

GRINNELL COLLEGE



Alumni Council Meeting
Friday, March 7, 2014
1:00-4:30 p.m. JRC 101

Present: Carl Adkins '59, Lorrie Buchanan Alves '73, Mary Brooner '71, Peter Calvert '79, Cameo Carlson '93, James Decker '75, Catherine Gillis '80, Susan Henken-Thielen '80, Mark Henry '05, Nancy Schmulbach Maly '61, Barbara Hunt Moore '65, Angela Onwuachi-Willig '94, Richard Raridon '53, Rania Mohamed Robb '03, Pam Dryden Rogacki '64, Saurabh Saraf '05, W. Ed Senn '79, C. William Simmons '58, Kirpal Singh '97, Lara Szent-Gyorgyi '89, Sherman Willis '01

Absent: Alexia Brue '95 (Unexcused), Jonathan Richardson '10 (Excused)

Staff: Jayn Bailey Chaney '05, Bonnie Primley, Jackie Aanes, Meg Jones Bair

Guests: Raynard Kington, Ellen McDonald '81

- I. **Welcome and Introduction of President Candidates** – Nancy Maly '61, President
 - Each of the presidential candidates (Susan Henken-Thielen and Sherman Willis) presented their platform to the Council.
 - Following candidate remarks a ballot vote was taken. Susan Henken-Thielen won by majority vote. Kirpal Singh moved to accept the vote, seconded by Lorrie Alves. The vote passed unanimously.
- II. There was a short discussion of the Institutional Identity Project presentation by Patti Crane that the Council attended earlier in the day.
- III. **President Raynard Kington** presented an update on philanthropic support, admission status, and campus activities followed by a short question and answer session.
 - Alumni giving is at 31%.
 - Non-alumni giving is at 41%.
 - Trustees have made major gifts recently: 1. Finkelman 2. Holtze.
 - Over the last 2 years there has been a 40% increase in applications with this year being at 6,000. 2,000 of the applications came from international students from 500 countries.
 - There is an increase in diversity among the applicants and an increase in the academic rating.
 - The College is trying to develop an internship program in India as a result of Kington's recent trip to India. There are plans to do more trips/events in India as the College relationships in that area are strengthened.

- Town hall meetings have continued (2 per semester). The last meeting subject was the College's diversity model. The meetings seem to be well attended and will continue with different topics of discussion.
- President's office is also starting once a month open sessions where the attendees choose their topic of discussion for the session.
- The need to enhance and expand Grinnell's Humanities and Social Studies facilities has been identified by the Board of Trustees as an important and necessary project. Some of the members visited campuses of peer institutions in California and Minnesota to research and see their newly created learning spaces. As this project continues, alumni will be asked to become involved.
- Kington indicated in his wind farm update that progress is moving more slowly than expected as it is becoming apparent that the funding for the project may not be as readily acquired as once thought. Conversation may be shifted away from the wind farm idea to campus buildings and the needs that surround them.
- Kington also touched on the role of higher education in K-12 programming and counseling and how the College is addressing these issues by creating partnerships with junior colleges like DMACC to provide assistance. He then entertained questions from the Council.

IV. The Council participated in a **Development Workshop** conducted by Ellen McDonald '81 of Mershon & McDonald LLC. Topics of the workshop included:

- Review of the Alumni Council mission statement and whether it is still applicable.
- A review of the Strategic plan and the role of the Alumni Council in that plan.
- Council committee structure and whether or not it is still applicable.
- A review and discussion of new member orientation.
- A self-assessment tool for Council use.

V. **President, Nancy Maly** acknowledged the passing of Council member Terry Nelson-Littlejohn and indicated that anyone who wished to give a gift in her memory should send their individual donation to the Office of Development and Alumni Relations with a note in the memo line reading 'Terry Nelson-Littlejohn memorial' and that a collective gift will not be set up. Funds from that memorial will be designated at a later date by Terry's family..

