

Alumni Board Meeting

September 16, 2005

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The meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m. in the Norris-Wachob Alumni House.

Present: Jesse Diner '69, President; Paul Hopke '87, Vice President/Treasurer; Helen Hohman '75, Vice President for Administration; Barry Kain '61, Vice President for Outreach; Greg Islan '70, Secretary; Laurie Baty '76; Jim Chemel '71; Lori Kono Clapp '73; Bill Hockenberry '61; Barry Kain '61; Dianne Murray Kareha '73; Bill Keers '53; Bob MacFarland '67; Liz Macin '04; Tom Moore '91; Frank Nieves-Fernandez '82; Abigail Rodgers '98; John "Buck" Stahle '40; Phyllis Hicks Utterback '58; Jack Vandever '62; Susan Gibble Wolf '57; and Joe Lynch '85, Ex-Officio.

Absent: Don Burden '63, Vice-President of Campus Programs; Sarah Hitch Burdi '87; Troy Datcher '90; and David Sowers '97.

Guests: Victoria Dowling, new VP for Development and Alumni Relations and President Kate Will.

Jesse Diner began the meeting by introducing Victoria Dowling, who, because of scheduling, would speak before officer reports.

Victoria said that she was excited about the opportunities to develop programs for alumni from all the classes. She invited all on the Alumni Board to keep in touch with her.

Jesse talked about awards at Reunion. As in our April 16 notes, he noted that the Trustees will vote on new bylaws next week which will have all six Alumni Trustees come through the Alumni Association. He showed the Board the clock to be given in Jeff Blavatt's name later in our meeting. He also gave a brief summary of Jeff's four years of hard work to redo the Alumni Association into what it is today. Jesse briefly discussed the latest US News & World Report ranking Gettysburg 47th. He concluded his remarks by letting us know that Bruce Gordon, '68, is the new head of the NAACP and will be the commencement speaker in the spring.

Special Meeting

A Special Meeting was convened to elect Alumni Association officers. (This was not done at the Annual Meeting at Reunion.) Bill Hockenberry, head of the Nominating Committee, read the proposed slate: Jesse H. Diner, President; Paul F. Hopke, VP/Treasurer; Gregory Islan, Secretary; Don Burden, VP for Campus Programs; Barry Kain, VP for Outreach; and Helen Hohman, VP for Administration. The slate of nominees was seconded and voted by acclamation. The Special Meeting was adjourned.

Officers' Reports

Minutes of April 16th Meeting

The minutes were unanimously approved. Laurie Baty said the June Reunion meeting was an official meeting and minutes should be completed. Cathleen Bonner, former AA secretary was present at Reunion, so she may be able to give us notes.

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Secretary's Report

As the newly elected secretary was scribbling like mad, he did not have any comments.

President's Report

Jesse had our two new Board members introduce themselves. They are:

Liz Macin '04 is an English and Political Science major who works for Senator Lugar on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Abby Rodgers '98 practices law at the Delaware State Prosecutor's Office in Wilmington. She is getting married in two weeks.

Treasurer's Report

Paul Hopke said that distributed at each seat was the Financial Report. He had nothing new to report except that he will soon follow-up with the credit card company and the College to be sure the money is going into the Alumni fund.

President Kate Will

Jesse introduced Kate Will when she arrived.

- Kate thanked the AABOD for volunteering to the institution. She said she is delighted to have Victoria Dowling here at Gettysburg. She has a number of big projects.
- Academic Year – The new “Class of 2009” is the best class ever admitted. Of 5,100 who applied, 42% were admitted, down from 46% a year ago. We have bumped up in US News & World Report's selectivity already and that is two-year old data. This is the most diverse class which Kate believes is an indicator of diversity.
- Football is now 1 and 1. We have won the Conference's President's Cup for the last 12 years because of our success across the board.
- The Majestic Theater is opening November 14th after being restored to its 1920's splendor. She believes that this will add a whole new dimension to Gettysburg's social life. The Café will be called Mamie's. (It happens that Nov. 14 is Mamie Eisenhower's birthday.)
- The College is beginning a new Strategic Planning Process. This will be different from the Commission on the Future. It will be a more streamlined and internal process, but the AA will be involved for certain things. “Enhancing the reputation of the College is one thing that we know we want to work on,” according to Kate. Jim Weaver '64 and Rhonda Good, Kate's assistant for planning, are heading up the committee. It includes four faculty, three administrators, three other alumni from the Trustees and Kate.

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- The new name for the “ARC (Athletics & Recreation Center),” is now the “Center for Athletics, Recreation & Fitness.” It is the priority focus of fundraising as it is central to the life of our students. The College needs our financial support and help with approaching others. We need \$10 million right away.
- Another new building likely to be going up in the next year is a new residence hall. The College wants to bring more students in from off-campus. The most likely location is across from Brua and the Ice House. It will probably house 120 sophomores.
- Kate spoke of her 16 months in Gettysburg and what an honor it has been.

Bob MacFarland asked about enrollment of students from New Orleans. Kate said we have three from Tulane. The staff has been offered a 10-day paid leave for anyone who wants to assist with the recovery.

Paul Hopke asked about the casino issue in Gettysburg. Kate said that the College will not take a stand on this issue, not due to the involvement of David LeVan, former Trustee Board Chair, but due to the focus of the College. The College will take a stand on educational issues, but not most other issues. It would be a distraction. She noted that it is important for the College to stay neutral on this and many other issues.

Committee Reports

Administration and Awards – Helen Hohman

Four awards were given at Graduation and six at Reunion.

