



Alumni Association Council Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2007

Joe Rosenfield '25 Center – Room 209

Present: James Bowhay '81, Barry Huff '73, William Ingram '53 Mike Ison '93, Rob Killion '90, Jeffrey Kohlman '66, Dean Lerner '74, Karmi Mattson '97, Ellen McDonald '81, Carter Newton '77, Dorothy Smardack Palmer '62, Renee Bourgeois Parsons '96, Sam Perlman '90, Paul Risser '61, Makino Ruth '79, Samir Sashikant '00, Kartik Sheth '93, Leslie Stearns '87, John Swenson '61, Gretchen Osterhoff Thompson '62, Joan Vander Naald Egenes '58, Lee Weisel '62, Matt Welch '96 Jordan Levine '10 – SAA and Matt Horowitz '10 - SAA.

Absent: Judy Mahle Lutter '61, Avram Machtiger '74, Lisa van Sand '85

Staff: Jim Hess, Bonnie Primley, Severin Roberts, Kate Worster '87

Guests: Henry Reitz '89, Assoc. Professor of Religious Studies

- I. Welcome: M. Leslie Stearns '87, president
Welcomed Council to campus and introduced new members, College staff and student representatives present.

- III. Accreditation: Henry Rietz '89, Assoc. Professor of Religious Studies
Updated the Council members on the status of the Accreditation process. He gave an explanation of the self evaluation process being conducted for the accreditation board. The College is engaging in evaluating its success in producing students who become leaders in public service and social justice. A survey has been produced and mailed to alumni, faculty and staff to gain their views on leadership and social justice. This self evaluation is two-fold. 1) To focus and study one or more issues that are critical to significant advancement and improvement in the achievement and realization of its mission and vision and 2) To rejuvenate its traditional commitment to train leaders in public service and social justice as it enters into the 21st century.

- IV. Office of College and Alumni Relations Update: Jim Hess, director of alumni relations.
Welcomed the Council back to campus. He described the changes in this years volunteer weekend that by bringing back class committees to help plan their reunion experience and make calls to their classmates we are giving alumni the opportunity to participate in the life of the College but not necessarily by coming back to campus.

- V. President's Report: M. Leslie Stearns '87, president
 - A. Announced that Paul Risser '61 submitted his letter of resignation as he was elected to the Board of Trustees. This will be his last meeting.
 - B. She stated that her goal for the Council this year is to accomplish each of the committees' goals and to make their campus visits worthwhile, rewarding and fun.

- C. There will be another tour during the spring, possibly Cowles. If there are suggestions for other tour areas, send them to Leslie before the next meeting.
 - D. Please have all committee reports posted on the Pioneer Web at least two weeks prior to the meeting.
 - E. She envisions that most committee work can be done via conference calls leaving it unnecessary to have long committee meetings on campus.
- VI. Trustee Report: Sam Perlman '90, president-elect
- A. There was discussion about the College commitment to reduce carbon emission. The College has committee to be 20% below the anticipated level in 2010.
 - B. Athletics Phase II has been approved up to \$72M.
 - C. Demolition of the PEC was approved.
 - D. The Trustees are supporting the enhancement of financial aid and buying down student debt to move toward the goal of students graduating debt free.
 - E. Building of the George and Sue Drake Library in downtown Grinnell will be moving forward. The College has committed funds for the project.
- VII. Communications Committee Report: John Swenson '61, chair
- A. Committee discussed streamlining the flow of the Pioneer Web and how it will make it easier for members to navigate and find documents. Carter Newton '77 presented a historical perspective of why Pioneer Web needs to be updated.
 - B. All Council members will need training which will be done by members of the Communication Committee via teleconference with each committee as a group.
 - C. It is anticipated that the prototype with procedures will be completed by Dec. 1 with training to follow so everyone is familiar with Pioneer Web by the March 2008 meeting.
 - D. Kate navigated through the prototype and answered questions. One question needing answered: Does Pioneer Web archive emails?
- VIII. Alumni Networks Committee Report: Rob Killion '90, chair
- A. This year they have been focusing on volunteer networks in Career Development and Admission.
 - B. Kathleen Powell from Career Development has asked for help with Grinnellink which is the core of volunteers used by their office. She would like to build a good base group of volunteers that can be utilized when they come to campus for programs like Grinnellink and to set up class presentations or student discussion groups.
 - C. Maureen Fitzgibbon GRASP coordinator has asked for committee help in identifying volunteers to fill two regional coordinator positions and help in drafting a term limit policy for those volunteers.
- IX. Alumni Relations Committee Report: Judy Mahle Lutter '61, chair. Dorothy Smardack Palmer '62 reporting.
- A. Committee purpose has been to identify volunteers for specific areas. Last spring they created a volunteer brochure, staffed a volunteer opportunities table at Reunion and tested the online registration form for Reunion.
 - B. This years focus will be helping develop regional volunteer program by making an effort to identify volunteers in the tier I regions. Will help set up committees

and a network that will support and promote events in that region and help recruit regional committee chairs.

- C. Will help create guidelines for holding regional events.
 - D. Will explore the possibility of regional area listservs.
 - E. Will continue the personal contact of volunteers by writing personal notes of encouragement and recognition to the Reunion and other volunteers.
 - F. Would like to explore the possibility of highlighting a volunteer on the web page each month.
- X. Pioneer Fund & Development Committee Report: Lee Weisel '62, chair
- A. Last years activities raised \$2.1M for the Pioneer Fund. This year's goal is \$2.9M. Participation was a little down at the end of the year.
 - B. Asked staff to craft an explanation about the endowment and how it works so fundraisers will have a consistent message when soliciting funds
 - C. Will help create a network of volunteers who have the expertise and desire to help fundraise for the College and could be asked to participate in fundraising in any number of ways.
- XI. SAA Report: Jordan Levine '10 and Matt Horowitz '10
- A. This committee originally under the auspices of the Pioneer Fund has been relocated to the Alumni Relations team.
 - B. There are 25 active members and they have created four standing committees. They gave a description and goals for each committee.
 - C. They have sponsored several events this fall. Two of which were; Remember the Forum party which was a great success with over 150 students attending and care packages which will be delivered the week of finals. They have also participated in several events; the Berghoff alumni event in Chicago, Dinner with the Pioneers at the home of MJ Zimmerman '56, and a student panel for volunteer weekend. They are hoping to attend additional regional events, do one or two more Dinners with Pioneers and attend a leadership conference in Michigan in February.
 - D. They indicated that the goal of the Student Alumni Association is to prepare students to become successful alums.
- XII. New Business:
- A. Barry Huff '73 encouraged 100% Council participation in the Stephen Kent Challenge to show support for the Sr. Challenge Committee and the College.
 - B. Sam Perlman '90 announced the upcoming athletic hall of fame induction ceremony.
 - C. Leslie Stearns '87 indicated that following the meeting there would be a tour of the Art Gallery in the Bucksbaum Centre for the Arts lead by Leslie Wright.

Meeting adjourned: 3:20 pm

Next meeting: March 7-9, 2008, Oct. 3-5, 2008 and March 5-8, 2009