Council adjourned at 4:50 p.m. for the GRINNELLINK reception.

GRINNELL COLLEGE



Alumni Council Meeting
Saturday, March 8, 2014
9:15 a.m.-Noon JRC 101

Present: Carl Adkins '59, Lorrie Buchanan Alves '73, Mary Brooner '71, Peter Calvert '79, Cameo Carlson '93, James Decker '75, Susan Henken-Thielen '80, Mark Henry '05, Nancy Schmulbach Maly '61, Barbara Hunt Moore '65, Angela Onwuachi-Willig '94, Richard Raridon '53, Rania Mohamed Robb '03, Pam Dryden Rogacki '64, Saurabh Saraf '05, W. Ed Senn '79, C. William Simmons '58, Kirpal Singh '97, Lara Szent-Gyorgyi '89, Sherman Willis '01

Absent: Alexia Brue '95 (Unexcused), Jonathan Richardson '10 (Excused), Catherine Gillis (went home ill)

Staff: Jayn Bailey Chaney '05, Bonnie Primley, Jackie Aanes

Guests: Ellen McDonald '81

- I. Council continued the second portion of the Development Workshop.
 - Review of previous discussions.
 - Assessment of handouts from previous day.
 - Developing an action plan for the Council.(Attachment 1)
 - Wrap up and evaluation of the workshop.
- II. **Council members were asked to update their bios on Forum. Jim Decker, chair of the Communications Committee will coordinate with Gary Kuhlman to get the new bios posted.**
- III. A request was made by Mary Brooner to authorize the President of Council to create an adhoc committee to review the Council action plan and items discussed during the Workshop and report back to Council. Lara Szent-Gyorgyi seconded the request. A friendly amendment was made to include examining and follow up of the discussion items of the workshop and items set forth by Bill Simmons with the hope of reporting back to the Council at the October meeting. Carl Adkins called for question to end the discussion. Show of hands vote was taken. 2 opposed; Kirpal Singh and Peter Calvert. The vote in support of the request carried.
- IV. Nancy Maly announced the forming of new Council committees from the current Alumni Relations and Networks Committees. The Alumni Relations Committee (Engagement Committee) will consider how to alumni connections with the College and in all aspects of communication. They will focus on regional connections rather than on campus. The Networks committee (new name yet to be determined) will facilitate alumni connections with the College and communication between students

and alumni. More discussion will follow in the afternoon meeting during the Committee reports.

Council adjourned at 12:10 for Lunch

GRINNELL COLLEGE



Alumni Council Meeting
Saturday, March 8, 2014
1:15-5:00 p.m. JRC 101

Present: Carl Adkins '59, Lorrie Buchanan Alves '73, Mary Brooner '71, Peter Calvert '79, Cameo Carlson '93, James Decker '75, Susan Henken-Thielen '80, Mark Henry '05, Nancy Schmulbach Maly '61, Barbara Hunt Moore '65, Angela Onwuachi-Willig '94, Richard Raridon '53, Rania Mohamed Robb '03, Pam Dryden Rogacki '64, Saurabh Saraf '05, W. Ed Senn '79, C. William Simmons '58, Kirpal Singh '97, Lara Szent-Gyorgyi '89, Sherman Willis '01

Absent: Alexia Brue '95 (Unexcused), Jonathan Richardson '10 (Excused), Catherine Gillis (went home ill)

Staff: Jayn Bailey Chaney '05, Bonnie Primley, Jackie Aanes, Meg Jones Bair, Jenelle Nystrom '14 (Student Alumni Council)

