

## **Knox College Alumni Council Meeting Minutes**

April 21, 2018

Prepared by Elizabeth Bazan '05

**Members present:** Bill Baker, Elizabeth Presley Bazan, Tom Bazan, Val Blevins, Carol Brown, Robin Butler, Scott Calhoun, Mike Gilbert, Marty Glickman, Maurice Harris, John Heyer, Emily Jensen, Eric Langston, Karen Lutgens MacKenzie, Joe Moore, Diane Newell, Ann Feldman Perille, John Sauter, Tim Schmeling, Chris Eik Winick

**Staff Present:** Jennifer Gallas, Associate Director of Alumni Programs; Eric Johnson, Associate Director of Alumni Engagement

**Student Representatives:** Atithya Ghai, Senior Class President; Kejia Ran, Knox Ambassador President

1:37 Call to order - Chair Valerie Blevins

Introduction of new members: Robin Butler '85 & Tim Schmeling '11

Motion to approve the minutes - John Heyer, 2nd - Karen Lutgens, motion carries

### **New Business**

Reevaluation of the Alumni Achievement Award selection process - There was some concern that last year's winners were four white men, and that this does not reflect the diversity of the campus. Carol talked to other ACM colleges about their processes and proposed that a conference call for selection committee members be added to the process to allow the school the opportunity to give guidance.

Discussion:

- Questions were posed as to whether the past recipients were worthy (yes), and if there were nominees who should have received the award instead (no). What was the makeup of last year's class (4 women).
- Suggestion was made that the process be made blind so that reviewers don't know the gender or identity of the nominees. This would not allow them to research the individuals further and removes some amount of trust from reviewers.
- Suggestion was made to have an international committee member.
- Carol stated that she really believes a concerted outreach for diverse nominations and the added conference call will solve the problem.
- Karen Mackenzie moved to accept the changes as proposed. Scott Calhoun 2nd. Motion carries.
- Eric Langston suggests that Knox Clubs create their own nominating committees to encourage more nominations.

New business put on hold for speakers.

### **Daniella Irle, Director of Knox Athletics**

Daniella started on February 27, 2018 and laid out her 15 month strategic plan for Knox Athletics. After her first 15 months, she will work with the department to layout a longer strategic plan.

### **Break**

**Campus Sustainability Update** - Deborah Steinberg, Director of Sustainability Initiatives

Deborah laid out several aspects of sustainability. The campus is focused on food sustainability through the food recovery network chapter donating unserved food to local shelters, a zero waste commencement luncheon, and the campus farm. Waste reduction and recycling efforts include the share shop and office supply store and a bike sharing program. The college is participating in the renewable energy credit market and has added solar panels to Wilson House.

#### **End of the Year Solicitation** - Jennifer Gallas, Associate Director of Alumni Programs

In May through June Knox is launching a campaign to raise \$1 million for the Knox Fund and scholarships. Council members can help with the effort by sending two emails to friends from Knox in May and June and repost social media messages. There will be a volunteer resource page together, which will be ready on April 30.

#### **Resume New Business**

Alumni Council Sponsored Winter Break Travel for Students - This is a proposal to support students by helping them travel home for breaks in an effort to make the council more relatable and helpful to current students. We could set up a Student Hospitality fund that would allow donors to receive gift credit and Knox could award money to students.

Other ideas include opening a home to students for dinner over breaks, host international students in your home, set up an emergency fund for supplies or hospital fees.

Eric, Chris, and Karen will work on a plan focused on local initiatives . Mike will come up with a model for funds directed to the school and distributed to students.

Virtual Book Club - Opportunity to read a book together through PBC Guru, a company that hosts online book discussion. There would be 2 months to read a book. The first book is "The Originals" then the community would choose the next book. This could be for alumni, friends, parents, i.e. recipients of the *Gizmogram*.

#### **Old Business**

Senior Party - Scott reported that the party went well. He made a point to explain what the council did. There was a good turn out and engagement.

Office Hours - This year the Ambassadors were asked to assist with the coordination of the event. There were some local alumni who stepped in when a couple of members had to cancel.

Homecoming - Discussion of moving the popcorn stand from last year to the tailgating event at the football game to be near more people.

Hall of Fame and Service Awards - Winners are in the packet. These names are public, so feel free to share.

#### **Final Points**

Val thanks members for the clean up. If you are interested in donating to the tree and plaque, get \$20 to Carol after the meeting.

Joe is hosting the Knox Club summer event at his home in Chicago on July 29 at 3:00. All Council members are invited.

Motion to Adjourn from multiple members.