

## **Illinois State University Alumni Association Board of Directors**

January 12, 2019

### **Minutes**

**Board Members Present:** Kathryn Bohn, Walter Brandon, Jr., Val Brown, Megan Cain, Lisa Castleman Tyler Clark, Michelle Guadalupe, Dave Horstein, Jerry Kerber, Danny Mielneczek, Susan Nelson-Brown, Tim Pantaleone, Stacy Ramsey, Doug Reeves, Marsha Reeves, Kaci Rollings, Steve Smith, Alice Spann, Leah Walton

**Board Members Absent:** Fellicia Foster, Liz Garcia, Ryan Gilbert, Daniel Lopez, Jr., Joe McGuire, Ron Whitton

**Alumni Engagement Staff Present:** Kris Harding, Beth Theobald

**Guests Present:** Jan Murphy

### **Call to Order**

Reeves (President) called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. at the State Farm Hall of Business. Several board members participated by phone due to a winter storm that made travel difficult.

### **University Update**

Jan Murphy (Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs) provided the update for President Dietz who was traveling with the ISU gymnastics team. The following information was shared.

### **Enrollment**

- ISU enrollment remains very stable.
- ISU had a record graduating class last spring and two very large ceremonies this December.
- Applications for the 2019-2020 school year are up 27 percent over this time last year and admits are up 17 percent.
- Applications from students of color are also up substantially over this point last year, with African-American applications rising 34 percent, Latino/Latina applications up 40 percent and applications from Asian students up 36 percent.
- The INTO Illinois State internationalization program has proven to be one of the strongest programs of its kind in the nation. ISU's inaugural class last fall had 63 students and the University welcomed an additional 93 new INTO Illinois State students for the spring semester.

### **Legislative Budget**

- The President continues to urge lawmakers to create a fair and equitable funding formula for Illinois public universities.
- Illinois State is the third largest educator of students among the state's 12 public universities yet the University receives the smallest appropriation per FTE student of any of the 12.
- Staff recently performed a recalculation exercise based on the number of in-state students at Illinois public universities. They discovered that if appropriations were based on the single performance

metric of the number of in-state students educated by each university, Illinois State's appropriation would jump by an amazing 126 percent.

- ISU's funding should increase but not at the expense of another institution.
- The math reveals a substantial inequity in ISU's state appropriation and it also underscores the need for a real public university funding formula.

### **Master Plan**

- A new task force has been appointed to update the current ISU master plan.
- The group will be engaging the campus community in providing recommendations on what should be the University's focus for facilities for next five to ten years.

### **New Personnel and Opportunities**

- Associate Provost – Dr. Ani Yazedjian; Associate Vice President for UG Education – Dr. Amy Hurd; Assistant Vice President for Academic Administration – Dr. Yojanna Cuenca-Carlino
- Several positions are being recruited, including individuals for INTO ISU, the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access, and University Legal Counsel.
- ISU is moving forward with the construction of a Cybersecurity laboratory - enrollments in this new program are blowing the roof off of Old Main – ISU is in the process of hiring its first Endowed Professor of Cybersecurity
- Engineering (mechanical and electrical) is also in development

### **Housing**

- Completed a review of student housing needs and issued a RFP for a partnership to construct a joint 600-bed residential and academic facility.

### **Trustee's Report**

Julie Jones, Board of Trustee liaison, was not able to attend. A brief report was provided by Kris Harding.

### **Campaign Update**

Vickerman shared highlights and updates from the Redbird Rising Campaign. To date, more than 46,000 donations have been received which equates to more than \$136 million in campaign support through December 2018. An updated year-to-date fundraising production report was also provided and reviewed. Two upcoming programs, Redbird Philanthropy Week and Birds Give Back were also noted as new opportunities for alumni to support ISU.