- I. Nancy Maly thanked Ellen McDonald '81 for a productive workshop and the Council for participating.
- II. The March 2013 (revised) and October 2013 meeting minutes were distributed prior to the meeting for Council review. Kirpal Singh moved to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Pam Rogacki. One abstained: Bill Simmons. The motion passed.
- III. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. **Alumni Awards Committee – Mary Brooner**
 - All nominees have accepted the awards and will be present at Reunion.
 - Alumni Sr. Award selection is in process.
 - Nancy Maly will be next year's chair with the committee consisting of one representative from each of the standing committees.
 - The committee is working on the presentation script for Assembly. Those attending Reunion that can help with reading/presenting the awards are: Carl Adkins, Rania Robb, Pam Rogacki, Nancy Maly, Susan Henken-Thielen and Lara Szent-Gyorgyi.
 - B. **Stewardship Committee – Ed Senn**
 - This year's role has been to build donor loyalty and thank donors as they worked on 4 key proposals.
 - The committee surveyed peer institutions with regard to donor recognition.
 - They selected 24 alumni to interview and ask their reasons for supporting Grinnell. Those interviews stories were posted as donor spotlights on the Forum website. This year they hope to include video clips of additional alumni covering their reasons for giving and supporting Grinnell. **The**

committee requested that Council members provide 2 names of alumni who they think would provide good profiles for the upcoming year.

- The committee also reached out to donors via phone thanking them for their contributions. **The committee asked the Council to participate in the outreach to donors who have given recently and thank them for their gift.** A list of donors will be provided by Donor Relations from the Office of Development and Alumni Relations. It is anticipated that calls will be made to first time donors and donors of \$1,000-\$1,500. The committee has been doing 8-10 calls per week. Anyone who would like to participate in the outreach calls should notify Ed Senn or Meg Jones Bair.
- The committee is also conducting outreach at Grinnell events. Members have been meeting and greeting donors at regional events. The Office of Development and Alumni Relations provides a list of contacts to thank for their gifts. **The committee requested that any Council members wishing to participate in this event outreach in their regions contact Donor Relations.** Those who volunteered on site were: Rania Robb, Peter Calvert, Saurabh Saraf, and Cameo Carlson. There was a suggestion made that former Alumni Council members be approached with an invitation to participate in this regional outreach.
- Volunteer recognition program. The committee is working to create a comprehensive program of recognizing all volunteers no matter what type of volunteering they do for the College. They are looking for more guidance in this area as they continue in the process. The committee is thinking through the possibility of using the Honor Roll to list volunteers publically with symbols next to their names. One concern is making sure that all volunteer types are captured. The committee requested that Council members forward ways other organization in which they are involved recognize their volunteers.
- The Committee will continue discussion and clarification of the Stephen Kent Challenge and how it relates to the Council and Student Alumni Council.

C. Communication Committee – Jim Decker

- The committee assisted Development and Alumni Relations in the initial impressions, bugs, and problems with Forum. Currently they are collecting, creating and curating content for Forum. The committee has defined 6 potential themes for adding content and will be working on them during their conference calls.
- They have re-organized the regional group approach on Forum and have selected alumni in the Arts to be the subject of the regional profiles and highlighting on Forum. They identified 10 alumni working in museums/galleries as curators or directors, 7 alumni that are exhibiting in galleries, and 9 alumni in theatre (artistic directors or executives). They will be gathering information from these groups (interviews, images, etc.) to offer as Forum content.
- The committee is discussing creating an online national arts events calendar that identifies times and locations of alumni exhibits. This might be an interactive program which allows a social media ambassador, a prospective volunteer position, to provide potential event content for Forum, Facebook,

etc. This idea is still in its formative stages and will be discussed along with potential limits with a report given at a later date.

- The committee is looking at participation in creating a connections video between older and younger alumni and how Grinnell impacted their career development over the years.
- The Committee is also reviewing the Grinnell Magazine reader survey. They will be meeting with the S&B and student groups to discuss common interests and opportunities in the Fall of 2014.

