

University of New Haven
Alumni Board of Directors
January 19, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Present:

Rick Toce, Karen Facey (phone), Joe Danao, Debbie Serphillips, Carl Babb, Monique Beson, Larry Spellacy, Jay Krishnamoorthy, Jeannine Luisi, Andrew Dinkel, Jason Vasilakos, Kristina Bensley, Chris Rinck, Tristan Fields (phone), Louis Eswood (phone), Rich Perusi (phone)

Guests: Jason Bernstein, Dan Vanacore (phone)

Staff: Tim Stanton, Heather Alpaugh

I. Dinner and Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by Rick Toce at 6:05 p.m.

II. Review and Approval of October 20, 2009 Meeting Minutes:

R. Toce reviewed the minutes from the last board meeting on November 17, 2009.

III. Executive Committee Report:

R. Toce reviewed Executive Committee Meeting minutes from January 13, 2010.

IV. Alumni Board Self-Assessment Questionnaire:

R. Toce discussed the importance of evaluating the Executive Committee, Standing Committees, and the Board as a whole. Recently, the Board of Governors has elected to perform a self-evaluation and the Alumni Board should follow suit so that the Board can improve on its strengths and weaknesses. R. Toce will email the link to the questionnaire to the Board on Wednesday, January 20. R. Toce asked that everyone complete it by January 31. Results will be presented at the February Board meeting.

V. Standing Committee Reports

a. Nominations and Governance

J. Danao reported that there are currently three member vacancies: one expires on June 30, 2010 and two expire on June 30, 2011. Since one expires on June 30 of this year, there is no reason to attempt to fill it. J. Danao stated that there are currently two Board first-year terms that are set to be renewed for a second term at the Annual meeting and there are three Board terms that will be expiring in 2011. There will be 10 first term expirations that will be up for renewal terms in 2011. J. Danao noted that a process for filling vacancies hasn't been established and that nominations should be posted on the Alumni website to open it up to the whole Association. J. Danao stated that it is important for nominated members to attend meetings, join committees and attend events. J. Danao plans to submit a slate for proposed members at the February meeting. A. Dinkel suggested reaching out to graduates of different degree programs. The Board seems heavy with criminal justice, fire science and E.M.B.A. graduates. J. Danao responded that the Board is responsible for the diversity of Board members and can help promote the Alumni Board through attending alumni and University events.

b. Budget and Finance

R. Perusi stated that a full report will be given at the February Board meeting.

c. Advancement and Development Committee

No Report.

d. Distinguished Alumni Nominating Committee

No Report.

e. E.M.B.A. Alumni Affinity Committee

No Report.

f. Student and Young Alumni Affinity Committee

A. Dinkel reported that the committee is brainstorming ideas for the spring and that the Admissions Office is working on Alumni Profiles that are distributed to prospective and incoming students. If you are interested in helping the Student Profile project, contact Tom Sapienza in the Admissions Office.

A. Dinkel stated that the lounge project has stalled. J. Vasilakos stated that he would like to have his company donate time and energy to the project and his calls/emails have not been returned by University administrators. A. Dinkel said that they would like a response, even if the answer is no. T. Stanton relayed to the Board that Tom Beebe, Vice President for Facilities, has voiced a concern about putting money into a building that is older and not to code. T. Stanton offered to reach out to T. Beebe for immediate clarification. C. Rinck mentioned concerns from the Student Life Committee that less than 20% of students are “of age.” A. Dinkel advised that the lounge was developed with the concept that it would be open to students of all ages. C. Babb informed the Board that students he spoke to at Homecoming were receptive to the idea of coming back to campus as Alumni.

g. Golden Chargers

L. Spellacy reported that there are two events for the Golden Chargers: May Commencement and the Induction to the Golden Chargers Ceremony/Honorary Degree Celebration held in June. The Golden Charger committee will attempt to contact all Golden Chargers to come back to campus for the two events. L. Spellacy stated that Golden Charger events dovetail with giving to the university in the form of estate planning. C. Rinck suggested having students at the luncheon to speak with the Golden Chargers. T. Stanton explained that in addition to inviting those who graduated from the class of 1960, the plan is to also re-invite those who couldn't attend the luncheon last year. H. Alpaugh stated that a number of honorary degree diplomas were mailed to alumni who requested them because they couldn't attend the luncheon.

h. Veterans Affinity Committee

J. Danao reported that UNH participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program and that the University has many local resources for Veterans. He stated the importance of recognizing those veterans who are associated with the University. J. Danao has been working with Jill Stone, Director of Adult, Graduate, and Veterans Student Services, to build the veterans program at the University. Currently a student veterans group is in the works, as well as other goals of the University's Committee: (1) brief deans and administrators about the program, (2) make ROTC more visible on campus, (3) establish communications-brochure and website, (4) train and educate faculty members, (5) establish liaisons in each college, (6) open a veterans lounge, (7) get student group recognized by USGA, and (8) increase number of enrolled veterans.

i. Black and Latino Affirmation Affinity Committee

T. Fields reported that Minority Alumni Weekend will be held April 23-25, 2010. Plans are in the works.

j. Fire Science Affinity Committee

K. Facey reported that the committee is working on another FiReconnect article for the Fire Science newsletter, as well as a panel discussion in March. The committee is also working with

the Admissions office to participate at two Fire Science Expos.

k. Athletics Affinity Committee

D. Serphillips reported that the Women's Basketball team will be having an alumni game on Saturday, January 30. C. Babb reported that in the fall, UNH will be working with Lincoln University to showcase Lincoln's marching band at our home football game. Lincoln is a premier historically black University and the NAACP may have an interest in participating as well.

l. Black and Latino Affirmation Affinity Committee

T. Fields reported there will be a Minority Alumni Weekend held in April. Alumni are invited back to attend.

VI. Scholarship Ball Updates

H. Alpaugh distributed Scholarship Ball packets. T. Stanton reported that tickets to the Scholarship Ball are \$175 per person, of which \$50 is a gift to the University and would satisfy a participation gift. As it has been the last two years, the Ball will be held in the Recreation Center on April 17. The executive committee thought it best that each Board member attempt to get one auction item. H. Alpaugh reminded the Board that Sponsorships are available from \$1,000 and up. R. Toce gave H. Alpaugh a check from Pratt & Whitney for a Gold Sponsorship.

Jeannine Luisi spoke in favor of voting Tristan Fields onto the board. They served on USGA together. Rick Toce also recommended Tristan to join. Motion made to add Tristan to the board. M/S/C.

VII. New Business

R. Toce reported that Mary Russell has chosen to resign from her position on the Board. Her second-term was set to expire on June 30 of this year. R. Toce recognized Mary for her hard work and dedication to the Board.

R. Toce also noted that James Hilaire, the critically injured soccer goalie, graduated at the January Commencement. There were a total of 366 graduates this past January.

C. Rinck reported out on USGA updates. USGA meetings are held weekly on Tuesdays at 1:45 p.m. C. Rinck thanked the Alumni Board for their participation in the donation of non-perishable food items to WHEAT. The USGA will be having a retreat in Boston the weekend of January 22. They will be holding a food and toiletries drive. K. Bensley is the Chair of the newly formed Alumni Relations Committee for USGA. Currently, a new housing policy has been implemented for the fall where freshman would get first pick for residence halls, then sophomores, followed by juniors then seniors. There will be two forums held within the next week for questions.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.