### **Consent Agenda**

Smith (Secretary) submitted the minutes of the September 29, 2018 Board of Directors meeting for approval. Harding provided the FY10 Financial Report (preliminary through December 2018). Guadalupe motioned to approve both items as part of the consent agenda. Brandon seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

## **President's Report**

Reeves shared he has enjoyed representing the Alumni Association since the September Board meeting at numerous meetings and activities, including:

- Homecoming decorations judging of 30 entries across campus.
- Meeting with the Honorary Degree committee to select candidates.
- Attending the staff Homecoming luncheon at Horton where winners of decorating contest were recognized.
- Participating in the Homecoming Alumni Luncheon and introducing the Alumni King and Queen.
- Attending Ag Alumni Association meeting and events.
- Engaging with the Homecoming Committee including the wrap-up meeting led by Stacy Ramsey.
- Participating on several Ad Hoc committee conference calls related to Constitution revisions along with members Steve Smith, Michelle Guadalupe, Leah Walton, Ryan Gilbert, Walter Brandon, Jerry Kerber, Scott Preston, Felicia Foster.
- Working with the Board Development committee led by Michelle Guadalupe.
- Participating in December holiday and commencement activities.
- Responding to a letter from alumnus regarding eligibility concerns related to new legacy scholarship.

Reeves noted that all committees are working on a review of the Priority Action items outcomes and suggested items for 2019-2021.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Harding provided updates on the several items.

- Brooke Bemont and Leah Atas will serve as interns in the spring semester.
- Julia Gramont will continue to be the Graduate Assistant for the spring semester.
- There is a new staff member in Advancement: Jennifer Tuley, Office Manager in Development.
- Due to renovations to the Bone Student Center, the photo display of board members has been redesigned and relocated to the Carl E. Kasten Alumni Association Board Room.
- A committee interest survey for 2019-20 will be distributed to all board members in mid-February. Board members were asked to think about committee of interest as well as leadership opportunities, such as serving as a committee chair or on the executive committee.
- Birds Give Back, the inaugural giving day for ISU, is February 28th. Alumni Association board members will receive an email about being social media ambassadors.
- Homecoming 2018 was a great success. 80 individuals were honored at the annual Alumni Day luncheon.
- Mecum Auto Auction event in Schaumburg and Cooking with an ISU Chef were also successful.
- More than 800 alumni are participating in the virtual book club.
- There are several upcoming events and activities:
  - Alumni Watch Party at Loyola at Flagship in Chicago on Saturday, January 12.
  - ISU at Chicago Blackhawks Saturday, January 20.

- Founders Day Alumni Awards convocation and dinner is scheduled for Thursday, February 21.
- Men's MVC Basketball tournament is scheduled for March 7 – 10 with pre-game festivities will be at Ballpark Village.
- Women's MVC Basketball tournament is scheduled for March 14-17.
- In addition, the following Alumni Affinity events are planned:
  - Peoria Network has a Pregame event at Kelleher's prior to ISU's MBB on January 23rd.
  - Regional events are either scheduled or in the planning process this winter/spring in Phoenix and Indianapolis.
  - LAN Annual Meeting is February 9.
  - BCA will be hosting Meet & Greets for prospective students on February 9 and 23 Chicago area.
  - Anniversaries and Reunions: ISU Club Hockey: 50th anniversary celebration on February 16; TV 10 45th Reunion on April 6 and Gamma Phi 90th Reunion on April 13.

## **Continuing Business**

### **Proposed Constitution Review**

Reeves and Smith provided an overview of the work to date. At the 2018 ISU Alumni Association meeting, the Board Development Committee submitted a slate of nominations for new board of directors. The 2018-2019 executive committee/officers slate was also submitted.

During the meeting, questions arose regarding the need to clarify and potentially amend conflicting procedures outlined in the ISU Alumni Association constitution. An ad hoc committee was formed to review the existing constitution and bring recommendations for changes or updates to the board of directors.

The ad hoc committee was comprised of board members Leah Walton, Ryan Gilbert, Walter Brandon Jr, Jerry Kerber, Scott Preston, Doug Reeves and led by Steve Smith and Michelle Guadalupe.

