



Alumni Association Council Meeting, Saturday, March 12-14, 2004

Present: Ken Varnum '89, Kit Wall '77, Linda Miller Staubitz '62, Del Coolidge '64, Barry Huff '73, Mike Ison '93, Dean Lerner '74, Marilyn Musser '74, Andy Ono '55, Sam Perlman '90, Sarah Purcell '92, M. Leslie Stearns '87, Anne Stein '84, Jack Swenson '61, Erin Childress Thakkar '98, Gretchen Osterhof Thomson '62, Lisa van Sand '85, Charles Wibiralske '80

Absent: Kino Ruth '79, Ellen McDonald '81, Kartik Sheth '93, Samantha Massingale Gerth '91, Nancy Schmulbach Maly '61

SGA: Elizabeth Allen '04, Devan McGranahan '04

SAA: Denise Flores '05

Staff: Meg Jones Bair, Rachel Bly '93, Craig Gibbens '95, Bonnie Primley

President Ken Varnum opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. He introduced the members of the ad hoc committee on technology, gave a brief review of the reason for the committee's existence and handed out a preliminary report on the technology needs of the Grinnell College alumni community. Report to be made during Old Business portion of the meeting.

- I. The minutes of the September 20, 2003 meeting were approved as submitted.
- II. **Council President's report:**
 - A. Kit Wall summarized the February Trustee meeting. The Trustees elected Hal Fuson Jr. '67 as a new member. They received an update on strategic planning and on faculty issues on campus from Mark Montgomery, chair of the faculty. There was discussion of ways of making faculty compensation packages equal to those of our peer institutions. The budget was approved. There was a resolution to approve the CERA building phase II. The trustees heard a presentation on endowment spending policies. Tom Crady presented a mental health and campus counseling update. SGA president and vice president presented an update and the Honorary degree recipients were announced.

A reception followed at the Faulconer gallery. Trustees met with students on Thursday evening to discuss other issues on campus.

Sam Perlman suggested a field trip to CERA at the September meeting.

- III. **SGA Report:**
 - A. Devan McGranahan '04, vice president: indicated that spring break began the night before. He indicated that SGA elections were held couple of weeks ago. He said when these elections occur; large issues come up with lots of discussion ensuing. He indicated that this year questions were very general and were nothing very dynamic. There was nothing in these discussions to distinguish one candidate from another.

Devan said he thinks students are feeling a bit alienated from things this year. As an example he indicated students don't understand why is there a need for a tuition increase.

- B.** Liz Allan '04, president: This year she began a taskforce on self-governance to define the issue and what it means to the students and the college. She indicated there has been quite some discussion about self-governance as a concept and that the definition has evolved into something with a different meaning from early years. She thinks the students feel they have less input into decisions made now than they have had in the past. Students don't feel they have been involved in making the decision to increase the comprehensive fee. The taskforce is trying to get a grip on the students place in the community and what type of influence students should have in the administration of the college. Tuition increases, capital projects, and why the Trustees have agreed to build a \$42 million Campus Center are examples of areas students feel they have no input in decision making. There are many things that have happened that students are thrilled with, however. One is the quality of mental health services now available to students. Student leaders are looking at campus life, how and why it causes stress and the need for so much mental health treatment, etc. Off campus housing was another issue that has concerned students as is the strategic planning process. Sarah Purcell '92 affirmed that there is a terrific amount of cynicism about the strategic plan, and that students aren't the only group feeling disenfranchised.

IV. SAA Report:

- A.** Denise Flores '05, president. Denise discussed the fact that the SAA is trying to become the link between the alumni and campus. Despite their educational events and giving out goodies during finals, students don't trust them because they are associated with "Alumni Relations & Development and all they want is money." Denise asked the council for suggestions of ways the SAA can get their names out there. One suggestion was to use the council for questions. News items of services they provide can be put into the communication newsletter to get them known. Ask what do the people want? Utilize more alumni coming onto campus or have some local alums come in and speak about careers. One area that might work is financing; financing your debt, issues that concern students now but also will affect them as they graduate. What about the possibility of a student/alum buddy system? It was suggested that the students should not be the only ones to be helped by the alumni; there should be something in it for the alumni too.

Note: Keep Council better updated on what SAA is doing so they are better able to know what is going on. Create a student/alum listserv. It was suggested that all council members use the Grinnell College website as their home page so they will have no excuse not knowing what is happening on campus.