D. Alumni Relations Committee – Lorrie Alves

- This committee's name will be changed to the Alumni Engagement committee upon reorganization. They will be working with the Networks committee to flesh out the responsibilities of each new committee. This committee will be responsible for things such as a networking night – a common point in time when alumni get together using some virtual method, a national day of service where the committee would encourage and support a service project in regional settings, they would support different social media strategies, the committee would also assist in recruiting regional committee members to make sure events were being organized in strategic regions.
- This year's accomplishments include: Volunteer spotlights and the Class Agent mentor program. Both of these programs were implemented. They will be discussing a Founders' Day service project to be tested in June.

E. Networks Committee – Mark Henry

- This committee is also going to be going through reorganization. They will be focusing on alumni connections with students. They will be meeting and talking with students when they are on campus for the October meeting to get to know them better and ask what the committee can do and the types of connections students want with alumni.
- Outputs the committee would like to see: how they can be of help to others who want to connect to students, how to connect alums and students via a mentor program, Forum training for students so they can contact alumni individually and on their own, data collection at events where emails, addresses, phone numbers of attendees can be collected for updating in the data base to provide the most current information about alumni for the students to access.
- Jenelle Nystrom '14, president of Student Alumni Council (SAC) reported that student groups are beginning to work on alumni connection from the student perspective. The SAC has bi-weekly discussions with SGA about class volunteer roles and expectations culminating in selection of class volunteers.
- SAC set up dinners with alumni for students when alums returned to campus for a presentation or class.
- SAC is also exploring the creation of a connection program for each year a student is at Grinnell.

F. Membership Committee – Kirpal Singh

- The committee was requested to fill 6 open positions this year. Criteria used was to maintain diversity, to recruit new members with a commitment to the

attendance policy set forth by the Council last year, and to target specific regional areas that are under represented by Council members currently. A targeted email marketing effort of recruitment was made to those areas.

- A suggestion for criteria to be used next year is to consider volunteer service and event participation.
- Candidates presented by the committee for membership:
Mary Knuth Otto '63
John Schwaller '69
Rhonda Stuart '86
Jim Asplund '88
Allison Brinkhorst '11
Ashan Rahim '11
A motion to accept the list as presented came from Kirpal Singh, Second: Adkins. No discussion. Question was called. Voice vote: Unanimous
- Members presented for continued terms:
Second term continuance: Lorrie Alves, Jon Richardson, Saurabh Saraf, Lara Szent-Gyorgyi
Third term continuance: Jim Decker, Catherine Gillis, Nancy Maly, Rania Robb, Ed Senn, and Sherman Willis.
There was a motion to continue the terms of office for those whose terms would be ending – Kirpal Singh, Second, Carl Adkins. Voice vote – Unanimous.
- Suggestion for next year's Membership committee: Vet the final 10 candidates through the Council and ask for any concerns before the final slate is presented. It was recommended that this process also be done by the Awards Committee with the Alumni Awards candidates. One question to be considered is that of confidentiality. An option would be to view the final slate of chosen candidates before they are presented to the Council for nomination rather than before the committee has made a final choice.

IV. Sherman Willis presented an overview of Terry Nelson Little-John '70 and the accomplishments she achieved during her lifetime. Also, her love and dedication for Grinnell as evidenced by the projects she participated in and held dear to her heart. She helped with the first Black Alumni Reunion and visited with students each time she returned to campus. Sherman urged Council members to give a gift to the College in her memory. A moment of silence was held in remembrance.

V. Call of additional new business – Nancy Maly

- No new business was introduced.

VI. President Elect Election – Nancy Maly

Each of the president elect candidates (Sherman Willis and Ed Senn) presented their platform to the Council.

Following candidate remarks a ballot vote was taken. Ed Senn received the most votes. Kirpal Singh moved to accept the vote, seconded by Cameo Carlson. The vote passed unanimously.

VII. An email request will be sent to Council members requesting their committee preference so the 2014-2015 committees can be assigned.

VIII. **Jayn Bailey Chaney '05**, director of alumni relations thanked outgoing council members; Kirpal Singh, Carl Adkins, and Mary Brooner for their time and dedication to the Council during their terms and presented each with a parting gift.

