

**Knox College Alumni Council  
Spring 2020 Schedule**

**Thursday, May 7**

- 1:00 p.m.                      **Executive Committee Meeting**  
Google Meet
- 3:30 p.m.                      **New Member Orientation**  
Google Meet

**Friday, May 8**

Attendees: Marty Glickman, Maurice Harris, Elizabeth Presley Bazan, Amy Zoch Buscher, Ann Feldman Perille, Debra Banks, Diane Newell, Douglas Hill, John Heyer, Maya Moody, Scott Calhoun, Julie Scannell, Steve Walton, Tim Schmeling, Ned Schaub, Pamela Hernandez, Cindy Wilson, Jeffrey Gipson, Joe Moore, John Straus, Kathy Mahaffey, Mike Lawrence, Christine Eik Winick, Anjali Pattanayak, Sam Jarvis, Tom Bazan, Tom Crabtree, Mike Gilbert, Val Blevins.

Staff: Sarah Byrd, Jennifer Gallas, Eric Johnson, Laura Swanson, Megan Clayton

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
**Annual Spring Meeting**  
Web Ex - Instructions by Eric Johnson

10:00 a.m.      **Welcome and Approval of Fall Minutes**  
Marty Glickman, Chair

- Welcome new members: Pam Hernandez, Matt McVey, Julie Scannell, and Ned Schaub
- Outgoing: Dianne Newel, Amy Buscher, Jacob Plummer
- Minutes approved with a small correction to a name.

10:15 a.m.      **Discussion and Vote: Mission Statement and Bylaw Changes**  
Marty Glickman, Ad-Hoc Bylaws Committee, Sarah Byrd, All

- Change to individual award committees combined into one award committee, alumni trustee committee was dissolved.
- Mission statement was added to the bylaws
- Constitution had been separated in the past from the bylaws, it was found and has been attached back to the bylaws.
  - This cleared up the question of whether the bylaws are for the Council or the Association. The Constitution clarifies this.
- Executive committee
  - Currently the chair, vice chair, secretary, immediate past chair. Revision adds the standing committee chairs to the executive committee, in order to make sure there are more voices on the executive committee, especially for the purpose nominating new members
- Added electronic meeting rules – allows us to include international alumni representatives
- There have been some questions about Knox Clubs: details such as the size of clubs, structure, who can be members. It has been suggested that we discuss this in the fall to further explore.
- Motion by John Strauss to approve the bylaws, John Heyer second
- Motion passes

## 10:45 a.m. College Update and Q&A

President Amott, All

- This is a very challenging and perilous time for higher education. The unprecedented nature of the situation requires planning for as many scenarios as possible. The staff are working on narrowing those scenarios for the fall. The virus will set the timeframe.
  - Anticipating 10-25% declines in domestic enrollment with larger for international students.
    - International students are subject to changing immigration laws. International students are 20% of Knox enrollment currently. Students of color and 1<sup>st</sup> generation students will also be greatly affected by economic factors. Families may be more reticent to send students away from home at this time.
    - Working on flexible calendar models for the fall. Including late start, no start until winter (run through August), start with small group on campus in fall (first year or athletes), block models (Cornell and Colorado College already do this), gap years with ways to earn credit during the time.
    - Some attempts to mitigate other risks have become weaknesses now: greater number of international students as well as recruitment of students outside the midwest due to declining regional numbers.
    - Looking for ways to increase transfers too.
  - Students are generally not in a high-risk group, but we do have faculty and staff who do. Trying to strike a balance to have a safe number of students on campus which also provide financial support to the college
    - Task forces have been put together to deal with these issues – public health, Education, financial
  - Likely a two or three year challenge
- Alumni support is a key strength – most important thing that the AC can do is to pivot to rallying support from fellow alumni for the college. Make sure that people understand that our historic strengths of the institution, small class sizes/ratios, student groups, etc, are going to make the present moment difficult, but that alumni support is key to carrying the school through this period.
- Questions:
  - Financial impacts so far
    - Stock market is not the biggest threat. Room and board and enrollment are. Sending students home in the spring was a \$3 million cost. If students don't return in the fall, that will be \$9 million cost. No international students will be a further hit. Annual fund is key here. COVID-19 fund will be helpful too, but unrestricted funds may be more so.
    - Many college are looking at revenue shortfalls of 25%. Have received 2/3 of MAP allotment, but the State is facing a large shortfall too.
  - Specific actions AC can take
    - Because this problem is larger than just Knox. Higher ed is going to require more stimulus support. Advocacy for higher ed is key. (Knox has applied for all grants for which it is eligible.)
  - Feedback from students on willingness to participate in remote learning in the fall
    - Monday will launch a survey with scenarios. Waited to allow them to experience distance learning.
    - Anticipate resistance to paying full tuition for online instruction
    - Knox will be partnering in the summer with other ACA institutions
  - International students on campus
    - 150 students are still on campus, but about 50 of them are seniors and will graduate. We may retain some of the others.
  - Before the pandemic, were there any measurable increases with new majors and minors
    - Yes there were, especially with business. Hoping to launch a few more in the fall.

- There has been some talk in the past of low-residency masters programs. There was some reticence from faculty, but there may be more openness to this now.
- Alumni engagement and loyalty is going to be the driving force of success. Most pressing needs are financial and public policy advocacy (especially if you know someone). Higher ed are anchor institutions in their communities and students will be part of future solutions.

#### 11:15 a.m. **Discussion: Homecoming Convocation and Alumni Council**

Sarah Byrd, All

- Homecoming convocation is the annual meeting of alumni association. Attendance seems to be waning. What should be done with convocation? There is a business portion of the convocation that seem clunky in the midst of a ceremony.
  - Would Alumni Council be more willing to participate in the event and its planning? Please send feedback to Sarah
- Homecoming 2021 dates have not yet been set because some affiliate schools are leaving the conference and the sports schedule is not set. October 9 and November 6 would be home games. Should we make this decision now or wait until after December. Trustee board would not be able to meet on October 9 because of how early it is.
  - Send Sarah thoughts on dates and whether interaction with the Board is vital.

#### 11:30 a.m. **Annual Giving/Knox Proud Day Update and Annual Alumni Council Fund**

Sarah Byrd, All

- Consider funding an ongoing initiative as a council. Options include:
  - Annual Scholarship
  - Power of Experience Grant - \$2,000 each year study
  - Selected students could report on their experience at one of our meetings.
  - Repeating gift rather than an endowment.
  - 33 council members now.
  - How would students be selected? We could focus it on a specific experience if we wanted to.
  - Contact Sarah if you are interested in serving on an ad hoc committee for this.
- Giving day – every gift is important. We want as many people to donate on June 11.

#### 11:50 a.m. **Presentation of Knox Service Awards and Council Approval**

Tom Bazan, Awards Committee Chair

- 13 nominees. 3 were selected
  - Jun Adachi '82 – recruiting International students, supported men's soccer team for 39 years, organized 150<sup>th</sup> FIJI Pig Roast, helped raise funds for Prats Field
  - Wendy Scherwat Ducourmeau '72 – long-time class correspondent, severed as reunion chair several times, driving force behind the publication of reunion issue of *Catch*
  - Esther Wilson '99 – cofounder BAN, helped plan 2015 kick-off at homecoming, serves as president of BAN
- Motion to approve the slate of nomination, several seconds. Motion passes

#### 12:00 p.m. **Wrap-Up**

Marty Glickman, Chair

- Thank you to all who attended and to the staff for organizing.

#### **Committee Reports**

Admissions Committee - Joe Moore – Understand challenges faced due to pandemic and inability to meet face to face. Staff can't meet over the summer with perspective students. Committee members have offered to stand in for staff to meet with students as social distancing recommendations allow. Postcard writing campaign is

moving forward. 100 fewer prospective students than hoped for, but Knox is doing well compared to other schools. If you are interested in participating in the meeting you can let Jennifer or Joe know.

Campus Engagement Committee – Tim Schmelling and Sam Jarvis – Updated committee on TRIO mentor initiative that has been started. 14 students are involved. Working on ways to get alumni council members connected to students to provide a sense of normalcy and continuity for students.

Laura can share the link to senior challenge if you are interested. Have discussed how to welcome seniors into the alumni community. Seniors have been very touched by our efforts so far.

Alumni Engagement Committee – John Heyer – Discussed ways that alums can bridge the gap for seniors as they finish their year. Senior Challenge has been expanded to include non-financial participation. Discussion of how to hold Knox Proud Day, considering whether it can be held virtually. Perhaps virtually might get more participation at this point. Would like to hold the event this year to keep momentum going.