

Illinois State University Alumni Association

Board of Directors Meeting

April 17, 2021

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Zoom meeting

Alumni Association Mission: To support the University through the knowledge, skills, financial resources, and loyalty of its alumni; to communicate and interpret the University's goals and achievements to others; and to promote a spirit of unity and loyalty among former students and friends.

Members Absent: Scott Preston, Marsha Reeves, Tyler Clark

Meeting Notes

1. Call to Order

Steve Smith

- a. Smith called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m., with a moment to pause and reflect, and send "good energy around the world".

2. ISU Leadership Updates

a. President's Report

President Dietz

- i. Looks forward to face-to-face interaction. Reflected on importance of "Friends". Gave thanks for time and energy put forth by Alumni Association, and thanks to AA staff for Homecoming virtual work to bring programs forward. Plans are for in-person Fall Homecoming.
- ii. Congratulation to Women's Volleyball on 2nd MVC title and 3rd trip to NCAA. Successes of Men Cross Country, Women's Track and Field and Women's Basketball also noted.
- iii. Congratulations to retiring Athletic Director Larry Lyons, and welcome to incoming Athletic Director Kyle Brennan. Noted that Kyle helped bring in \$2 million gift in first few months.
- iv. Planning to return to traditional ISU experience in Fall '21. Application and enrollment numbers started to improve after that announcement.
- v. 20,700 students, 93% from Illinois. Points of Pride have helped graduation and retention rates. 13.4% increase in retention rate.
- vi. Added Asst. to President position for DEI
- vii. Multicultural Center to open this fall, and completing Bone Student Center
- viii. Redbirds Rising secured \$180 million
- ix. FY operating budget stable this year, and flat year for '22 budget
 1. \$78 million from COVID impact on ISU (\$53 million not covered after federal aid).
 2. 3rd stimulus package is expected

- x. Stated this will be his final Alumni Association meeting as President, with retirement date of June 30th.
- xi. Noted Smith's involvement on Presidential Search Committee. Feels there is a strong pool of candidates for 20th President of University. Optimistic on search. Happy to continue serving if needed for a smooth transition.
- xii. Personal thanks to each person on call for their friendships.
- xiii. Gratitude given to President Dietz by Board members.
- xiv. President Dietz thanked the Board of Trustees for their work

b. Trustee's Report

Kathy Bohn

- i. Board of Trustees 2-19-21 meeting
 - 1. Provost Tarhule presented info on Engineering Program
 - 2. Grant and Contract Activity Report was presented
 - 3. Resolutions passed:
 - a. Degree for MS in Nutrition
 - b. Approved contract with Chicago Public Schools & City Colleges of Chicago for "Teach Chicago Tomorrow"
 - c. 2 year contract renewal with BSN for athletic supplies
 - d. Aetna awarded student health insurance contract
 - e. Capital Improvement Project will be issued at \$8.6 million to refinance the Certificates of Participation and decrease annual debt by lowering interest rates
 - f. Authorized Milner Library to spend up to \$2.4 million for subscriptions and databases
- ii. Board of Trustees 4-3-21 Special Informational Meeting topics:
 - 1. Proposed Engineering Program
 - 2. Renovation of Julian Hall, Milner Library, Cook Hall and Weaver Building, to address space needs during construction of Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts Facility
 - 3. Construction of new simulation lab for Mennonite college of Nursing
 - 4. 2021-2022 tuition, fees, room and board rates
 - 5. Update on the INTO program
- iii. Meetings continue for the Presidential Search Committee with interviews this week. Goal is to offer a contract by the end of May 2021. Strong diversity of the search committee and Presidential candidates was noted, along with this being a closed search process.

c. University Advancement Report

Pat Vickerman

- i. Credit given to President Dietz for success with University Advancement.
- ii. \$19.6 million total fundraising production to date, with a target of \$20 million.
- iii. Aided by \$2 million gift Kyle Brennan brought in, is confident they will hit their mark this fiscal year.
- iv. Annual Giving efforts noted
- v. Attended BCA event and upwards of \$14,000 was raised. This is the 2nd fundraiser this year for BCA.
- vi. Appreciation given to all for efforts at ISU to stay connected and engaged.

