

Knox College Alumni Council Meeting

Friday, October 19, 2018

Old Main, Alumni Room

Members Present: William Baker, Elizabeth Presley Bazan, Tom Bazan, Valerie Blevins, Carol Brown, Amy Zoch Buscher, Robin Butler, Scott Calhoun, Mary Myers Fasbender, Susannah Gillan Gawor, Michael Gilbert, Martin Glickman, Maurice Harris, John Heyer, Douglas Hill, Emily Jensen, Eric Langston, Michael Lawrence, Karen Lutgens MacKenzie, Maya Moody, Joseph Moore, Diane Newell, Ann Feldman Perille, Paul Raya, John Sauter, Tim Schmeling (phone), Steven Walton, Cynthia Wilson, Christine Eik Winick

Staff Present: Jennifer Gallas, Eric Johnson

Others Present: Dea Saraqini, Knox Ambassador President

Call to Order 1:30 p.m. Chair Valerie Blevins

Introduction of members

Valerie Blevins recognized and thanked Emily Jensen, Bill Baker, Mary Fasbender, and Paul Raya for their service. Each served two three-year terms. This is their last meeting.

Motion to approve April 21, 2018 meeting minutes: Michael Gilbert, Tom Bazan 2nd, passes unanimously.

Student Presentation

Jack Dechow '19 presented on research undertaken during his summer internship at NASA as part of the Student Airborne Research Program. His project measured the response of coastal waters in the Santa Barbara Channel to the influx of debris from the Montecito Mudslide.

Old Business

Alumni Achievement Award - Carol Brown reported that the pool of nominations was larger this year, likely due to efforts to increase the diversity of nominations. Thirteen men and eleven women were nominated in the alumni category, and six men and four women were nominated in the young alumni category. A conference call meeting of the selection committee members occurred in July. This is a new addition to the selection process. Social media is being used to promote the awards program.

Student Travel/Assistance Fund - Michael Gilbert has done some work on this but is going to need help with the logistics of processing donations, tax deductibility, and dispersal of funds. He is willing to help champion the fund and fundraise. Jennifer Gallas suggested that he submit a proposal to the advancement office, which can help with the logistics.

New Business

Alumni Hosted Dinners - Carol proposed that Alumni Council members meet with a small group of students and alums from their area during winter or summer breaks, following the “Dinner with 12 Strangers” model used at other colleges and universities. John Sauter asked if the dinner could be counted as an in-kind gift to the college for tax purposes. Mary Fasbender asked how the college can help with logistics. The Alumni Office could help with providing names of local alums and students and with registration, but would likely not take a larger role as the hope is that the program would be volunteer driven.

Mock Interviews and Networking Event - Sixty students participated. This year, alumni from the Galesburg area were also invited to participate in addition to Alumni Council members. Both events went really well. Feedback from Alumni Council members was that students seemed very well prepared for the event.

Monica Corsaro, Director of Student Life

Presented on history of Knox’s founders, the cultural programming in her area, such as bringing the Interfaith Amigos speakers to campus, and interfaith dinners that provide opportunities for students to learn about the customs and traditions of different religions. She spoke also of the renovation of the new spiritual life building.

Kai Campbell, Provost and Dean of the College

Presented on the changing landscape of higher education today, the challenges facing colleges like Knox, and the opportunities that change can bring.

Valerie Blevins called for a show of hands of Council Members who would be interested in hosting student/alumni dinners.

Motion to Adjourn: Tom Bazan, Maurice Harris 2nd, passes unanimously.

Submitted by Elizabeth Bazan '05, Alumni Council Secretary