

**University of New Haven
Alumni Board of Directors
January 27, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

Present: Marie Accrino, Karen Alward, Carl Babb, Johnny Corey, Joe Danao (polycom), Wilkingson Germain (polycom), Jeannine Luisi, Joe Nemorin (polycom), Rich Perusi, Tim Rohach (polycom), Debbie Serpillips, Larry Spellacy, Richard Toce, Jason Vasilakos

Guest: Kristina Bensley, Steve Dunnigan

Staff: Heather Alpaugh, Paula Mortali, Tim Stanton

I. Dinner

II. Meeting Called to Order at 6 p.m.

R. Toce called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending. R. Toce introduced Kristina Bensley, the Undergraduate Student Government Association Executive Assistant. K. Bensley discussed USGA and how the organization is run. There are several committees dedicated to student services. USGA recently sent a newsletter to Alumni. USGA website is www.chargervoice.com.

III. Review of November 11 Meeting Minutes

R. Toce asked the group to review the meeting minutes from the November 11 meeting and highlighted the key topics that were discussed: Alumni Board Thank-a-thon, Alumni Relations Task Force, Committee Reports, Filling the position of Larry Grab who recently resigned due to time constraints. T. Stanton said per the discussion at the November 11 meeting, the position will be offered to Parker Gallo, a recent graduate.

IV. Scholarship Ball Update

T. Stanton talked about the four alumni who have been selected by the nominating committee for the Distinguished Alumni award given out at the Scholarship Ball. All of the selected candidates have been tremendously involved with the University and the community. Three of the nominees have accepted and confirmed their attendance. The Alumni Office is currently waiting confirmation about the fourth. T. Stanton also discussed the resurrected President's Award. This award had been given out to a non-alum who's shown dedication to the University. This award has not been given out in at least eight years.

P. Mortali spoke to the Board about the silent and online Auctions to raise money for the Scholarship Ball. Club memberships, baskets of products, gift certificates, overnight trips, and theater tickets are just some of the items that we hope to obtain. P. Mortali asked the Board for their assistance in obtaining some of these donations. P. Mortali spoke about the Online Auction which takes place prior to the Scholarship Ball, from February 23 to March 23. There are currently 20 items posted. P. Mortali to send the Alumni Board a link to the online auction. Approximately \$4,200 was raised from the online auction alone last year. A total of \$35,000 was raised from the online, silent and live auctions. M. Accrino spoke about the importance of "thinking outside the box" for different auction items. T. Stanton reiterated that all monies raised goes towards Scholarships for students, stating a concern being to keep the current students in school. T. Stanton also mentioned that it's possible to have difficulty to sell tickets and sponsorships as well as obtain auction items.

Auction forms are included in Board Meeting materials.

V. License Plate Campaign

T. Stanton spoke about the on-going License Plate campaign. 400 completed applications are needed to submit to the DMV. The Alumni Office currently has approximately 345 applications. The first 400 applications are free because of the generosity of Board of Governors Vice Chair, Phil Bartels. Louis Eswood, USGA president, is currently helping recruit applications from students.

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VI. Review of Committee Reports:

Golden Chargers Affinity Committee – See committee report.

L. Spellacy spoke about the Golden Charger Luncheon held in June during Alumni Weekend. This is a luncheon to induct the new members who graduated 50 years ago or who have turned 70 years old. The Golden Chargers also lead the procession during May Commencement. The Alumni Office contacts new members via letter. The CT residents are contacted to come to the luncheon.

Budget and Finance Committee

R. Perusi discussed the Alumni budget and reported out on any items that were \$10,000 or more. Catering costs include cocktails and networking events, the Miami Dolphins reception and Alumni Weekend. Printing and publication costs include event programs and invitations. Promotional items include give a ways for the year. Speakers and Entertainers include Alumni Weekend entertainment and fireworks. R. Perusi asked the Board committee chairs to send an email to the alumni office if they are planning an event. Chairs should also include a rough budget and the charge for the event.

Student and Young Alumni Affinity Committee – See committee report.

J. Vasilakos spoke about the progress of the Lounge. The committee's next meeting will be with the critics of the project. Louis Eswood sent a survey to the students about the lounge. The committee is awaiting the results of that survey. J. Vasilakos mentioned one of the ideas may be to combine the two rooms (ball room and bar room) into one. J. Vasilakos also talked about having an event in NYC as well as having a USGA representative present at meetings. J. Vasilakos advised the Board that the Lounge would be deemed a "programming center" and that it would essentially make enough money to run itself.

Fire Science Affinity Committee – See committee report.

K. Alward spoke briefly about the article she submitted for The Fire Box, a student newsletter sent to Fire Science alumni, faculty, staff and students. The article solicited alumni involvement. K. Alward discussed the coordination with the Admissions Office to attend two Conventions to help with student recruitment for the Fire Science program.

Black and Latino Affirmation Affinity Committee

J. Nemorin spoke briefly about some of the plans for the committee including having an event at Homecoming, the Players Ball and an event at Toad's Place in New Haven.

E.M.B.A. Alumni Committee – See committee report.

J. Corey briefed the Board on the committee's plans to send an email to all E.M.B.A. alumni. In the email the alumni are asked to complete a survey on what types of events they'd be interested in attending. J. Corey said that the committee members are looking to attend the current E.M.B.A. classes to get them involved before they graduate.

Executive Committee Report – See committee minutes.

R. Toce highlighted the key topics of the Executive Committee meeting: budget, nominations, member expectations, Scholarship Ball and a USGA representative.

VII. Events

J. Danao spoke briefly about the success of the Miami Dolphins Trip. He mentioned that he is still in contact with several alumni he met on the trip.

H. Alpaugh spoke about the upcoming Greek Alumni Bowling Tournament and Stamford Cocktails and Networking. She encouraged all Board members in the Stamford area to attend.

T. Stanton spoke about the Georgia Alumni Reception. Board of Governors member Ray Margiano and President Kaplan will be hosting this event in Atlanta at the Georgian Club. We currently have approximately 300 alumni in Georgia.

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VIII. New Business

R. Toce told the Board that now is the time to start thinking about new Board member nominations. There are certain expectations that we should have of new members. Some of these are outlined on the Board Member nomination form included in the Board Meeting materials. H. Alpaugh explained the process of nominations and asked that all documentation to be submitted by the next Board meeting, March 10.

R. Toce talked about having a USGA representative be permanent solution to bridge the gap between current students and alumni. Discussion ensued whether the student should be a junior or a senior. The final consensus was to have both a junior and senior attend if possible.

T. Stanton spoke about the success of the past semester with regard to alumni giving. Cash and pledges have increased over last year.

S. Dunnigan offered a suggestion for an event: Alumni Relations to team up with Career Services and Office of Academic Services to alumni who are struggling with the current job market. Event could offer networking opportunities as well as workshops/seminars.

IX. Meeting Adjourned