V. Alumni Relations and Development Update:

- A.** Rachel Bly announced Cindy Velline from San Diego, CA as the new assistant director of alumni relations & development. She will begin the first part of May. Cindy will be working with volunteers, family events and some regional events. The Grinnell College Community Council is being formed. Its mission is to engage the community in the aspects of the college. They will advise the college on community

relations and assist in event planning. It is hoped that the community will become more involved in the mission of the college. Luther/Jenny Erickson are the first chairs.

Reunion is in June 4-6. This year some faculty lectures have been added. Tom Cech from the class of 1970 is this year's alumni lecture. Next week the College will be able to offer online registration and payment for Reunion. The Alumni trip to the Amazon is currently booked. A tour of Italy, Sicily & Rome is scheduled for March 19 - April 2, 2005. Now on the Communication & Events website you can sign up for the campus news listservs and press releases. Sign up there or let Rachel know. You may get duplicate copies since we do send out notices as well on the volunteer listserv.

The September council meeting is in conjunction with Volunteer and RPW. We will have the opportunity to interact with other volunteers. The date is September 9-11, 2004. More information will be forthcoming.

Office staff have been engaged in strategic planning for their areas and working them into the other areas of the office. They have planned benchmarks and objectives for next year, which will all be incorporated into one document for the entire office.

Leslie Wright would like to talk to the council about the gallery at one of their future meetings.

- B. Pioneer Fund** - Craig Gibbens: So far this year 1.7M dollars has been received in restricted/unrestricted funds. Our goal is 3M. The Pioneer Fund is up by about \$25,000 over last year at this time. There are currently 4,364 donors - up 118 donors from last year (currently at 22.2% participation). Parent donors are up a little over 400 more than last year. Overall donors are up by 700, which is mostly parents. Phonathon is up 730 donors from last year and up \$90,000 over last year. Currently Phonathon is at \$260,000. Last quarter of the last fiscal year the Pioneer Fund gained little under 4,000 donors and slightly under \$1M. The Pioneer Fund will be focusing a continued emphasis on reunion giving for next year. They are also planning to develop better stewardship for donors/thank yous and better programs for younger donors. They will focus on current students and young alumni and continue the development of professionally prepared mailings that are specifically targeted.

VI. Committee Reports:

A. The Alumni Activities Committee did not meet

B. Public Communications - Anne Stein, Chair

- Its main goals are to promote and make students aware of the Alumni Council. The committee is thinking of sending a monthly or periodic newsletter explaining what the council is dealing with. They would like to invite students to one-one career meetings and to invite faculty to receptions before dinners. They want to tell alumni about the permanent email forwarding address (Name@alumni.grinnell.edu).
- The committee looked at the alumni area of the website. They recommend

that each committee member look at their current bio and update it if necessary. Send your new bios to Sam Perlman at samperlman@alumni.grinnell.edu.

- Since students were beginning spring break rather than conduct a one on one career meeting with students those council members on campus early did a round table discussion about careers with students in the Coffeehouse. In September there will be a switch back to one on one career meetings with students rather than a round table discussion.

C. Development – Del Coolidge, Chair

- Reported that Council members have designated enough money to cover what is needed for the Steve Ken Challenge as well as the additional \$1500 bonus if the Sr. Challenge reaches 90%.
- The Council set a goal of \$16,000 for the Pioneer Fund this fiscal year. So far the Council is \$2,002 short of that goal. Three members have not yet given or pledged and overall the Council as a whole has given less than at this time last year.
- Nord Brue gave the committee a brief overview of a capital campaign the Board of Trustees is contemplating. Del indicated that he feels the campaign will come within the next three to five years. Brue said the Trustees are open to suggestions as to what the Council can do to help in this campaign effort. There would need to be a more focused effort on working together to achieve a successful campaign.
- Del thanked the nine people who are writing thank you notes to those giving stewardship gifts. If anyone is interested in adding their name to that list email Del at (lindel6@comcast.net) and he will add their name.

