

Alumni Council Minutes
Friday, December 11, 2020
Webex, 2–3:30 p.m. Central Time

Present: Lester Alemán '07, Ed Atkins '66, Claudia Beckwith '77, Ann Poor Cary '81, Ryann Haines Cheung '93, Deborah Feir '68, Robert Gehorsam '76, Debbie Gottschalk '90, Graciela Guzmán '11, Brigham Hoegh '08, Kelly Clements Hopfer '96, Andrea Jackson '95, Bernard Jackson '86, David Jarvis '04, Chris Meyer '70, Becky Reetz Neal '65, Robert Ruhl '76, Howard Schein '66, Scott Shepherd '82, Rick Stuck '82, Tom Triplett '69, Ben Vaughn Jr. '15.

Absent:

Excused: Jeetander Dulani '98, Phillip Hales '02, Eric Mistry '14, Jocelyn Wyatt '99.

Staff: Jayn Chaney '05; Jennie Jackson, recording secretary; Jaci Thiede, Mae Parker, Paige Everly, Mitch Wolff.

Guests: Mitch Sevier '21, Paul Cover '21.

- I. **Welcome and Bylaws Vote** – Chris Meyer, Alumni Council president, called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.
 - A. Chris welcomed Council to the meeting, and reminded members to send their Council gram to the person they were assigned. Robert Ruhl and David Jarvis won first and second place in the Thanksgiving quiz.
 - B. Chris asked Council to ratify and adopt amended bylaws, which include language to allow for situations where alumni assembly does not take place, and to combine the awards and membership committees and leadership.

Moved: Rick Stuck moved that bylaws be amended. Seconded: Ryann Haines Cheung.

Approved: Unanimous. Abstained: None.

- II. **Committee Report and Vote** – Awards, Membership & Election Committee
 - a. Committee members are Ryann Haines Cheung, Lester Alemán, Tom Triplett, Claudia Beckwith, Ann Poor Cary, Rick Stuck, and Ben Vaughn Jr.
 - b. Reviewed the PowerPoint presentation, *2021 Alumni Awards*.
 - c. Last Reunion's award winners will be invited back to this Reunion's alumni awards assembly.
 - d. The committee chose to select an appropriate number of recipients per class year, which resulted in not many new recipients this year.
 - e. The committee made the following recommendations:
 - i. S. Joan Baker '51
 - ii. Sheena Brown Thomas '71
 - iii. Frances Grey '71
 - iv. Sabrina A. Eagan '96
 - v. Jake M. Joseph '11

- f. The committee also put forth a slate of alternates in the case the selected recipients are unable to attend to accept their award. The committee made the following recommendations for alternates:
 - i. Christopher Vaughan '71
 - ii. Sally Campbell-Galman '96
- g. There was no discussion of the candidates.

The Council voted unanimously to accept the slate of nominees.

- h. Ryann reviewed the timeline. The committee will notify the nominees, and confirm whether they will be in attendance at Reunion. Recipients will be named publicly in early 2021; this information is to be kept confidential until then.
- i. Rick asked if Reunion will take place this year. Jayn responded that the College has not yet made a decision about Reunion. Supporting students is the College's priority. First year students will be welcomed to campus for the first spring quarter, and the College is now considering what opportunities for second, third, and fourth year students will look like in the second spring quarter. The College is hopeful to make a final decision by early February about Reunion.

III. **Committee Report** - Alumni Engagement and Communications Committee

- a. Members are Andrea Jackson, Robert Ruhl, Debby Feir, Scott Shepherd, Kelly Clements Hopfer, and David Jarvis.
- b. Andrea reported that the committee sent an email to the entire alumni community this fall to discuss key issues, and received 27 responses which have each been individually responded to by a committee member. In January, the committee will discuss how to move forward with this plan.
- c. Early in the semester, the committee discussed hosting social justice events, but have shifted focus to look at how to attract a more diverse audience to attend alumni events.

IV. **Committee Report** - Diversity and Inclusion Committee

- a. Members are Graciela Guzmán, Debbie Gottschalk, Ed Atkins, Bernard Jackson, Brigham Hoegh, and Eric Mistry.
- b. Debbie reported that the committee is talking to the Office of Intercultural Affairs about developing a young alumni speaker's bureau. Current students are interested in talking to recent alumni who are working in their preferred field or graduate program.
- c. The committee is beginning to plan for Multicultural Reunion. Debbie asked Council for suggestions of alumni to get involved.
- d. Lester will talk to the committee next week about the anti-racism training that the committee would like to provide to Council.
- e. Bernard talked to Council about the committee's book club plan. The committee will invite Council members to participate in reading and discussing the book *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi. The college has agreed to supply books to all of the Council members who would like to take part in the book club.