Richard Raridon moved to adjourn the meeting. Second, Jim Decker.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Dates of future meetings: October 17-18, 2014



Grinnell College Alumni Council

Action Plan

March 7 & 8, 2014

<u>Alumni Council Mission and Purpose</u>	WHO	WHEN
Alumni Council meeting presentations and discussions consistently reference the organization's mission statement.	EC	Fall 14
Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation:		
The Alumni Council reviews the organization's performance in carrying out the stated mission on a regular basis.	EC	Fall 14
Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation:		

<u>Alumni Council Structure</u>	WHO	WHEN
Should the Alumni Council (AC) have more than 26 members? Fewer?		
Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation:		
Should be two levels of Council: a larger group, and an executive committee?		
Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation:		
The Executive Committee reports to the Alumni Council on all actions taken.	Chairs/ Peter	Fall 14
AC Recommendation:		
The Pres will develop a template of a report with a synopsis at the top to be eblasted out to all AC members with a live link.		
Nomination and appointment of Alumni Council committee members follow clearly established procedures using known criteria.	Jayn	Fall 14
AC Committee Recommendation:		

Jayn will write down procedures and criteria.		
<p>All committees have adequate agendas and minutes for each meeting..</p> <p>AC Committee Recommendation:</p> <p>Needs follow up with all Committee Chairs. Go to meetings an option.</p> <p>Review Committee structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should officers and committee chairs hold office for two years, rather than one? • Should new members be added every two years instead of each year? • Do we have the right committees? • Is there overlap of tasks? Gaps? • Should President be involved in selecting Chairs? If so, how? • Should new officers take office at or soon after the March meeting? And committee members be appointed soon thereafter? I.e., not wait until July, a bad time to start things up <p>Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation:</p> <p>Plan for future committee membership</p> <p>Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation:</p>	Chairs	Fall 14
	Chairs	Fall 14

<u>Alumni Council Meetings</u>	WHO	WHEN
<p>Alumni Council meetings are long enough to accomplish the Alumni Council's work.</p> <p>Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation:</p> <p>Better and more options to connect with the college and students during AC meetings</p> <p>Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation:</p>	Unclear	Fall 14
	Unclear	Fall 14

<u>Alumni Council Membership and Orientation</u>	WHO	WHEN
Newly elected Alumni Council members receive adequate orientation to their role and what is expected of them.	EC/Jayn	Fall 14

AC Committee Recommendation: Orientation comes too early. Need to assign buddy system. Work to incorporate into the work of the AC earlier. Org chart of AC and DAR included. Present/send t to the full AC once complete. Write job description for all AC members including Chairs		
The Alumni Council size is adequate to effectively serve the mission and the college.	Further review	Fall 14?
Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation:		
The Alumni Council uses its members' talents and skills effectively.	EC/Pres	Fall 14
AC Committee Recommendation: Develop a 'get to know ya' event/exercise with all AC members		
The Alumni Council makeup is diverse with experience, skills, ethnicity, gender, denomination, geographic location and age group.	EC/Pres	Fall 14
AC Committee Recommendation: May want to review to sexual orientation.		
Fellow Alumni Council members review their own performance at the end of every two-year term.	EC	Fall 14
AC Committee Recommendation: Use revised self -assessment tool.		
The Alumni Council members demonstrate a deep commitment to the college and its mission through service and volunteerism.	Staff to monitor	Fall 14
Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation:		

<u>Alumni Council Communications</u>	WHO	WHEN
Better streamlining communications with alumni community	Unclear	Fall 14
Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation: Do alumni realize they are members of Grinnell's Alumni Association? Are there activities designed for members of the Alumni Association? Should we be looking into an all-alumni weekend?		
Review ways to share information and materials with AC members.		
Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation:		

Work to improve lead time to share info and materials with all AC members before the AC meeting.	EC/staff	Fall 14
Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation:		