D. Reunion/Awards – Mike Ison, Chair

- Gave a rundown of the 10 Alumni Award winners for Reunion 2004 and a list of alternate winners. A question was raised about the importance of recipients having given something to Grinnell to be eligible for the Alumni Award. The committee takes giving into account only when two people are close in their accomplishments. The list of award winners and alternates was approved 18-1.
- Mike presented a motion created by the committee as follows: “We move to create an ad-hoc committee on strategic planning for Reunion weekend. This committee shall be comprised of all members of the Reunion and Awards committee plus one member of each standing committee to be determined by the chair of that committee. This committee shall present its findings and recommendation at the spring 2005 meeting (chair of that committee will be M. Leslie Stearns).” The motion passed with a sentence inserted after the committee shall be comprised of ... committee. “This committee shall also include one staff member as determined by Meg Jones Bair, Sr. Director of Alumni Relations and the Pioneer Fund.” The motion passed. There was also some discussion whether or not this committee was an appropriate place

to involve students. It was decided this was not an appropriate place for student representation.

E. Volunteers: Marilyn Musser, Chair

- The Committee discussed the volunteer fair to be held at Reunion this year. They will be recruiting volunteers to staff the fair. It will be held on central campus at the same time as the ice cream social sponsored by the Asa Turner Association. All current and former volunteers will be invited to attend and talk with people about their volunteer experiences.
- The Committee reviewed the volunteer performance and wrote thank you notes.
- The Committee reviewed volunteer portion of the website and, made suggestions. They also made suggestions regarding additional Alumni web pages. That information will be forwarded to the office for consideration.
- The Committee is thinking of putting together a challenge to involve volunteers who have not given to the Pioneer Fund. They will be reviewing volunteer giving over the past 5 years.

VII. Old Business:

- A. A report on council participation in the Steve Kent Challenge was given earlier in the meeting.
- B. Mike Ison presented an overview of what has been accomplished by the ad-hoc Technology Committee. The Committee presented a preliminary report and survey they plan to send electronically to alumni with email addresses to find out what type of technology they would like to receive from Grinnell and what they are currently receiving. The Committee would like to see that if an alum asks to have all solicitations by email that request be honored or if someone prefers paper, that request be honored. The motion to accept the survey and move forward with it passed.

VIII. New Business:

- A. There was a bylaw amendment proposed to include the president of the student alumni association as an ex officio member of the council. Motion passed.
- B. The Council discussed the relevancy of the Activities Committee. Most of the projects undertaken by this committee have been moved to other committees, which seemed more applicable. It was determined that the committee be replaced with a Career Development Committee which would support and work closely with Steve Langerud on mentoring, internships, job shadowing, etc. The council voted to approve the four continuing committees (Communications, Development, Reunion & Awards and Volunteers) and, in a second motion, to add the new committee (Career Development Committee) with the charter to be determined over the summer by the Executive Committee. Council members will be given the opportunity to change committees and the new council members will be assigned committees before the next council meeting.
- C. Kit Wall announced there would be an executive committee retreat this summer. Information to those members will be forth coming.

- D.** There was a motion to extend the terms of those council members whose first terms are expiring. Those members are: Barry Huff, Kartik Sheth, Anne Stein, Kino Ruth, Lisa van Sand, Erin Childress Thakkar and Del Coolidge. All council members expressed a desire to have their terms extended. Nancy Maly submitted a letter of resignation to the council indicating she does not have the time to devote right now but would like to be considered for membership at a later date.
- E.** A slate of seven prospective new Alumni Council members was presented along with five alternates. After some discussion the slate was amended by a vote of 14-5, and the amended slate passed 17-2.
- F.** Ken presented the nomination of Marilyn Musser as president elect. He asked for any other nominations from the members. Being no other nominations a vote by ballot was conducted and counted. Marilyn Musser was elected president elect.

IX. Other New Business:

- A.** Ken asked that Council members use the appropriate name (Alumni Association Council) on any correspondence on behalf of the council.
- B.** Lisa van Sand asked that the structure of the meetings be altered so materials needing action are distributed at the beginning of the meeting giving members time to consider things more carefully before votes are taken. She also wanted to recognize that Tor Hough '87 who is not a member of the council helped a great deal with the Technology Committee.
- C.** Sam Perlman agreed to chair the new member orientation committee this year. Other members of the committee are: Dean Lerner, Ellen McDonald, Andy Ono, Sarah Purcell, M. Leslie Stearns and Jack Swenson.
- D.** Ken acknowledged and presented gifts to the three council members whose terms are expiring: Linda Staubitz, Wally Douma and Charlie Wibiralske. He thanked them for all their work. Council members also thanked Ken for all his work as president. He is moving to past president and Kit Wall will be taking over as president.

Council then went into executive session.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.