



Alumni Association Council Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2008

Joe Rosenfield '25 Center – Room 209

Present: James Bowhay '81, Joan Vander Naald Egenes '58, Barry Huff '73, William Ingram '53, Mike Ison '93, Rob Killion '90, Jeffrey Kohlman '66, Dean Lerner '74, Judy Lutter '61, Avram Machtiger '74, Karmi Mattson '97, Ellen McDonald '81, Carter Newton '77, Dorothy Palmer '62, Renee Bourgeois Parsons '96, Sam Perlman '90, Samir Sashikant '00, Kartik Sheth '93, Leslie Stearns '87, John Swenson '61, Lisa van Sand '85, Matthew Welch '96, Megan Goering '08, Margaret Block '08, Jacques Nguyen '10.

Absent: Makino Ruth '79, Gretchen Thompson '62, Lee Weisel '62

Staff: Jim Hess, Jayn Bailey, Dan McCue, Bonnie Primley, Severin Roberts

Guests: Henry Rietz '89, Elena Bernal '94

Saturday, March 8, 2008 1:30 p.m. - Joseph Rosenfield '25 Student Center Room 209

- I. Welcome by president: Leslie Stearns '87, president
 - A. Minutes of Oct. 13, 2007 meeting were approved
- II. **Campus Report:** Elena Bernal '94, interim director of student affairs and special assistant to the president for diversity and achievement, updated the council on chronology of hate crimes that had been experienced on campus and answered questions. She explained the actions being taken to diminish the possibility of this type of situation happening again and the positive response the campus has provided for the victims. Council members asked to be notified when closure on these events had been achieved.
- III. **Accreditation Report:** Henry Rietz '89, head of the accreditation committee presented an update on the process and the results of the alumni survey.
- IV. **SGA Report:** Megan Goering '08, SGA president, presented an update of activities on campus since the last council meeting.
 - A. **SAA Report:** Margaret Block '08, Jacques Nguyen '10, SAA gave a synopsis of what the Student Alumni Association does, its goals and activities since their last report to the council.
- V. **Trustee Meeting Report:** Sam Perlman '90 gave highlights of the trustee meeting held in October.
- VI. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. **Networks:** Rob Killion '90, chair. This year they had 3 goals.
 1. To help the College build affinity networks.
 2. To help Career Development with Grinnellink volunteers. 18 council, 51

students and 2 alumni participated in the October Grinnellink. The committee was also asked to help increase volunteers in 5 regional areas so they sent emails to approximately 300 alums in those targeted regions asked if they would volunteer for the CDO.

3. To help Admissions recruit GRASP volunteers for Houston and San Francisco areas.
4. 08-09 Committee Leadership: Karmi Mattson '97, chair
Samir Sashikant '00, Election/Member Dev
New member, Awards Comm

B. Alumni Relations: Judy Lutter '61, chair

1. Wrote thank you notes to all Reunion volunteers.
2. Created a Volunteer Spotlight article for Grinnell News Online and posting on the Web. They selected candidates for the rest of the year and will write the articles.
3. Managed a volunteer booth at Reunion. They decided thought it was beneficial it was not as successful as they would have liked. Instead they will mail a letter and brochure thanking them for attending Reunion and explaining volunteer opportunities at Grinnell.
4. Are exploring the idea of creating/recreating regional committees. They did a survey of peer schools to see what they do with their regional committees. The committee recommends that if the College decides to implement regional committees that they have in place staff dedicated to facilitate and grow the committees. The committee will put together a formal recommendation for submission to the director of alumni relations.
5. Student Alumni Association is putting together an alumni campus tour different from new student tours through admission. The committee encouraged the association to proceed and to use the council for 'practice.'
6. 08-09 Committee Leadership: Judy Lutter '61, chair
Renee Bourgeois-Parsons '96, Election/Member Dev
Dorothy Palmer '62, Awards Comm

