



Alumni Council Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2012 Session #1

10:30 a.m. - Noon

John Chrystal Center

Present: Carl Adkins '59, Lorrie Buchanan Alves '73, Mary Brooner '71, James Decker '75, Joan Vander Naald Egenes '58, Catherine Gillis '80, Susan Henken-Thielen '80, William Ingram '53, Nancy Schmulbach Maly '61, Barbara Hunt Moore '65, Theretha Nelson-Littlejohn '70, Carter Newton '77, Angela Onuwachi-Willig '94, Renee Bourgeois Parsons '96, Jonathan Richardson '10, Pam Dryden Rogacki '64, Saurabh Saraf '05, Lara Szent-Gyorgyi '89, W. Ed Senn '79, Matthew Welch '96, Sherman Willis '01

Absent: Alexia Brue '95, Mark Henry '05, David Holmberg '81, Rania Mohamed Robb '03, and Kirpal Singh '97.

Staff: Beth Halloran, Jackie Aanes, Jayn Bailey Chaney '05, Bonnie Primley, Meg Jones Bair, and Paige Everly

Guests: Stacey Schmeidel, Director of Media Relations, Department of Communications

I. Welcome/Introduction of new members – Matthew Welch, President

II. Art & Sciences Report – Ben Edwards

Background overview/reason for survey and charge

Overall highlights of the Alumni Survey Results

- Ratings were based on a 10 point scale
- Explanation of results were compared to other higher ed facilities
- Where Grinnell excels is on pride of what Grinnell is now and the fond memories that have been created

College friends and the College as a whole have the greatest connections to Grinnell

Diversity is perceived as the greatest change at Grinnell

Other areas surveyed: Alumni involvement, philanthropy & giving opportunities, reasons for contributing, response to initiatives, communications and character models

Art & Science group is currently conducting a prospective student survey along the same lines as the alumni survey

Meeting adjourned at 12:20.



Alumni Council Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2012 Session #2

10:30 a.m. - Noon

JRC 209

Present: Carl Adkins '59, Lorrie Buchanan Alves '73, Mary Brooner '71, James Decker '75, Joan Vander Naald Egenes '58, Catherine Gillis '80, Susan Henken-Thielen '80, William Ingram '53, Nancy Schmulbach Maly '61, Barbara Hunt Moore '65, Theretha Nelson-Littlejohn '70, Carter Newton '77, Angela Onuwachi-Willig '94, Renee Bourgeois Parsons '96, Jonathan Richardson '10, Pam Dryden Rogacki '64, Saurabh Saraf '05, Lara Szent-Gyorgyi '89, W. Ed Senn '79, Matthew Welch '96, Sherman Willis '01

Absent: Alexia Brue '95, Mark Henry '05, David Holmberg '81, Rania Mohamed Robb '03, and Kirpal Singh '97

Staff: Jayn Chaney Bailey '05, Paige Everly, Nino Parker '07, Eric Rohn '08, and Bonnie Primley

Guests: Student Philanthropy, Laura Zats '13, Katherine Munday '13, Student Alumni Association, Jennelle Nystrom '14, Colleen Osborne '13

I. Welcome – Matthew Welch '96, President

II. Reports

Student Alumni Association – Jennelle Nystrom '14

- Mission Statement: SAA strives to instill in students and alumni a lifelong connection to the College, to facilitate interaction between all Grinnellians, and to raise student awareness about Grinnell's history and tradition. SAA fosters an atmosphere that guides students in their transition to life after Grinnell, bestowing a sense of pride in their alma mater that will carry over to their chosen careers after graduation.
- Goals this semester: To increase student participation in SAA, to educate students as to what it is to be an alum and to improve past programming
- Projects: the Medallion Ceremony for first years, they are reinstating the travel to alumni events, CASE program convention to be held in April, dessert receptions with local alumni and current students, study breaks, dinners with Pioneers in the spring, and the pen pal program which a program which encourages alumni to establish a personal contact with SAA members

Student Philanthropy – Laura Zats '13 and Katherine Munday '13

- Mission is to educate the student body about the role of philanthropy at Grinnell and encourages student support of the College. Student Philanthropy works closely with the Student Alumni Association, and is an outgrowth of

the Senior Challenge, expanding the concept of student giving from only seniors to *all* students.

- Goals are to educate students about role alumni have in their education while they are on campus, to educate students about the finances and the cost of things that are free to them while on campus and to encourage students to give back to the College.
- \$2,064 from 354 donors raised from current students during FY12.
- Sr. Challenge has been changed to a 1:1 match from Council which has expanded their options. They hope to encourage more involvement among the student body
- Projects: Postering campaigns and tabling outside the dining hall, Halloween blitz which was a door to door soliciting, donor post cards where students are encouraged to write individual thank you notes to donors, creating testimonials from young alumni, study break coming up Nov. 14, student donor thank you and class by class study breaks are being planned for the spring

Student Government Association – Colleen Osborne '13

- This year's goals are transparency, to help students know what SGA does,
- Projects: along with the new director they are preparing a survey for students to find out how much they now about SGA and how they represent the student body, they are looking to revamp the SGA website and handbook, are starting exit memos for the cabinet members to provide a synopsis of their accomplishments for the year so the incoming cabinet will know what was done, they would like to have an assessment of themselves, bylaws and constitution evaluation.
- Their budget was just approved and much discussion has occurred about what to do with rollover funds.

III. Minutes of previous meeting were approved with a change to Mary Brooner's class year

IV. Bylaws – Mary Brooner, chair of the governance committee

- This committee was formed from the March meeting and charged with reviewing and recommending revised by-laws for the October 2012 meeting
- The Committee revised: committee descriptions & functions, officer responsibilities, the election and vacancy of officers process and general clean up to reflect current Council practices and make them less open to multiple interpretations
- Draft and revisions were sent to Council members in April and July
- Final recommendations were sent to Council Sept. 1, 2012 to meet the 30 day notice requirement set in the revisions

Motion to accept the bylaws as amended to change Article V, Section 8 to read, "Special meetings may be called by the President with 7 days advanced notice."

