



# Truman State University Alumni Board

Board Meeting Minutes for Saturday, April 10, 2010

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At 10:48 a.m., President Jessica Hill called the meeting to order.

Present: Jessica Hill, Mike Wilson, Vid Vidyasagara, Kent Donaldson, Sandy Reavey, Eric Olsen, Sue Alexander, John Mathis, Tanner Williams, Sharon Husmann, Sarah Theriault, Von Abbott, Jim Cherrington, Denise Smith. Guests: Stacy Tucker-Potter, Deanna Rood and Teresa Bradley.

John Gadbois has moved to France and will be vacating his position. Janys Zimmerman was not able to attend but will be at the October meeting.

Ellen McLain motioned the minutes be accepted as presented. Tanner Williams seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

## Officer Reports:

♦ President Hill expressed appreciation of Dr. Paino's visit with the group yesterday during the Retreat and thanked Jim for his participation in the presidential search process. Jessica will now be representing the Board on the Installation Committee and has a meeting with the group on Wednesday. The installation will be on Friday, September 17, 2010. For the fiscal year 2010, which wrapped up in July, the Board had 100 percent giving. In fiscal year, 2011, so far 70 percent of the Board has made a gift. The fiscal year runs until June 30. If you have made a multi-year pledge toward the campaign, each year in your pledge counts toward your annual giving. At this point 55 percent of the Board has made a campaign commitment. In order to be counted toward the campaign, you should complete a campaign pledge form. If you have questions, please contact Denise Smith.

Strategic Plan – In October 2011, the Board will be revising the Strategic Plan to be adopted in 2012.

♦ No Vice President's report.

At 11 a.m., the group adjourned to meet in the joint Foundation Board/Alumni Board meeting.

♦ Secretary Denise Smith presented updates from the University.

## Chapter Reports:

♦ The Mid-Missouri Chapter activities were covered yesterday at the Retreat.

♦ John Mathis shared that the Dallas Chapter has a new president.

♦ The NEMO Chapter hosted a basketball game reception in February. In April, Jim, Denise and Von will be attending a reception for Dr. Paino in Hannibal. David Nichols would like to get more alumni involved in the Hannibal area. The chapter did a wine tasting in Macon's West Winery which drew several new people. They were hoping for more people from the Macon area but did get people who had never attended before. Von shared the upcoming activities for the chapter through the end of the year.

♦ The Colorado Chapter is seeking new officers and new members. They are close to halfway to their membership goal and hoping the campaign event will help get people involved.

♦ The Iowa Chapter has had several events so far this year with good success, including the campaign kickoff. The Ronza night is tomorrow. They have included three events that are outside the Des Moines area.

♦ The Chicago Chapter has had consistent events with consistent participation. Facebook has helped keep the younger alumni plugged in. There were more than 20 people at the Wolves game, which is great attendance. They are doing their first Ronza event next month, and the chapter is sending out e-mail communications to promote the event. The kickoff event is in May, and the student send-off is in July. The chapter would like to plan a leadership recruitment event for the fall.

♦ The Arizona Chapter's campaign kickoff event was in January. They have also done a hike at Camelback Mountain and a spring training game. They have a quiz night and art walks planned as well as their Ronza night. Participation in the Ronza night has waned to the point that they are able to have it in an individual's home. Mike Whitney's dad brought Ronzas in the last time to avoid shipping.

♦ The St. Louis Chapter – Stacey introduced Jeannette Harris who has been involved with the golf tournament. In the spring, they have some new activities such as a family picnic. They are continuing with a tradition of a Cardinals game and the send-off. They are doing monthly happy hours as well as a River City Rascals game in conjunction with a happy hour. They had a planning meeting and two main themes were discussed: 1) Some members suggested doing away with the \$20 membership fee, and 2) Since being an alumnus/na in St. Louis is more casual because alumni run into other alumni frequently, they would like to focus on making a chapter member something of distinction. Jeannette presented information about the scholarship golf scramble on September 11.

♦ The Mid-Atlantic Chapter will be having a networking event on April 14, and they held a campaign event, which resulted in \$42,000 in cash and pledges.

♦ The Kansas City Chapter also had a planning meeting and as a group wanted to be prepared for the campaign and instituted happy hours every month. The first one was the most successful – there were 20 people plus the officers. There have been new faces at each event. The fourth one will be on the 14<sup>th</sup> and will be more centrally located. They are having backyard games and a barbecue on May 1. The networking event, which they thought would be heavily attended by younger alumni, has had a mix of attendance. They will do their golf tournament, Cardinals/Cubs game and the student send-off. Elizabeth is the youngest member of the Board. She suggested the idea of starting Spirit Days where you wear Truman apparel. The response has been good. Denise suggested a national spirit day in conjunction with something significant like Founders Day.