d. Alumni Engagement Report

Kris Harding

- i. Thank you extended for April 5-11 Spring Homecoming coordination.
 1. Announcement of date was made with 82,500 emails, 23% open rate, and 3 separate email sends.
 2. Kicked off with virtual Fight Song – 2,400 views
 3. Virtual Parade had 41 entries, with 97 views of full parade
 4. Alumni King and Queen post reached 12,053 people, with 235 clicks and 240 reactions
 5. 17 virtual/hybrid experiences were offered
 6. 10 units submitted Workplace Decorating contest entries
 7. 32 businesses had windows decorated by Student Alumni Council
 8. University Housing had 200 students engaged through several events
 9. University Program Board held activities on Quad
 10. Virtual Greek Life101 event had 101 attendees
 11. Reggie’s Kid Club had 35 attendees
 12. Virtual Historic Quad Tour had 90 attendees
 13. Virtual Pep Rally had 32 in attendance
 14. 85 people attended BCA Dance Party and raised \$14,359
 15. 240 participated in Virtual 5K
 16. Civic Engagement promoted “Bring it Back to Normal”
 17. 38 participated in RED Committee Blood Drive
- ii. Commencement Plans
 1. Virtual ceremony pre-recorded and online
 2. Redbird Stage Crossing for 2020/2021 graduates
 3. Graduation items will be shipped to those not participating in Redbird Stage Crossing
 4. Redbird Stage Crossing to provide a feeling of being in person
 - a. 40 graduates per hour

- b. 4 guests, no seating
 - c. 15-30 minutes total in Redbird Arena
 - d. Professional photographer available to take pictures
 - e. Celebration tent outside for families, students, faculty, staff
5. 3000 grads for 11 days of Redbird Stage Crossing. To volunteer, contact Kris or email Graduation Services.

e. Alumni Association President's Report

Steve Smith

- i. Reviewed Presidential Search process
- ii. Redbirds Give Back
- iii. ISU Alumni Association Scholarship
- iv. Virtual Homecoming
- v. DEI listening sessions
- vi. Strategic Plan "Action" Priorities
- vii. Ongoing Committee work
- viii. Past Presidents and Network Leaders Roundtable being planned
- ix. June Board meeting will be hybrid, and will include Juneteenth acknowledgement and Civic Engagement activities post meeting
- x. Virtual Happy Hour

3. ISU Campus Conversations

a. Kyle Brennan, Director of Athletics

- i. Started in January, came from University of Utah
- ii. Thanks to Kris Harding for Homecoming, and looking forward to Fall Homecoming. Thanks to President Dietz and Pat Vickerman for friendship and hard work. Thanks to Alumni Association for service and passion to ISU.
- iii. Has been with Athletic Department for 13 years. Started at Northern IL as Grad Assistant; prior to that was a lawyer. Excited to be part of community
- iv. Strong ISU enrollment is a sign of strong institution. Multi-bid league makes it feel like a great opportunity.
- v. Academic success: 3.36 GPA Fall '20, and 3.61 for Dept. Department record of 345 on Honor Roll (152 Men and 193 Women)
- vi. 3rd Straight MVC Volleyball title, 4th Women's Indoor Track title, Men's Cross Country championship, Gymnastics had 1st individual to make it to finals this year, Women's Tennis Conference, Women's Basketball NIT
- vii. DEI initiatives – hosted listening sessions with student athletes. Committed to student athletes to continue social justice issues.
- viii. Feels MVC should be in top 3 in every sport every year
- ix. Encouraging ongoing civic engagement for athletes
- x. Projects:

1. Indoor Practice Facility
2. Study Center
3. Resurface Track
- xi. Planning a normal fall and in-person Homecoming.
- xii. Appreciate everyone's support and happy to be here and be involved.
- xiii. Questions fielded RE: transfer portal and DEI initiatives

4. Consent Agenda (Action Items)

- a. Approval of January 23, 2021 minutes
- b. FY21 Financial Report as of April 5, 2021
- c. Griffin moved to approve Consent Agenda. Shurter seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

5. Continuing Business

Steve Smith

a. Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives – Dave Horstein

- i. April - Committees align objectives and activities
- ii. May – Draft consolidated plan into single document
- iii. June – Committees named and Chairs educate on plans
- iv. Review progress every 6 months

6. New Business

Steve Smith

a. Andrew Purnell, Jr. Trailblazer Award – Susan Nelson Brown

- i. Alumni Association Awards Committee is proposing that a new award, named after Andrew Purnell Jr., be added to the Alumni Awards program. The proposed award category would begin with the 2022 awards class, which will be honored on Founders Day February 2022.
- ii. Award description read
- iii. Nelson-Brown will meet with BCA and Latinx to present. Encourages all to reach out to nominate candidates. Applications close on July 31st, 2021.
- iv. Richards moved to accept new award, Walton seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion approved unanimously

