



**Alumni Association Council Meeting Minutes  
Sept 11, 2004**

Present: Elena Bernal '94, Jim Bowhay '81, Del Coolidge '64, Barry Huff '73, Mike Ison '93, Rob Killion '90, Dean Lerner '74, Judy Mahle Lutter '61, Avram Machtiger '74, Ellen McDonald '81, Marilyn Musser '74, Andy Ono '55, Dorothy Smardack Palmer '62, Sam Perlman '90, Sarah Purcell '92, Kino Ruth '79, Samir Sashikant '00, Kartik Sheth '93, M. Leslie Stearns '87, Anne Stein '84, Jack Swenson '61, Gretchen Osterhof Thomson '62, Lisa van Sand '85, Kit Wall '77, Mark Henry '04, Andy Grimm '04,

Staff: Rachel Bly '93, Bonnie Primley, Jayne Bailey '05

Absent: Erin Childress Thakkar '98, Ken Varnum '89

I. **Welcome**

Kit Wall welcomed council for the weekend. Sam Perlman introduced the new members of the council. Wall thanked the new members committee for their hard work and welcomed the new members to the council. She reviewed with the council the requirements of being a member of the council and the expectations of each person to attend all meetings.

II. **The minutes of the March 13, 2004**

**A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of March 13, 2004 as submitted.**

III. **Council President's report:**

Wall recapped the May Trustees meeting: The topic on their minds right now is diversity. A committee was formed and will meet by conference call to make recommendations and ask questions about diversity. They may reach out to alumni for additional information and opinion.

The Investment committee of the board, of which Henry Cornell is chair, are professionals who are committed to making Grinnell the best. They are focused on the endowment and it's fluctuation and are very concerned about the dip in Pioneer Fund giving. They are also committed to having alumni participating in the College financially as they are themselves.

Dave Clay staffs the Budget committee.

Student Affairs committee. This committee is a very active group lead by Randy Morgan. They first brought up the issue of and were instrumental in building the

new dorms.

Trustees conduct their work between meetings on conference calls where ideas are brought forth; ideas are not hashed over and over again at the meetings. All ideas are considered prior to decision-making and the work of each committee is then reported at the meeting.

The Executive Committee of the Alumni Association Council proposes to evolve to mirroring the Trustees in this aspect. Doing more work via conference call and simply reporting on work completed it at the Council meeting rather than taking so much time hashing out ideas and recommendations. The Committee would like to see the council spend more time with students while they are on campus. Also there are some overlaps in committee members so conference calls will allow people to overlap committee discussions and ideas. Wall encouraged committees to complete as much work as possible by phone and between council meetings.

A Senior award thank you note: Annie Perng, a Sr. Award winner wrote a nice thank you note to the Council. Bly recapped the note she wrote and passed around a blank card for anyone to make comments if they wished.

- IV. **SGA Report:** Mark Henry, president, presented the top issues on campus: Intramural sports, practice space under Norris, 10 new bikes have been purchased for student use around campus, the concert at the end of the year, the change in the dining services plan that students feel was changed without notice to them, and parking on campus. This year SGA will be hosting thank you note writing session where students may write thank you notes to donors who have sponsored students. They are expecting to touch 1000 donors this year.

Some of the council members were able to spend more time with students prior to this meeting. Sashikant asked staff to include more student interaction at future meetings.

Andy Grimm, vice president indicated his goal for this year is to move to online class registration for students. There are faculty who support and lots of students who want to be able to register online. The technology is there but there are some obstacles to overcome. Regarding the overall mental health on campus - faculty have been asked not to give homework over breaks to allow students to actually have some time off. Student publications and SGA are funded separately and there is a desire to bring them back together so they can be more accountable for their funds. Grimm expanded on the dining services changes. Over the summer the dining plan was revamped doing away with the replacement plan. Students and faculty are also upset with the update in the grill. It now seems like a convenience store with lots of the interaction areas gone. It is felt that students could live with the changes but are upset with the process in which the changes have come about.

Sarah Purcell asked what the alumni council could do to help. It was suggested council members email John Kalkbrenner of college services, Dick Williams of

dining services and Russell to tell them there is much concern about the loss of community space. Also copy Henry and Grimm. Further discussion was tabled until New Business.

- V. **SAA Report:** Rebecca Miller '04 indicated that there were many excellent comments about both the dessert chat and the one on one meetings from students. She thanked the council for doing them. If anyone has suggestions for a panel let them know. Starting in October SAA will have a website. Check it out.

- VI. **Alumni Relations and Development Report:** Rachel Bly gave a description of Community Council, it's mission and events planned to encourage community to come to campus. The committees formed through the council are: Events, Publicity, and Development.

The Events Committee charge is to plan events on campus that will encourage the community to come to campus to see what is available for them.

The Publicity Committee will get the word of the college out to the community.

The Development Committee will serve as the old town/gown committee requesting funds for the college from the community.

The Italy trip is coming up in March 2005. Jerry Lalonde will be leading the group. There is a minimum of 25 people needed to guarantee the group with a maximum of 35. If anyone is interested in going on the trip contact Meg Jones Bair or check out the Travel portion of the Alumni web page. Bly has been working with Todd Armstrong on 2005 Alumni College. The lecturers will be those faculty who went on study in Southern Africa. Lectures will be conveying how the professors are integrating their studies into their curriculum and teaching. George Moose will be teaching on campus early this year and will be asked to come back as an Alumni College lecturer.

Events coming up: Family weekend the first weekend in October.

