

Illinois State University Alumni Association Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes January 20, 2018
9:30 A.M.
Illinois State University
Watterson Commons 1841 Room

Members Present: Lisa Castleman, Tyler Clark, Fellicia Foster, Michele Guadalupe, Dave Horstein, Jerry Kerber, Daniel Lopez, Jr., Joe McGuire, Danny Mielneczek, Kathy Murdoch, Bob Navarro, Stacy Ramsey, Doug Reeves, Kaci Rollings, Steve Smith, Alice Spann, Mike Willis, Jerry Wright, Linda Yap and Megan Cain (SAC)

Alumni Staff Present: Jan Murphy, Julie Jones, Doris Groves, Stephanie Duquenne, Rachel Kobus

Guests Present: Pat Vickerman-VP University Advancement, Jan Paterson

1. **Call to Order:** President Michele Guadalupe called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Michele reminded board members that the meeting was being recorded. She was happy to report that the Redbird men's basketball team thumped Bradley 70-57 at Redbird Arena recently.
2. **University Update (Interim Vice-President and Provost Jan Murphy):**
 - President Dietz was not present for the meeting because he was attending the alumni event at The Villages in Florida. Many positive comments were shared by guests at the event about their time at Illinois State University.
 - Provost Murphy congratulated the University Advancement team for their work on the capital campaign event. More than \$111 million has been raised toward the \$150 million goal. ISU deeply appreciates the gifts received from our alumni-not only financial commitments, but also gifts of time and talent.
 - President Dietz will travel to Springfield for the spring legislative session which is so important for public higher education. He will join other institutional leaders to encourage elimination of budget impasses, stop/gap measure, and the instability of funding. This instability of funding matters to parents who then look to send their students out of state. Illinois State's reputation, low-debt burden and careful spending allowed the University to remain strong and stable. A repeat of political gridlock will only cause instability, so campus leaders will be working to ensure that this doesn't happen again. Lack of funding in 2016-17 was devastating to universities. ISU receives lower appropriations than any other institutions in the state. Despite our many successes, the state financially penalizes Illinois State students through an archaic funding formula. At \$3551, ISU students receive the lowest per-student appropriation from the state of any public university in Illinois. Nine state legislators were on campus in January, and our message was communicated to them. We need predictable funding.
 - ISU was once again named as a Military Friendly School by Victory Media. Criteria for inclusion on the Military Friendly School list includes a strong commitment to recruiting and retaining student veterans, and providing financial, academic, and social services to them.
 - Mennonite College of Nursing earned the maximum 10 years of accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. This accreditation recognizes the quality and integrity of Mennonite's undergraduate and graduate programs. Mennonite faculty and staff, in addition to the University, students, alumni, advisory council, and community partners have made this accreditation possible.

- The Martin Luther King, Jr. Cultural Dinner will be held next Friday at the Brown Ballroom. This sold-out event features former U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch as key-note speaker.
- Founders Day will be celebrated February 15. Best-selling author, CEO, and Illinois State University alumnus Craig T. Bouchard will receive an honorary doctorate of science degree during Founders Day Convocation.
- Spring semester is off to a great start with over 20,700 students. We are busy recruiting next year's freshman and transfer student class, and we are well ahead of last year's recruitment pace. This is more good evidence that students and their families are choosing ISU!
- Provost search is moving forward with four candidates to be announced soon. On-campus interviews will be held in February. Dean of Arts and Sciences, Greg Simpson, will retire June 30, and there will be a search for this position.
- State funding was discussed. State appropriations divided by FTE equals the per student allocation. There is concern that ISU is being punished for being conservative with spending. We do not pay head hunters to recruit faculty, but a search firm might be used for the current Provost opening. A search firm might occasionally be used for positions that are more difficult to fill.
- Mike Willis inquired about under-represented student populations. The University is working very hard on retention of these students, which is currently 29%. Jerry Wright asked about recruitment of international students. We are looking at a partnership with an organization to finalize contracts for recruitment of international students. This partnership will save money and utilize resources to bring international students here. The goal is to have approximately 2,000 international students on campus. First-year enrollment with this partnership shows about 100 additional international students on campus this fall. We need to provide support for these students, including working with faculty on providing instructional support. Many of these students are interested in STEM and business programs. Certification programs such as nursing and education are unlikely programs because of the licensure issues. Daniel Lopez noted his praise of the university community in working with undocumented students (about 100 on campus).

3. Trustee Remarks (Julie Jones)

- Dr. Dietz is very well respected at ISU and among other universities. ISU hosted the Illinois Public University Trustees Meeting this fall where trustees from other state universities met on campus to discuss a variety of issues, including salaries, funding, student success, enrollment, trustee networking, and student allocation. Dr. Al Bowman was named Executive Director of the Board of Higher Education.
- At the board retreat in November, discussion was held on student population and what we want that to look like in the future.
- There is excitement in athletics because it brings money into the university. More athletic tickets are being sold, and an outside organization is helping with online ticket and apparel sales. Athletics needs a new track and a smaller gymnasium; both have been put off, but need to be addressed, along with other projects.
- December commencement was exciting, and a majority of the trustees were in attendance and were able to meet. They saved the university significant money by refinancing bonds for the fitness center and Cardinal Court.
- There are faculty losses to retirement that will be filled without the help of a recruitment firm.
- We are reviewing the master plan. A taskforce was created to review recruitment, along with goals and strategies for recruiting and retaining a diverse faculty and students.

The report is available on the President's website.

4. Foundation Report (Pat Vickerman)

- Pat reported that our overall goal is \$21 million, and we are at \$12.7 million for the fiscal year. We are on target to reach our goal. This is the fourth consecutive year that we are over \$21 million. We are just shy of \$10 million cash receipts for this fiscal year. The target is \$13 million, and those are dollars that we can put to work immediately. Endowment is approximately \$117 million. We have \$111.8 million for the financial campaign, and our goal is \$150 million by June 2020. Colleges are helping raise funds, and we have a great deal of success from units on campus. This speaks well of the relationships and campus community.
- Founders Day celebration of the Loyalty Circle will see the acceptance of a gift from a group of faculty members.
- We had a strong Giving Tuesday with close to 1,500 gifts totaling \$500,000. University High and Metcalf parents were a great support, as was our online presence and social media. All gifts matter in this campaign; there are many donors who give less than \$25,000.
- Lora Wey is moving to Florida. A search committee has been meeting to fill the vacancy of Doris Groves. Candidates for this position will be on campus in early February. Thank you to Doris for her work as Executive Director and for putting us in a position of strength! A celebration will take place on February 16th from 1:30 – 3:00 pm. Pat noted Doris' professionalism and how she strengthened Alumni Relations in her tenure.

5. President's Report

- Kuddos and thank you to the Homecoming committee; it was great! The financial report was updated in mid-December. We are well within the Homecoming budget.
- We are on target for BOD donations for scholarship. Expectation is that all BOD members make a contribution to the scholarship fund.
- Michele enjoyed December commencement-it was a great day! She also noted the importance of the discussions concerning the budget in Springfield.

6. Approval of minutes from September 30, 2017 meeting:

- The motion to approve the minutes from the September 30, 2017 meeting was made by Jerry Wright and seconded by Bob Navarro. The motion was passed with unanimous consent and no discussion.

7. Executive Director's Report (Doris Groves)

- Doris noted how well the ISU community is involved with Commencement.
- Groves shared staff changes in Alumni Relations: Beth Theobald has replaced Ashley Pritts as Office Manager. Jill Hills will be the Receptionist/Registrar. Julie Gramont continues as grad assistant. Juliana Nelson had hip replacement surgery and is currently recuperating. Colleen Rice welcomed a new son, and she will be moving to Milner Library. A search to fill the position of Associate Director has begun. This position will report to Stephanie Duquette.
- Doris's last day will be February 16. There will be some changes in the office to help with the transition to a new Executive Director.
- Founder's Day will be February 15 and will include the Awards Dinner.
- February 21 will be Senior Night at the men's basketball game, and senior students will be recognized. Help is needed with this event.

- Doris noted her thanks to the Board for the relationships that she has formed and for the work she has done with them.

8. Dr. Jan Paterson – Civic Engagement

- Civic engagement is a core value and a life-long responsibility. Civic engagement is beneficial to the individual and the greater society. Dr. Paterson noted the research in *Bowling Alone* on how the loss of social capital impacts our society. She also noted the stages of philanthropy: relief; improvement principles of progress; social reform; and civic engagement.
- Doris explained how the RED committee has evolved and how the purpose and needs of this committee have changed. With these changes and evolution, there have been discussions about the RED committee leading civic engagement opportunities for the Alumni Association. Board members (Mike Willis, Bob Navarro, and Kathy Murdoch) shared their experiences with the evolving needs of chapters and clubs which have impacted the RED committee and has led to the RED (Redbird Engagement and Development Committee) becoming more focused on engagement with the greater Redbird community. Does the Board and Alumni Association want to commit to this core value of the University? If the Board wants to move forward and take on this value, options were presented for doing this with engagement. One proposal is to ask affinity groups to commit to one project per year, and then share those experiences. A few examples were shared. The Dallas group got together and rehabbed a veteran's house which was damaged by fire. Chicago Young Alumni Network has already done two projects this year with fibrosis network and the local food pantry. Black Colleagues has done Breakfast with Santa. Julie Jones noted that several people who participated in that event had never come to a social activity. Steve Smith noted the power of getting together with fellow alumni you work with, network with as Redbirds, and who participate in civic opportunities. The RED committee could help build the toolkit to help these groups (Bob Navarro). Kathy Murdoch noted that we need to be flexible on the timing. Doug Reeves questioned if this group could work with alumni to publicize things that are already taking place. Bob Navarro and Kathy Murdoch noted the importance of having a uniform time period, similar to Giving Tuesday. Discussion was held about the RED committee facilitating/helping administrative support to organizations participating in civic engagement, and then also organizing activities for the Board of Directors.

9. Awards Report

- The awards committee report was distributed to everyone. Bob Navarro noted that the subcommittee had a lot of discussion about the process.

10. New Business

- The Board Priority Action items are being reviewed, especially where we are and what still needs to be accomplished. Planning will begin for the 2018-2021 Board Priority Action Items. A recommendation will be made to extend the current Board Priority Action Items for one more year. This will allow for the new Executive Director to come on board and will also allow for the new strategic plan to be in place.

- A motion was made by Bob Navarro and seconded by Mike Willis to extend the current Board Priority Action Items for one more year. The motion was passed with unanimous consent.

11. Recognition

- Doris Groves was recognized by the Board for her service and dedication to Alumni Relations and the entire Redbird community. Her contributions were recognized and board members shared their thoughts and memories.

12. Committee Updates

- Updates will be given in April; written reports are in the packet.

13. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn was made by Mike Willis and seconded by Daniel Mielneczek. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Upcoming Board Meetings

April 14, 2018
June 23, 2018

Upcoming Executive Committee Meetings

February 15, 2018 (4:00 p.m.)
May 17, 2018 (5:30 p.m.)