Motion-Newton/second-Ingram/vote-unanimous

V. Committee Reports

Networks Committee – Pam Rogacki, chair

- New Alumni/Admission position created which Melanie Drake '92 filled. She will be sending a note to the GRASP volunteers introducing herself and asking if they are still interested in being a volunteer
- She is working on a process of matching prospective students with alumni
- There is an alumni panel offered during the weekend she invited Council to visit

Alumni Relations Committee–Renee Parsons, on behalf of the chair

- Majority of their work has been on the CA taskforce survey/report which was included in the registration notebook
- They presented findings and feedback to the class agents at a meeting during the weekend
- Will be looking and evaluating the feedback they received from CAs this weekend and forward to Alumni staff those responses
- Are thinking that revising the Volunteer handbook may be their next project

Pioneer Fund/Development Committee–Ed Senn, chair

- Goals: to increase 'financial' education to Council, support/coordinate Senior Challenge with SAA and Student Philanthropy, continue support for personal outreach
- Gifts in honor/memory can be either unrestricted or restricted depending on family wishes
- New options for giving: Innovation Fund, Need and Merit based financial aid and Other designations of choice
- Currently Council matches Sr. Challenge gifts \$750 if the sr. class reaches 50% and \$1500 if the class reaches 75% with a capstone of \$1500. Discussion ensued about matching senior gifts 1:1

Motion was made to match 1:1 all Sr. Challenge gifts motion-Senn/second-Ingram/vote-unanimous

Resolution: Unless otherwise specified all Council member gifts will be designated to the Steven Kent Challenge Motion Rogacki/second-Adkins – Question called.

Vote/Unanimous

Communication Committee–Sherman Willis, chair

- Communications office has been working on the renovation of the College website. Main focus being prospective students and alumni
- Loggia update. Entry to the new alumni site will be through the College portal and will be more integrated with the main website. The Communications Committee will help determine the best way to advertise, provide input and receive feedback about the new site and on what other functions are of interest to alumni

- Grinnell Magazine discussion around audience perspective, what the magazine will do and how Council can help. Fall issue is based around business, Winter issue theme will be Career Development/Mentoring
- The Committee will help research people for future Magazines
- Committee will also review the new website and the alumni site as they become active

Suggestions: Put an article in the S&B before Council arrives on campus to advertise for Sr. Challenge

Send advance copies of Magazine out to Council with others to receive advanced copies

Membership Committee-Nancy Maly, chair

- Created a vision statement: The Membership Committee will assess membership needs of the Council and through the election process solicit and maintain a roster of qualified and diverse alumni who have completed an application to join the Alumni Council and thus ensure that the future membership needs are met. They will do that by managing the Alumni Council membership election process
- Reviewed and recommended membership expectations
 - Membership expectations were presented as they were discussed at the membership committee meeting. After discussion it was agreed that the expectations would be sent in writing to the Council for feedback.
 - It was proposed that the committee continue their discussion of attendance and come up with policies and procedures for moving forward
- Drafted procedures for selecting new Council members.
 - A letter was proposed to be sent to all alumni who expressed an interest in or were nominated for membership indicating a new process and asking them to complete an online application if they are still interested. Anyone who does not respond would be removed from the original list
 - Committee will promote/solicit nominations through volunteers, Lyris lists, etc.
 - All applicants will be interviewed using an interview script
 - Documentation related to membership were reviewed and updated
 - A timeline for completion of committee work was given: Oct-all targeted and promotional messaging sent, Dec. 31-application deadline, Jan 7/8- all applications sent to chair, Jan 31 – deadline for interviews to be completed, Feb. 28-Deadline for completion of selection and make final suggestions

Alumni Awards Committee-Carter Newton, chair

- A slate of nominees was presented to the Council for acceptance. After some discussion -

Motion to accept slate of awardees as presented-Brooner/second-Adkins/vote-unanimous

- A slate of alternate award winners to be used in the event someone from the nomination slate cannot accept. After some discussion -

Motion to accept alternates as presented–Rogacki/second-Ingram/vote-unanimous

- After discussion amongst themselves about the lack of documentation accompanying self nominations the Committee put for the following.

Recommended motion that The Grinnell College Alumni Council will no longer accept self-nominations for Grinnell College Alumni Awards

It was decided to table further discussion of self nomination and the award process to the March meeting. Committee will work up a presentation which will include current procedures for selecting winners, options the committee has (with pros and cons) with regard to self nominations, posthumous awards, composition of the committee

VI. Art & Science Debrief

VII. Outreach Discussion-Ed Senn

Discussed: ratings, preparing students for the job market, cost of a college education and Kington's response to emails

Looking forward: Asked members to have 5-6 names to contact. Members asked for names of time zones, and feedback guidelines for reporting information and suggested talking points. Ed to send members outreach reminders in Jan. and Feb. for updating at March meeting

VIII. Miscellaneous

Council would like to see a breakdown of some gifts. \$25 will get you; \$50 will get you which will help them with outreach

Would like more close interaction with students while on campus to help them understand philanthropy

Asked how they could respond to the strategic plan and take an active role. It was decided to do a collective response to distinguish themselves as the AC. Matthew will work with the Executive Committee to develop a plan for response.

After some discussion on the topic, Matthew determined that he will work with the Executive Committee to get a statement drafted and circulated to the full Council.

Communication Committee will be invited to participate in the Cooper Katz group making recommendations on College communications

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm