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Minutes

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Alumni Association Executive Board, Illinois Wesleyan University

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**Illinois Wesleyan University Alumni Association
Minutes of the Alumni Council and Executive Board
October 9, 2009**

Board Members Present: Babawande Afolabi '10, Josh Butts '01, Todd French '93, Tracy Garrett '81, Guy Gebhardt '69, Marsha Guenzler-Stevens '78, Deon Hornsby '97, Scott Huch '86, Dean Jukovich '93, Shaye Mandle '93, Rich Marvel '98, Sundeep Mullangi '97, Jim Mullins '03, Marilyn Neis '71, Tom Neis '70, Fran Rouzee '66, Marianne Wolf-Astrauskas '76, Tracy Wych '77

Board Members unable to attend: Raymond Berger '70, Brian Lewis, Gary Ohler '87, Justine Robinson '06, Jen Shaughnessy '98, Larry Stimpert '80

IWU administration/staff present: Michele Brady, April Bridges '90, Celeste Flachsbart, Ann Harding, Jennifer Krause, Jeff Mavros '98, Chris Murray '91, Natalie Schmidt, Steve Seibring '81, Trevor Sierra '05, Marty Smith, Lora Wey '88, Richard Wilson

President Wilson's Report

- Thanked group for work on the Strategic Plan and commented on how well it was done.
- Acknowledged the Alumni Association's interest in having visual representation of alums and award winners. The University is systematically going through the Memorial Center, as the funds are available, starting with the Main Lounge and now the Joslin Atrium. One of the top items on the list is what happens in what is now called the Nell Eckley Lounge. There are opportunities to feature alumni and their achievements in the Nell Eckley Lounge.
- There was a suggestion from this group to use the holiday card to convey a message of some kind. We are trying to use the holiday card for a message but it won't be for hard core fundraising. It will be more focused on conveying something about an activity or group of activities going on at the University. Hopefully, this would give people a sense of what life is like here and they will be able to share vicariously in that experience.
- Spoke about a group of 25 students who went to Honduras as part of a medical brigade. It was student organized, student initiated, student financed and they essentially served as allied health professionals to the medical staff. They had to recruit the doctors and nurses to go with them and set up an Illinois Wesleyan clinic for about a week in Honduras.
- Mentioned Evan Kasprzak and his journey on the television show So You Think You Can Dance.
- Visiting Assistant Professor Saloua Zerhouni has joined the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University this fall as a Fulbright Visiting Scholar. Zerhouni comes to Illinois Wesleyan from Mohammed V University Souissi, in Rabat, Morocco, where she is an assistant professor of political science at the School of Juridical, Economic and Social Science.

- Capitol projects under way are the Joslin Atrium due to be completed in December and the classroom building to be built on the sight of the Sheehan Library is in the 90% drawing stage and we are identifying what is going to be in the building. It is in the stage where it begins to get tough as the project is being brought into a budget. The cost of building it and bringing it on line are being worked on.
- The Campaign is moving forward and the University continues to secure gifts. There are ups and downs to this cycle and we are into this for the long term.
- The University is in a challenging year. There are structural issues with the budget that have to be resolved and there is an enrollment decline of 30 students. It is a million dollar problem that will continue as the class moves forward. There has been increased enrollment in community colleges and the University has admissions working on tapping into that group as they become transfer students.

President Wilson ended his comments and opened the floor for questions.

Overview of Capital Campaign

We are now at about 75 million. We are in the process of organizing volunteer committees to reach out and bring more people into the effort.

Welcome and Introductions:

Todd French welcomed board and council members and asked everyone to go around the table and introduce themselves.

Chet Sheldon introduced himself and thanked the board for awarding Helen, his wife, and himself the Loyalty award.

Approval of the Minutes from the April 11, 2008 Executive Board Meeting:

Todd French called for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2009 Executive Board meeting. Scott Huch made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by. Marsha Guenzler-Stevens. The minutes were approved by the Executive Board.

Committee Reports

Todd French asked that if attendees had the opportunity to promote Homecoming to share how they did that and what the result was before giving the committee report.

Trustee Report given by Tom Neis.

- Trustees interact and try to create environments where everybody thinks we should go. The committee that jumps out today is the Development Committee which was noted in Campus Life and Business Affairs.
- An agenda item that comes up regularly at meetings is ALANA students. A priority for the trustees is be able to get a percentage of ALANA students that is fair and good for the future of the University. The admissions department met their goal this year.
- There was an executive session to talk about budget which is a difficult thing. Dr. Wilson is excellent in running this organization. It is what we need at this time.
- A point that comes up regularly at trustee meetings is, in building a class, how much does it cost to go to IWU. Those numbers are difficult and normally it looks like an increase of 3-6% a year. The trustees are worried about what it costs to go here and the cost of education in general.
- Talked about the out reach of the Campaign.
- Investment committee sees the management of the endowment is in a positive direction and has strong and good people running it.
- Housing is a long term goal.
- A fee for the short term(May term) is being discussed.
- The group of people sitting on the board is not static. They are involved; they are thoughtful and are worried about the University today and in the future.

IWU Council for Women report given by Marcia Guenzler-Stevens.

- Challenge was to bring 10 or more people to Homecoming and will far exceed that.
- Eight new members have accepted the invitation to join the council and a number of those women will be on campus for Homecoming, joining in a mock interview session with the Hart Career Center.
- The council meeting will be held at 3:00 today. The agenda includes hearing from a young woman whom the council provided a scholarship to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders and from Stacy Shimizu, International Office Director, who traveled to Morocco with a group from IWU.
- Planning for the summit in March. The agenda for the summit continues to grow as new events are added.

Auxiliary Groups report given by Scott Huch.

- There are six auxiliary groups that will give their own reports.
- Scott, along with Trevor, has been working on putting together a structure for this executive board to support the work of the auxiliary groups and is working on developing those groups and new groups.
- Groups to explore adding are athletics, nursing and fine arts.
- Continue to put in to operation what was discussed in April.

Regional Alumni Club report given by Guy Gebhardt.

- For Homecoming, Guy drafted and Trevor emailed to regional presidents a little note requesting that they email the folks on their list an invitation to attend.
- Proceeding with conference calls with the regional presidents, the last being in September.
- Participation in calls is not what they would like to see.
- There are more and more regional clubs and if they were all on a call it is too large to get anything accomplished.
- Working on a structure for an email letter that will be sent out on a regular basis to regional presidents.
- Guy passed around a template to be used by regional presidents to submit an annual plan. The purpose is to add more structure to the regional clubs planning, not to micro manage but to make it easier for clubs to plan and carry out their events.

Young Alumni Report will be submitted via email by Justine.

Regional Admissions Committee report given by Ann Harding.

- There are 195 alums in the network
- Would like to add another 10 this year.
- If board members are willing to help with outreach to prospective students send information to Jen Shaughnessy.

Pride Alumni Community Report given by Josh Butts.

- Social event planned for tonight at Tommy's with 22 people registered, not including students.
- Meeting with head of Pride student group.
- A few alumni have emailed saying they would like to be involved on campus.

Alumni Wesleyan Fund Board report given by Sundeep Mullangi.

- Sundeep passed around a treasury report.
- Going to track a few things, total dollars raised over past five years, total participation rate, where Wesleyan ranks among like universities, where is participation coming from, i.e. Council for Women.

Parent Board report given by Jeff Mavros.

- Trying to partially endow the parent fund to take some burden off of the annual part of raising the money.
- Thanks given to Brian for growing fund in the last five years.

Minority Alumni Report Network report given by Deon Hornsby

- Set up a group on Facebook to invite people to Homecoming.
- Added three new members to the executive board of the network, including new co-chair from San Francisco Tony Gray.
- Still actively recruiting.
- Deon will be stepping down in 6-9 months.
- This is Deon's last board meeting.

Newsletter Editors report given by Fran Rouzee.

- Completed first part of transition from paper to electronic newsletters.
- All class years are able to read any class years newsletter on line.
- There is a link to update your own personal information and then it will be sent to newsletter editor to be included in next edition.
- In the spring will be moving 1960 to 1979 to the electronic format.
- Have received positive feed back.
- Class years 1959 and lower will remain a paper format.

Greek Alumni Network report given by Shaye Mandle

- At 3:00 pm today there will be a meeting.
- There are challenges on campus so bringing alumni back to be mentors and play role in undergraduate chapters is a critical piece
- A letter was drafted and went out to all the Greek alumni and people are sending in checks.
- The major focus will be getting alumni re-engaged.

Nominations and Award Committee report given by Tracy Wych.

The nominating committee has nominated the following slate of executive officers for the next three year term: Marsha Guenzler-Stevens as president, Sundeep as vice-president, Scott Huch as vice- president of auxiliaries, and Tracy Garrett as secretary.

Call to vote by Executive Board. All were in favor.

Call to vote by Alumni Council. All were in favor.

Second proposal by nomination committee is for new Alumni Association Board Members. The committee has nominated Shaye Mandle, Marianne Wolf-Astrauskas, Barb Nathan and Debra Burt-Frazier.

Call to vote. All were in favor.

Homecoming report given by Ann Harding.

- This is the second year of having a Homecoming committee in place that encompasses the university. As a result, we have a Homecoming book rather than a two page agenda.
- Bobawande gave a report telling what the students have done throughout the week for Homecoming culminating with a dance Saturday night.
- 1260 people pre-registered.
- Ann asked for volunteers for the 5k race.

Todd adjourned meeting and the group thanked Todd for his ten years of service.