### **Membership report:**

In overall combined chapter membership numbers, there is an increase of 100 members compared to last year at the same time; overall, memberships are on pace to meet this year's goal.

### **Committee Reports:**

♦ Executive Committee

The Board does not, at this time, have an official attendance policy. The Executive Committee is interested in feedback and direction if the Board should adopt a policy. The travel reimbursement form is posted on the Alumni Board Website. The Executive Committee will review disbursement amounts. They are not able to increase the amounts, but received input that the formula was not proportional and redistribution might be in order.

#### ♦ Chapter Development

Chapter Honor Points: At the last meeting, it was noted that many chapters are attaining gold status, and the group asked for another tier. They suggested a platinum level and recommended changes to the document. Mike suggested that we take this back to our chapters for review. Chapter Development is also moving forward on monthly meetings for the Alumni Leadership Conference and will be looking at the *Resource Book*.

#### ♦ Nominating Committee

There is one at-large position open, vacated by John Gadbois. The Committee submitted their recommended nominee, Keith Epperson who lives in Minneapolis and graduated in 1982. He has a son who is attending Truman. Kent Donaldson shared that Keith used to live in Des Moines and was instrumental in starting the Iowa Alumni Chapter. Keith has always maintained a tie to the University. He served one term on the Board previously but was transferred and resigned from the Board. Jessica and Denise have spoken to him extensively and believe he would be a great addition. The Committee moved that his nomination be accepted. Motion passed unanimously.

The Committee also submitted the slate of members for the upcoming year. The slate passed unanimously. In the past, when the Nominating Committee submitted an interim appointment to complete an unfinished term, there was not a clear process to assign the new member's term of office. The Committee proposed that if the nominee's first meeting is April, the interim term would be six months and the first official term would begin the following year. If the nominee's first meeting is Homecoming, the first official term will begin at the beginning of the upcoming year. The motion passed unanimously.

#### ♦ Programs and Awards

The Board had previously discussed having a cruise in 2011 and an Ireland trip in 2012. The Program and Awards Committee proposed an eight-day Alaskan cruise in 2011 with an optional land trip with flexibility between May and August to provide an opportunity to find the best rate, and an eight-day Ireland trip in 2012. The motion passed unanimously. The Programs and Awards Committee is also working on Legislative Advocacy. They have discussed ways to get people involved. They are looking at creating an education piece showing the decline in state appropriations and the way the burden of funding academics has been shifted toward the students in the form of tuition increases. They are hoping to get people involved and also making events more purposeful. They would also like to use the information on who has participated in the online petition to follow up for Chapter involvement. They would like to have something at Homecoming along the lines of TruActivists or TruAdvocates and have a button for them at Homecoming. Stacey Sifton volunteered to get Tanner in contact with the Grass Roots person at Edward Jones to assist in setting this up. Student Senate has a day at the capitol and Mid-Missouri Chapter hosts a legislative reception. In addition to advocacy concerning appropriations, the Committee suggests arming ourselves about the potential combination of the DESE and the Commissioning Board for Higher Education. Mike Wilson suggested that we throw our support behind the University governance. We as a Board also need to be helping educate people we know about what is going on. Jessica suggested the Program and Awards committee send a letter to Ralph Cupelli.

◆ Student Relations

In the packet, there is a model for a student send-off. Admissions requested that we have a model. If we outline our expectations every year, it will make it easier for new Admissions staff attending a send-off. Jessica suggested making a timeline with expectations of what is expected when. She also suggested taking it back to the chapters for their feedback. Sarah suggested a “script” for the alumni volunteers to ensure the message is consistent with what the students and families hear when they are on campus. Denise and Stacy will send a recommended script to all chapters and clubs.

◆ Campaign Update and Follow-Up

There is a pledge form in your book. If you have not completed one, please consider doing so. There is also a chapter membership form. If you are an at-large member, you may join the chapter of your choice.

**New Business:**

Sue Alexander moved that we forgo our participation in the tailgate at Homecoming and suggested a residence hall cafeteria be open during that time. She also suggested that the reunion luncheons be a cluster of the honored year, the year after and the year before. Von seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Our next meeting is October 15, 2010. President Hill thanked the group for their participation and feedback and the great work over the course of the weekend. Eric moved we adjourn. Von seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Denise Smith, Secretary

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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(President)

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(Secretary)