The committee met by conference call several times in October and November to review the existing constitution and recommend any potential changes or updates specifically focused on the nomination of new board members and officers.

The ad hoc committee found that there were other items that would benefit from review and revision. These items were addressed and revisions were suggested.

Examples of items the committee agreed to revise included:

- Various locations within the document: Name change of the Office of Alumni Relations changed to Office of Alumni Engagement
- Article II, Membership; Section 1: Removed the requirement for representatives of student organizations, appointed to the board of directors, to make financial contributions to the Alumni Association.

- Article IV, Board of Directors; Section 1: Removed two categories of non-elected board of director members, Emeritus and Honorary.
- Article IV, Board of Directors: Section 5: Revised the process of filling vacancies occurring on the board of directors.
- Various locations within the document: Corrected punctuation and grammar errors.
- Article IV, Board of Directors; Section 2: The process of nominating new members for the board of directors was reviewed and the identified conflicting procedures were discussed. Suggested revisions for the nomination process were created to allow for transparency and clarity for anyone interested in being nominated to the board of directors.
- Article III, Officers; Section 2: The process for nominating new officers to the board of directors was reviewed and the identified conflicting procedures were discussed. Suggested revisions for the nomination process were created to allow for transparency and clarity for any board member interested in serving in an officer role.
- Three new procedures were outlined to guide the nomination process for new officer candidates with specified deadlines for application.

The proposed revisions were submitted to the board of directors Executive Committee on November 28, 2018 for review and discussion. The Executive Committee approved submitting the proposed revisions to the ISU legal department for review and submission to the Alumni Association board of directors meeting in January for review and discussion.

The proposed revisions were submitted to the ISU legal department for approval. An additional section 3 under "Article 1. General" was suggested and has been added describing the purpose of the Alumni Association. The proposed revisions and corrections have been approved by the legal department.

The ad hoc committee will presented the proposed revisions to the Alumni Association board of directors for discussion and motion to present to the general membership at a special meeting called by the president.

Upon approval by the Alumni Association board of directors, 10-day notice will be given to the general membership announcing a special meeting of the Alumni Association to be scheduled following the April 13, 2019 board of directors meeting. The special meeting, called by the president of the Alumni Association board of directors, will require information about the purpose of the meeting and details of the proposed amendments to the constitution.

A vote will be held at the special meeting of the general membership on April 13, 2019 and with an approval vote of 2/3 of the members in attendance, the constitution revisions will be approved.

With the approved revisions to the constitution, new procedures will become effective for the nomination of 2019-2020 board of director candidates and elected officers of the board of directors.

Broader questions regarding risk mitigation and management surfaced related to the Alumni Association as an entity. Staff will explore further and provide responses to the board in the future.

A motion to approve the revisions and process as presented was made by Brandon. The motion was seconded by Guadalupe. The motion was voted on and approved by the board.

### **Board Priorities & Action Items**

At the June 20, 2015 annual meeting, the Alumni Association Board of Directors approved a list of Board Priority Action items for the years 2015-2018. Each committee was to provide action items that they worked to achieve during the three-year period. Each year, committees are asked to report on their progress toward goals and whether revisions or additions are necessary.

A new series of Board Action items was scheduled to be completed at the June 2018 annual meeting, but because there was a change in Executive Director of Alumni Engagement scheduled to occur in the spring of 2018, the Board voted to postpone creation of the new list of action items.

Reeves requested that each committee review the current Priority Action items and update the committee's goals for the next three years. These plans should be measurable and time specific. A revised or new document will be reviewed and approved in 2019.

### **Committee/Liaison Reports**

The following committees provided written reports and updates in conjunction with the meeting:

- Awards
- Board Development
- Foundation
- RED
- Redbird Prime/Half Century Club
- Scholarship
- Student Alumni Council

### **Adjournment**

Reeves requested a motion to adjourn. Pantaleone made the motion. Clark seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m. Lunch was provided.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Executive Committee: February 21, 2019

Board: April 13, 2019

*Respectfully Submitted by Steve Smith, Board Secretary*