7. Committee/Liaison Updates

a. Student Alumni Council – Nick Schaack

- i. Executive Board has been very flexible this year. Small group activities. SAC Talks held with Harding and other University members focusing on professional skills and interviewing.
- ii. Homecoming Celebration – Virtual parade video at Alumni Center
- iii. Window painting in Normal community businesses

- iv. Concluded elections for SAC Executive Board - Schaack will be Vice President. In-person End of Year Celebration at Alumni Center.

b. DEI – Nikita Richards

- i. Thank you to Michelle Guadalupe for her work.
- ii. Gathered several times this year. Thanks to very involved Committee members
- iii. First met October 27, 2020. Meetings focused on stakeholder engagement.
- iv. Listening Sessions held January 1, 2021 were successful and will help guide the committee.
- v. Themes: What brought you here? What gaps do you see in DEI/AA work?
- vi. Thank you to Alumni Engagement and Smith

c. Awards Committee: Susan Nelson-Brown

- i. The committee has had several meetings and is excited about new Andrew Purnell Jr. Trailblazer Award. Following a shortened nomination period this summer, the award category will begin with the 2022 awards class, which will be honored on Founders Day February 2022. The committee has also been working on the Strategic Plan action items.

d. Board Development Committee: Lisa Castleman

- i. Committee has been in the process to provide a well-qualified and diverse applicant pool. Nomination forms and rubric were reviewed. Interviews will be taking place, and the nominating slate and mentors will be submitted to the Executive Committee.

e. Executive Committee: Steve Smith

- i. Met on February 24th. Encouraged members interested in leadership roles to make that known.

f. Homecoming Committee: Stacy Ramsey

- i. Lengthy report provided in Board packet with specific information. King and Queen have been selected. Planning on a traditional Homecoming for the fall. Will continue with virtual events as well.

g. Redbird Engagement and Development (RED) Committee: Leah Walton

- i. Virtual Lobby Day took place in February; Homecoming Blood Drive was successful and exceeded the goal. Several meetings to work on Strategic Vision Plan have taken place. RED was nominated for a Civic Engagement Award, and the virtual Celebration was attended and enjoyed by RED members. Board service project is still being planned once in-person Board meetings resume

h. Redbird Prime: Tim Griffin

- i. On pause at this time, but indicated “Wait until next year”. Looking forward to a meaningful celebration next year.

i. Scholarship Committee: Danny Mielneczek

- i. Scholarship Resource Office received a total of 42 applications and 32 applications were eligible for review.
 - 1. 31 eligible for Alumni Association Scholarship
 - 2. 23 were eligible for the Redbird Family Tuition Waiver
 - 3. 6 applicants did not receive a scholarship
 - 4. 4 applications received both a scholarship and tuition waiver
- ii. Alumni Association Scholarship is \$1,000 /semester (\$2,000 total) and is renewable as long as student remains full time and in good academic standing.
 - 1. Scholarship Committee was approved to award \$30,000 for 2021-2022 academic year.
 - 2. 7 scholarships will be renewed for the 2021-2022 academic year.
 - 3. 8.5 new scholarships will be awarded for the 2021-2022 academic year.
 - 4. The top 9 eligible will be awarded the Alumni Association Scholarship, with the applicant in the ninth spot being awarded for Spring 2022 only.
- iii. Redbird Family Tuition Waiver is \$500/semester (\$1,000 total) and is not renewable.
 - 1. Awarded 17- \$1,000 tuition waivers as well as two- \$1,000 SAC Marian H. Dean scholarships and one- \$1,000 Dillow Family Memorial Scholarship.
 - 2. Pictures and bios will be available of recipients.

j. Liaison Updates

- i. Athletics (Stacy Ramsey) – Has met and has learned a lot from the speakers.
- ii. Bone Scholar (Dakota Pawlicki) – 57 applicants and 10 days to finish reviews. Announcement will be made May 3rd and Luncheon on September 26.

8. Gratitude and Adjournment

Steve Smith

Board members shared on topic related to ISU experience. Griffin moved to adjourn. Seconded by Nelson-Brown. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Next meeting: June 19, 2021