C. Communication Committee: Jack Swenson '61, chair

1. Overhauled the council portion of the Pioneer Web. Improved functionality and user friendliness. Training for other council committees was conducted after updates were made.
2. Grinnell News Online, a bi-weekly e-newsletter launched Jan. 2008. This is an ongoing opportunity for Council to reach out to the wider alumni community. The committee will be creating calendar for submitting articles
3. Planning to help with the re-work of the Office of College and Alumni Relations website by serving an active role in the overhaul and provide input from a user perspective. The committee and council are being asked to be 'beta testers' for other sections of the website as they become available.
4. 08-09 Committee Leadership: Jack Swenson '61, chair
Carter Newton '77, EMDC
Avram Machtiger '74, Awards Committee

D. Pioneer Fund/Development Committee: Matthew Welch '96, acting chair

1. Adding an adhoc committee to help solicit higher end gifts through personal

solicitation.

2. Sr. Challenge has reached 150 gifts out of the class of 403 which makes them at 37% participation. The highest participation was 87%. The committee has planned activities this semester to increase participation. Their goal
3. Severin Roberts reported that alumni giving has reached 69% of its goal.
4. Proposed a resolution for the Council to endorse a challenge to young alumni to engage in a philanthropic relationship with Grinnell in support of the strategic goals of the Pioneer Fund and the Office of College and Alumni Relations. The resolution was passed.
5. 08-09 Committee Leadership: Lee Weisel '62, chair
EMDC: TBD
Awards Committee: TBD

E. Reunion and Awards Committee: Sam Perlman '90, chair

1. This year there were 53 nominees for alumni awards, 21 of which were new.
2. A slate of 12 candidates and one alternate was presented for council vote. Slate was unanimously accepted.
3. A discussion ensued about the process of keeping the award winners confidential until the Reunion Assembly program. The motion passed to advertise and promote the award winners to help increase Reunion attendance and not keep them quiet. The Committee will work on guidelines for announcing award winners.
4. The committee will also work on a strategic plan to recruit more nominees for subsequent year.
5. 08-09 Committee Leadership: Rob Killion '90, chair
TBD, Networks
Dorothy Palmer '62, Alumni Relations
Avram Machtiger '74, Communication
TBD, Pioneer Fund/Dev

F. Election and Member Development Committee: Mike Ison '93

1. Presented president nominee for vote. Rob Killion '90 was unanimously voted as president elect.
2. Ison indicated that Paul Risser '61 had resigned and that Marc Bass '88 an alternate will be filling his spot in October.
3. Presented a slate 5 candidates and 3 alternates to fill positions of members whose terms end. The slate was unanimously accepted.
4. Presented a resolution that the 9 council members whose first and second terms were expiring be re-elected for an additional 2-year term. Resolution passed.
5. 08-09 committee Leadership: M. Leslie Stearns '87, chair
Samir Sashikant '00, Networks
Renee Bourgeois-Parsons '96, Alumni Relations
Carter Newton '77, Communication
TBD, Pioneer Fund/Dev

VII. Thank you gifts were presented by M. Leslie Stearns '87, president to those 5 members whose terms expired.

VIII. Alumni Relations Strategic Planning: Jim Hess, Director of Alumni Relations

A. Priorities for Alumni Relations this year.

- Regional programming
- Affinity Reunions
- Student Programs
- Alumni Communications
- Volunteer Programs
- Alumni College Road Show
- Alumni Travel Program
- Parent Programming

B. Asked the Council to help set the priorities.

C. Idea suggested to look into what is done to keep past Alumni Council members engaged in the College and ways to utilize their expertise though they are resigned. Suggestion was to encourage them to be regional coordinators.

IX. New Business:

A. Suggestion was made that more faculty members be involved in the Council meetings to enable the Council members to gain faculty perspective on campus issues and activities.

X. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

XI. Future meeting dates: October 2-4, 2008 (Noyce Science Center Dedication)
 March 6-7, 2009
 October 1-3, 2009 (150 Years in Grinnell)