LA - Posse program event

Anniversary event in New York - 100 years of regional alumni gatherings

Possee event in DC

Berghoff in Chicago in October

Grinnell Anniversary in Nov

Twin Cities state of the college event

Bay area event - Nov 20

- VII. **Technology Committee Report:** Marilyn Musser gave a short background and reason for the committee. She updated the council on the work completed since last committee meeting. The survey created will be going out on Monday, September 13. The content of the survey has not changed but some of the formatting was. The survey findings will be reported to the Council when they are all compiled. Reminders to complete will be sent to those who received the survey.

- VIII. **Career Development Committee Report:** Lisa van Sand, newly elected chair read

the goals and mission developed for the committee. She reported that the committee discussed ways to get the word out to alumni about the many ways to volunteer for the College. Specific volunteer opportunities discussed were externships, internships, job listing interviews, and recruiting on campus. Some of the avenues to make these volunteer opportunities known to alumni are: classletters, listservs, reunion class projects, industry specific (or career specific) reunion parties, job-a-thon through Phonathon, Magazine article, G mail, city programming throughout the US, article in the S&B, put some advertisements in the Magazine. Van Sand indicated that the committee will be working via their listserv prior to the next meeting and would report on their progress at that time. The committee would like to undertake the possibility of having a Grinnell Marketplace with electronic links to products made by Grinnellians and to look into setting up a micro lending program for alums who want to start up new small businesses.

IX. **Public Communications Report:** Jack Swenson read the goals and mission of the committee. Anne Stein indicated this committee meets once a month via phone conference to discuss their progress and solicit ideas. They are planning a letter twice a year to go to the Grinnell Magazine from the President of the Council keeping alumni informed of the council and their goals. They will be posting an overview of council meetings on listservs. They would like to invite faculty and retired faculty to a reception or breakfast during the next council meeting. They are also reviewing the web page. New bios and photos will be submitted.

X. **Development Committee Report:** Del Coolidge indicated that the office of alumni relations and development was made aware that some members of the council feel there is an overemphasis on giving compared to other council business. The committee is trying to address this issue. With the new vision of the Pioneer Fund council members were asked to write thank you letters to the people who gave Pioneer Fund gifts. To date 123 letters were done. The committee would like to thank the council members who helped and will continue writing letters. If any other members would like to help write thank you notes contact him.

Coolidge reported that 50% of the senior class gave to the Sr. Challenge last year. The committee recommends no changing of this process at the current time. He also indicated that the Council reached 100% participation in the Pioneer Fund last year with a giving total of \$20,500. Coolidge introduced a motion to the Council as follows

**“Resolved, that the Council reach 100% participation in the Pioneer Fund this fiscal year by completing and/or pledging a gift by December 31, 2004 and that each council member increase their gift by 5%.”**

**The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.**

XI. **Reunion and Awards Committee Report:** Leslie Stearns read the goals for the

committee and went through the soliciting and selection process for alumni awards via PowerPoint presentation. Through discussion in their committee a proposal for restructuring Alumni Awards was presented. Stearns introduced a motion to the Council as follows:

**“Resolved, that there be creation of the Young Alumni Achievement Award and the Distinguished Alumni Award in addition to the modifications of the Alumni, now Reunion, Award as outlined in the attachment entitled, Proposal for Restructuring of Awards.”**

**The motion was seconded and a vote called. The motion passed 13/11 by a hand vote.**

There was concern voiced about the name “Young Alumni Achievement Award” and the misconceptions it might create. It was decided not to use the name Young Alumni Award but to allow the Office of Alumni Relations and Development and the Reunion and Awards Committee to name the award as they choose.

- XII. **Volunteers Committee Report:** Sarah Purcell read the goals and mission of this year’s committee. At their committee meeting they reviewed the status of volunteers, wrote thank you notes as they have done in the past. The committee will be working on consolidating the three current volunteer handbooks by January 1 and posting it on the Web. There was also discussion about a proposal from the alumni relations and development office that limits the dollar amount of reimbursement to volunteers who are brought back to campus. The committee will discuss this further and report at the next meeting. The third item discussed at their meeting was how to encourage volunteers to reach 100% participation. They are planning a letter to CAs and CFDs reminding them they need to give to the Pioneer Fund and inviting them to give by December 31 so the Office of Alumni Relations and Development can use this volunteer participation percent in marketing programming.

XIII. **New Business:**

Spring meeting March 11 – 13, 2005  
Fall meeting September 9-11, 2005

New Member recruitment committee for 04-05 is Wall, Musser - chair, Varnum, Sheth, McDonald, Lerner, Sashikant and Thomson.

A Nominating committee will compile a slate of new members to present at the next council meeting. This year a committee will need to present a slate of potential candidates for president elect. Varnum will chair the committee, anyone interested in serving on this committee talk to Wall or Bly. Stearns introduced a motion as follows

**“Resolved, that an election committee be formed to gather nominations for the president elect position and to distribute those**

**nominations to council members for review at least one month prior to the March 2005 meeting as outlined in the attachment entitled Procedure for Nominating and Electing the President Elect of the Grinnell College Alumni Association.”**

**The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.**

**XIV. Miscellaneous New Business Discussion:**

Discussion of the Dining services program changes was continued. It was decided that in this situation the members of the Council could make a statement more strongly as individuals rather than as a group.

Council would like to explore the possibility having a student life panel (possibly addressing the dining issue) for next meeting.

Career Development Committee discussion ideas were tabled for spring meeting.

Musser gave a synopsis of Kathy Schoene '74, a class agent who passed away recently and her situation. She stressed that one should not underestimate the power of your presence. Notes or visits to people are very important.

Meeting Adjourned. 3:45