

## Redbird Engagement and Development (RED) Committee Meeting Minutes August 9, 2018 4:30pm

Members Present: Kaci Rollings (Chair), Leah Walton, Doug Reeves (Ex-officio)  
Staff Present: Stephanie Duquenne, Lindsay Vahl

### **Alumni Alternative Break Reunion Weekend at ISU:**

- The first “alternative break reunion” was held the weekend of June 29th-July1st
- This was an opportunity for those who had participated in alternative breaks as a student to come back and volunteer as alumni.
- The Alumni Association (RED Committee) partnered with the Center for Community Engagement and Service learning to host the opening dinner/reception on Friday night. It was an enjoyable evening and we are looking to be a part of the Alumni Service Weekend again next June and hopefully the Alumni Association can be involved in an even bigger capacity and have more board presence.

### **Follow up items from April Meeting and initiatives and connections across campus:**

- Center for Community Engagement and Service has a social media hashtag that we can use for our work: #RedbirdImpact
- Working on identifying a month where we challenge current students, alumni and alumni networks to engage in civic responsibilities in their community. We are currently thinking June since that is the month the Center and RED will host the Alumni Service Weekend on June 21-23 in alignment with the June board meeting. Consideration to work with Habitat for Humanity as the service project for the weekend is in the works since their next build is their 25th with ISU and aligns with the goals of the Center and RED in accomplishing a service project. This service project/weekend would be open to all alumni to participate in.
- In addition, RED is hoping this specific month will kick off alums continuous civic engagement rather than just one month.
- RED is looking to have a service project during the weekend of our April board meeting. Stephanie will look to see when the Center is hosting “Bringing it Back to Normal” and if the dates align, this would be an opportunity for the board to interact with current students.
- For those who weren’t aware, this past February the board was invited to participate in a reception in Springfield to advocate for higher education. It was well-received and the intent is to repeat that event in February 2019.
- Looking to possibly invite Professor Lance Lippert to speak to the board about his work “to prepare students as civically engaged, responsible individual while promoting active learning”- in short because of his aggressive efforts the initiative turned into “The Civic Engagement and Responsibility interdisciplinary minor” which is a testament to his passion for this topic- we will see if he is available possibly for the January or April BOD Meeting

- In depth discussion about board members being aware and intentional about our current affinity groups and their activities and gatherings- looking to educate members about where to find contact information and sign up to get updates from those groups and to connect when able- Doug used the example of when traveling would be nice to connect with any active alum or at least send them an encouraging word of thanks for all that they do

## **Alumni Association Scholarship Overview**

*In 2009, the Alumni Association launched an initiative to create the Illinois State University Alumni Association Scholarship. This scholarship addresses the accessibility of undergraduate education to students who exhibit outstanding academic achievement and leadership, and who demonstrate a financial need. Additional consideration is given to students whose immediate family members have attended or graduated from Illinois State University. Award is \$1000 per semester and will be automatically renewed based on students good academic standing and full-time enrollment up to a certain time frame.*

### Criteria/Eligibility

- Full time student
- GPA 2.8 or higher on 4.0 scale at ISU or previous institution
- HS student's GPA at least 3.0 on 4.0 scale
  - OR ACT of at least 20
  - Or SAT at least 1020
- Demonstrated leadership; evidenced by contributions to the enrichment of the individuals school or community through active involvement in cocurricular/community activities
  - Initiative
  - Creativity
  - Responsibility
  - Cooperation
  - Leadership ability
- Demonstrated financial need through application

### **Current Application Process**

- Demographic questions
- 2 letters of recommendation
- Essay questions
  - Why did you choose to attend Illinois State University?
  - Why should you be awarded this scholarship?
  - How do you see yourself continuing your relationship with Illinois State post-graduation?
  - Please provide a personal statement describing your financial need for this scholarship
- Deadline December 1

## 2017-2018 Review

- 4 Alumni Association Scholarships Awarded in 2017-2018
  - We can award 3 for the 2019-2020 academic year
  - We always have 10 active scholarships
- \$43,258.51 amount of funds left in the expendable account
- Resource contacts feedback
  - 203 applications received
  - Resulted in lots of data columns
  - High quantity of applications; lots of applications to look through; very time consuming
  - There is a lot of work and assessing to be done to give out a low number of scholarships at \$1,000/semester

## 2019-2020 Proposal

- Update application process
  - Implement a similar application process of other colleges on campus
  - Implement a *round one* application on the website asking basic demographic questions, qualifying questions (outlined below), and yes/no questions focused on leadership and involvement,
  - Demographic Questions Purpose:
    - *No other full tuition waivers/scholarships*
    - *GPA minimum met (committee changed minimum GPA to 3.0)*
  - Qualifying Questions Purpose:
    - *After demographics have been answered, identify leadership and involvement*
    - *Ex. Y/N: Have you been a leader in a student organization?*
- Scholarship open date October 15
- Scholarship close date November 15
- Review dates
- Number of scholarships expected to award

## Round One of Application:

- Online application, found on alumni association website
- Application policies
- Disqualifications
- Notifications
- Open date
- Close date
- **All applications go directly to financial aid; financial aid sends us those who qualify**

**Round Two of Application:**

- Essay questions currently include:
  - Why did you choose to attend Illinois State University?
  - Why should you be awarded this scholarship?
  - How do you see yourself continuing your relationship with Illinois State post-graduation?
  - Please provide a personal statement describing your financial need for this scholarship