Helen and her committee are concerned with the privacy and security issues of CNAV and Harris Directory sharing of information. Joe Lynch said that the College’s contract with Harris Publishing says they don’t share that information with other third parties. Alumni names, addresses and email addresses eventually get on CNAV. The College’s web site is being redesigned. The site, available to the world, has the Alumni Board email addresses. She asked:

- Do we individually or as a board make this information available?
- Also, what safeguards should be put in place to protect from hackers getting into the Alumni database?

She thinks we may want to have a data person come to talk the AABOD.

Bill Hockenberry said we need to push the data people to work more on security and that the AABOD should spend time on discussing what information is available. We should also find out what the Trustees are doing about this. (It was suggested that each AABOD Google yourself to see what you get.) Discussion then went on about how proactive the College is and what the IT people have learned from Boston College’s recent major security problem. How would we handle things here?

Joe Lynch said that other Alumni Club Activities are on our web site. He said that we may want to have email go to the Alumni Office and have them forward it on if valid.

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There are two concerns: One is the data the College has that includes social security numbers, credit card numbers, etc. Less important is their having our addresses, etc.

We need to find out what the College is doing!

Campus Programs Committee – Jim Chemel (on behalf of Don Burden) (See Sept. 13 email for discussion items)

The 'Stole of Gratitude' premiered in May. Paul Hopke said that it was very successful. The Administration liked it. The Students seem to like it and were seen giving their stoles to faculty.

The College's 175th anniversary is coming up with Joe and Don on the committee working on preparations. They are to talk about the history and traditions of the College. AABOD are asked to share with Don or Joe any ideas. (This is called the Centeseptequinary)

Weekend events – AABOD should become more participatory at such events as Legacy weekend.

Still thinking of ways to use the Alumni House more for alumni and students.

Outreach Committee – Barry Kain (See attached tan sheet handed out)

The Alumni House is beginning to be used more. (See the Salmon sheet that shows past and coming events.)

Get Acquainted Day was very successful. The Committee wants to expand what we do.

Senior Commencement Day was impressive. We may want more AABOD presence.

Want to open up discussion for a full-board discussion on getting the lower three classes more involved with the AA.

Career Services – Barry spoke with Margaret-Ann Radford-Wedemeyer, who oversees the Career Development Center. We may want her at the February meeting.

Jesse noted that the conference calls with the committees are working. We are getting more things accomplished.

Clock Presentation to Jeffrey Blavatt '88

Jesse read the plaque to a very surprised Jeff and showed him the clock sitting in the main-floor conference room. The plaque reads: "Presented by Alumni Board 9/16/05 in honor of Jeffrey M. Blavatt '88, Board President, 2000-04" Jeff thanked all of us and appeared to be in shock.

Jeff Blavatt on Trustee Issues

Jeff discussed issues that the Trustees are working on:

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- Alcohol – What the College should do or not do to protect the students and the College.
- Honorary Degree Candidates – Nominations to Alums should come through the AABOD. Names should be brought to the Provost.
- Jeff said that we are now heard as Alumni of the College, not just the AABOD. We are “a pipeline of influence now.”
- Honor Code – Administration, Faculty and students all have to agree. It may be changed. Students are reticent to turn in peers. Joe Lynch will get the latest information for us.
- The AABOD asked Jeff to relay to the Trustees the need for being proactive regarding security of alumni and student data and how the IT people will deal with it.

New Business

Homecoming Date & Events – There is concern that Homecoming is so early in the fall. Joe said that if we want to have it around a home football game – which seems to be the consensus – that it limits when it can be done. (First home game the first weekend in September and the last is in November when weather is “iffy.” Then there is the Fall Break (also Apple Festival) and Family Weekend. This left one date for 2005 – Sept. 17.) Next year Homecoming will be October 13-15. Gettysburg generally gets 700-800 back for Homecoming. The assumption is that it is more weather related than the date. We should look at other offerings for Homecoming. Possibly, we should look at the Dartmouth College “grouping years” plan which has classes come back for reunions at the same time as neighboring-year classes.

175th Anniversary – This will be a year-long celebration beginning in the fall of 2006 through Reunion 2007. April 7, 2007 is the actual date.

Engaging Current Students – We are working on getting more current students involved and getting them to work with alumni. This includes Alumni mentoring programs, etc. This needs to be worked on. We need to get the AABOD to work with the faculty to assist with this.

Honorary Alumni – Greg Islan suggested that the spouses and significant others of deceased alumni be voted into the AA at the annual meeting. This is not part of our Constitution. Helen Hohman is to see how to put this in our AA Constitution.

Making Use of the Majestic for Alumni – The AA needs to weave it into our use if we can.

John Sutton '68 Update – Jesse said he had eye surgery this summer. He is starting to see some now. He continues to practice law and is doing well. Jesse, Jim Chemel, Fred Anthony '70 and their wives went on a weekend excursion with John in Florida and all had a great time.

Joe Lynch Report –

- Décor in the Alumni House is to be improved using money (less than \$250,000) that is available.
- Committees – If anyone on the AABOD wants to change committees, let Joe know. As long as there is a balance among committees, changes can be made.
- Staff – Jessica Segar '05 starts Monday, Sept. 17 as Assistant Alumni Director. On Sept. 30 Kathy Casey Becker is leaving. (The AABOD thanks her for her years of valuable service and support of Alumni activities.)

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- Coach Barry Streeter and wife Barb – As of January last year, Barb is doing much, much better. Barry is back as head football coach since mid-March.

Life Safety Committee Report – Bob MacFarland

This College committee is concerned with housing safety, particularly fraternities. Bob feels the College is doing everything it can to help the fraternities. He trusts the College's effort is all in good faith. So far, three fraternities (Phi Delt, Phi Psi and Sigma Chi) have joined the College ownership plan; three are in the process of figuring how best to meet the goals of the committee.

Jesse made a motion to adjourn at 5:05 pm.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 5.05 pm.

Singing of the alma mater.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Islan '70