (A slightly ambitious timeline).

Financial contributions by Board members since 1998 total over \$600,000; we hope to be at 100% participation by June 30 for Annual Fund participation. Our goal is for 75% of Directors to be giving at Cupola level, which means we need seven more members to join.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Administration and Awards**

Laurie had no report, except to say that she has recently joined another non-profit Board and plans to model their constitution and by laws on ours, as well as our online discussion and voting rules. A nice side note on our work!

(Note: we nominated, seconded and the vote carried for Jim Apple '58 as Meritorious Service Award nominee in email discussion in the weeks following the February BOD meeting.)

### **Outreach Committee – Barry Kain**

There was a conference call held to discuss the Bob Smith and SOAR awards. Bill Hockenberry has SOAR nominees. (Cathleen asked how Bob Smith nominees were decided upon, and the answer is that the Alumni Office supplies program reports.) Washington, D.C. is the Bob Smith nominee. Tom seconded Bill's motion and it carried unanimously.

Nominations for SOAR award (Special Outreach Alumni Recognition) were Adams County, Central NJ, and Lancaster clubs. Bill motions for acceptance of these nominees and Laurie seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **Campus Programs Committee**

A conference call was held on April 2. Topics included the 'Stole of Gratitude,' the question of the role of alumni in welcoming the class 2008, and being more involved with the First Year Walk. A reminder that if anyone brought copies of a marked-up Alumni Magazines for his committee work, to please give them to him.

Jeff wanted to thank those Directors who helped with the Volunteer Leadership Institute.

## **New Business**

### **Nominating Committee – Bill Hockenberry presenting**

Four orders of business:

- 1) Jeffrey Blavatt '88 was nominated as the Alumni Trustee. Laurie seconded. Motion carried. Term will start in June, 2004.
- 2) Sarah Hitch Burdi '87 was nominated to fill Jeff Blavatt's vacant Alumni Board seat, beginning June, 2004 and running until June, 2005. Motion seconded and passed.
- 3) Re-nominated Don Burden '63, Jim Chemel '71, Troy Datcher '90, Helen Hohman '75, Bob MacFarland '67, and Phyllis Utterback '58 to fill their own expiring Board terms. The new terms will run 2004-2008. Tom seconded the slate. The motion passed.

- 4) Officers nominated for 2004-2005 term: Jesse Diner '69, President; Paul Hopke '87, Treasurer/VP; Helen Hohman '75, Awards & Administration VP; Don Burden '63, Campus Programs VP; Barry Kain '61, Outreach VP; Cathleen Bonner '94, Secretary. Motion seconded and carried.

Also of note

- 1) Barry Kain accepted the nomination, but actively encouraged a younger person to fill his role as VP for Outreach. He thinks the job requires a younger Board member's perspective. We will try to accommodate his request.
- 2) Bill mentioned that the caliber of candidates for vacant Board seats is extraordinary.
- 3) Phyllis was thanked for her service as chair of the nominating committee (for 2 years). She and Paul Hopke left the committee in April. Replacing them were Tom Moore '91 and Sue Wolf '57. The full committee consists of Bill Hockenberry '61, Helen Hohman '75, Bob MacFarland '67, Moore and Wolf.

### **Campus Life Safety Task Force -- Chuck Widger**

Chuck presented this 'life safety' initiative earlier this morning at the opening session at the VLI. He sees feedback as positive and constructive; people understand the importance of the initiative. The plan is off to a good start and it will hopefully be implemented during next twelve to twenty-four months. The plan will change the nature of the relationships between the College and the Greek System. It will benefit both the students and the College. Lots of good things are going on at the College, such as \$14 million in scholarship gifts in the Campaign, not including the Sunderman gift. Chuck thanked the Board for volunteering. The acceptance rate has declined from 67% to 46%. The SAT has increased from 1140 to 1240. Three Fulbright scholars and one Goldwater finalist were produced this year. All of this is a result of 'our' work. The school is positioned for Katherine Will. She's going to do a terrific job. The risk we have to our momentum is the reason the life safety initiative was developed. Some photos taken showed the awful conditions. Sprinklers, alarms, infrastructure systems are missing. We want to have state of the art best practices for safety. Two hundred young men are living in fraternities. It's a 'no brainer' to conclude that life safety standards have to conform to fraternities. We're not alone in having the problem of alumni-owned fraternity houses. There is no more fundamental point than keeping students safe. The plan is being communicated to all constituencies so that the message is clear. The Task Force is charged to carry out four points protecting entire community, conformity throughout-

1. a renewed clear commitment to all students
2. charged safety of all students
3. directing the administration to offer a college-ownership plan to help meet the life safety standards
4. direct an advisory committee

The safety of the students is not negotiable.

The Life Safety Initiative is a Board of Trustees initiative. The BOT is committed to the Greek system.

Questions from the BOD:

From Tom: is there a middle ground for either transferring ownership of the house or raising money on their own?

Chuck replied that in the past, the College has loaned large amounts of money and the loans are still outstanding, and those homes happen to be the most in disrepair. The house must remain at 80% occupancy if college-owned in order for the brotherhood to keep the house.

Other questions were

\* Is the house on hold if the constituencies don't meet their quotas?

The College will give some flexibility during the first year(s) if numbers aren't met.

\* What will the rules be for maintaining regulation standards?

Those details will be developed

\* Will janitors/housekeeping be brought in regularly if the College owns the building?

Yes; house will be accountable to standards and details will be worked out.

### **Closing**

Anyone available for Get Acquainted Day staffing? Tom said that he might possibly be. Anyone else who might be able should get in touch with Joe.

Frankie asked about a gift or recognition for Gordon. There is a significant amount of money being raised for Gordon and several events are being planned, including a formal event at the Board of Trustees meeting. Activities with his staff are being organized. He has been recognized by the Borough as citizen of the year. There will be an all campus event, but nothing specifically for alumni. Chuck recommended Jeff contact Dan DiNicola with plans or questions. The all-campus event is scheduled for April 29.

### **Singing of the alma mater.**

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 5.18pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathleen J. Bonner