- V. **Student Alumni Council Report** – Mitch Wolff, assistant director of student programs, Mitch Sevier '21, Paul Cover '21.
- a. Reviewed the PowerPoint presentation, *Student Alumni Council Report*.
 - i. Paul Cover '21 and Mitch Sevier '21 introduced themselves and the rest of the executives on the Student Alumni Council (SAC).
 - ii. This year, the President's Committee adapted Artic Lights to a digital event including a featured speaker and dessert decorating contest, and worked to plan a student-alumni pen pal program, which will begin in the spring. This committee also plans and runs bi-weekly SAC meetings.
 - iii. The Student Alumni Connections Committee has worked to increase activity on the Humans of Grinnell Facebook page, and plans to partner with Council's Alumni Student Connections Committee this spring for the "Grinnell Gals Tell All" project.
 - iv. The Philanthropy & Student Outreach Committee facilitated "Messages for Midsems" and organized a virtual National Philanthropy Week. This committee is focused on increasing virtual communication and increasing diversity and inclusion within SAC.
 - v. The Publications & Social Media Committee created marketing materials and artwork to use on social media and for virtual events. This committee is focused on growing the Instagram account and updating the SAC website, which is an ongoing project.
- VI. **Senior Class Gift and Annual Giving End of Year Challenge** – Mae Parker, director of annual giving.
- a. Mae thanked Mitch for his leadership and efforts with the students, and noted how incredible the student leaders are.
 - b. Mae shared information about the end of calendar year challenge for lapsed donors. Mae shared the webpage for this challenge. An anonymous donor is matching \$125 for the first 200 gifts toward the Daisy-Hines Student Emergency Fund, which purchases emergency needs for students. The challenge was launched on Giving Tuesday, and there have already been over 100 donors. The goal is 200 donors. Mae encouraged Council members to help by either making a gift or reaching out to a classmate to encourage them to make a gift.
 - c. The Senior Class Gift Committee, which supports the Stephen K. Kent '67 Memorial Senior Challenge, has operated for 32 years. The program took a hiatus last spring due to the pandemic and the frustrations expressed by the class of 2020. While the program is currently paused, the college is working on various initiatives where students could be engaged in paid positions to work together with the college on how to move forward. Over the next month, more information will likely be available.
 - i. Ann asked if there is a particular cause that the senior class would be more interested in supporting. Could the College possibly lower the cost for a class mailbox in the HSSC for them? Are there any people in particular they would want to set up a memorial for? Is there interest in a specific fund directed towards the derecho repairs, planting new trees, or repairing College-owned houses?

- ii. Rick asked if Council members will still be asked to match senior gifts. Mae responded that at this point the College is unsure. Ann suggested the Council could raise money anyways. Chris said that if the senior class comes up with something, Council will definitely want to continue the match. Chris talked about the possibility for Council to provide a challenge to the senior class this time. Chris advised that we let Mae look into the options further and get back to us. Rick offered to work with Chris and Mae on this project.

VII. **Committee Report** - Alumni Student Connections Committee

- a. Members are Jeetander Dulani, Phillip Hales, Rebecca Reetz Neal, Howard Schein, Robert Gehorsam, and Jocelyn Wyatt.
- b. Mitch Wolff provided a brief update on behalf of the committee.
- c. “Grinnell Gals Tell All” will begin in mid-February, and take place bi-weekly for five shows.
- d. In partnership with the CLS, the committee has assisted with the virtual externship program.
- e. The committee recreated the financial literacy workshop, which was held in person last spring. Ahsan Rahim was able to engage our students for a full one-and-a-half hour program.
- f. Robert Gehorsam added that the committee briefly looked at assisting the Wilson Program, which may be something to re-visit next year when things return to an in-person format.

VIII. **Housekeeping and Closing Remarks** – Chris Meyer, Alumni Council president

- a. The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 27, from 1-2:30 p.m. Central.
- b. Jayn reminded Council that application for membership is due by January 5. Council has already received about a dozen new applications. Ryann, Jeetander, and Rick will complete their terms this spring so there will be three positions available.
- c. Chris reminded those that are interested in running for president-elect, that information will be available early next year.

Meeting is adjourned at 2:30 p.m.