

# Truman State University Alumni Board

Meeting Minutes for Friday, October 9, 2009



Board President Jessica Hill welcomed everyone and requested each attendee introduce themselves.

Attending Board members included Von Abbott, Sue Alexander, Jim Cherrington, Erin Church, Kent Donaldson, Jessica Hill, Ellen McLain, Dave Peppard, Denise Smith, Mike Wilson and Janys Zimmerman.

Guests attending the morning session included Crystal Baldwin from Des Moines; Carrie Kleinsorge from Springfield, Mo.; Mohamed Elahi from Chicago; Michele Hoyne from Iowa; Janis Keough from Kirksville; Deanna Rood from Truman; Jim and Pat Severns from Chicago; Jane Watkins from Iowa; and Mike Whitney from Arizona.

Jessica requested Board members review the minutes from the previous meeting. A motion was made by Dave Peppard to approve the minutes. Ellen McLain seconded and the motion carried.

## **President's Report, Jessica Hill**

Jessica then reviewed the status report from the Alumni Board Retreat in June. She reminded committee members and committee leaders to give thought to what they could do to fulfill the priorities listed and utilize the information to guide activities for next year.

## **Vice President's Report, Mike Wilson**

Mike reminded the Board we added a nonvoting position of past president last spring to stay on an additional year or two. Mike also discussed Board leadership positions relating to timing. At what point can a member begin a leadership role? In previous years, the vice president moved into the president's position. After review of the executive committee and legal counsel, we feel we should not change the bylaws. We want everyone on the Board to have the opportunity to serve as a leader and an individual could serve as president without being vice president first or not continue as president after serving as vice president.

Mike announced the Alumni Board giving for FY2009 was 100%. The Board is very proud of maintaining 100% donors and hopes to continue to do so each year. We are the only Board of the three to reach that distinction. Mike thanked everyone for their generosity.

## **Secretary's Report, Denise Smith**

Denise welcomed everyone to campus. In the back of the packets is information on campus activities and Homecoming schedules. Please review the calendar of events and note that the

banquet tonight starts with the meal in the Georgian Room and then moves to Ophelia Parrish for the program, followed by a dessert reception in the Art Gallery.

### **Chapter Reports:**

A representative of each chapter made mention of the year's events and what remained on the calendar for 2009.

(1:30 p.m., meeting resumed)

### **Jim Cherrington**

As a member of the Presidential Search Committee, Cherrington reported applications being accepted and reviewed on Oct. 31, 2009. The Committee hopes to interview candidates in January.

President Jessica Hill thanked Cherrington for serving on the Presidential Search Committee and noted the huge time commitment he has made to the University and the Alumni Board of Directors by serving on this Committee and attending the Board of Governors meetings.

### **Chapter Development:**

Stacey Sifton thanked everyone for attending the Alumni Leadership Conference and Campaign Training Sessions held in the morning. The Chapter Development Committee will be reviewing the Chapter Honor System and the *Alumni Resource Book*. If you have suggestions or updates, let the Chapter Development Committee know.

A variety of individuals attended the Alumni Board morning sessions; one event topic that was mentioned repeatedly was a leadership involvement event. The Mid-Missouri Alumni Chapter is hosting such an event next week and will provide feedback to the rest of the chapters on their event.

### **Nominating:**

Jessica announced the nomination of Tanner Williams to fill the at-large position vacated by Gus Simmons. Tanner applied after seeing the position posted on Linked In. Tanner is originally from Green City, Mo., the same town where Gus Simmons grew up. He was very active as a Truman student and now resides in Houston, Texas.

Motion to move to accept nomination: Stacey Sifton moved to accept the nomination of Tanner Williams to fill an at-large position; Erin Church seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Board will continue to search and recruit another at-large Board member and an Arizona Alumni Chapter representative. Ideally, the individual will fill the demographics that are closest, being a graduate of the '60s or early '70s, but the most important considerations are a

willingness to participate and actively fill the open positions.

### **Programs and Awards:**

During the morning session, the Board awarded Honor Chapter certificates. Nine of the ten chapters earned Honor Chapter Status. The Outstanding Chapter Award went to the Northeast Missouri Alumni Chapter. The runner-up was the Iowa Alumni Chapter.

#### **Travel Program:**

Denise Smith presented information on an Alaskan Cruise, per the Board's request.

Denise recommended making a selection of a trip for next fall immediately to allow more time to promote the trip. At the Retreat the Board also discussed a cruise and a trip to Ireland with GoNext. The Ireland trip has been tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2011.

Originally, the 2009 travel program was to be a train trip through the Rockies and the Southwest but the price skyrocketed and the date would have been immediately after Homecoming and the Campaign Public Announcement. The President originally wanted to travel as the host but felt the timing and the price was not feasible. A weekend Branson trip was substituted instead.

Originally, 17 signed up to go but several cancelled and the charter bus had to be cancelled.

Then others cancelled and now two couples are going and driving themselves. Discussion of an Alaskan cruise ensued, and the Board recommended contacting some other alumni that had recently traveled there. Janis Keogh's daughter could also provide some information since she was an employee of Celebrity Cruises. Stacey Sifton made a motion of recommendation of offering the Ireland trip in 2011 and an Alaskan cruise in the fall of 2010. Sue Alexander seconded the motion; motion carried.

#### **Homecoming Parade:**

The Board and chapter officers will meet at 8-8:15 a.m. in the parking lot across from Grim Smith. They will walk in the parade and pass out candy. Dress warm and wear comfortable shoes! Jim Bergman will drive his pickup in the parade.

### **Student Relations:**

Chairperson Von Abbott had to step out of the meeting and Ellen McLain gave the committee report. The committee has received feedback concerning transfer students from community colleges in regards to their GPAs and ability to transfer into Truman. The committee discussed recognition of alumni at summer events, such as recognizing career and community accomplishments. Chairperson Abbott met with Admissions to discuss ways the Board and alumni can provide support to Truman students and recruitment. Admissions recommended the chapters have more consistency at the student/freshmen send-off events. If each chapter followed a similar program and could provide detailed expectations of staff attending the event, it would simplify details for all included. They are also contacting the individual chapters and asking for assistance in staffing college fairs and have had success in partnering with the

chapters and gaining volunteers. Discussion followed and some chapters did not receive information on college fairs. Denise provided Admissions with a contact list and will follow up with them.

Alumni Directory: Denise Smith announced the in-house directory was rolled out and offered to new May grads. IT is monitoring and working out the bugs. Eventually, it will be expanded to more class years.

### **“Bright Minds Bright Futures” Campaign:**

A joint Board session was held with the Foundation Board to review campaign information and receive a campaign update from Mark Gambaiana, vice president for University Advancement. (Please reference campaign handouts for a schedule of planned campaign events and tonight’s kickoff event.)

### **Alumni Board Retreat:**

The Board discussed the 2010 Alumni Board Retreat and scheduling options.

- 1) Have a joint retreat with the Foundation Board? Denise noted the Foundation Board may not have a Retreat in 2010 due to all of the campaign events.
- 2) Host a Summer Retreat in Kirksville?
- 3) Host the Retreat in April along with the Alumni Board meeting and extend the meeting to all day Friday and Saturday? Columbia and Branson now have daily flight options.
- 4) Host a Retreat in another location? Options might include Denver, Branson or Columbia, Mo.
- 5) Sue Alexander reported on some options in Denver since most major airlines fly in and out of Denver from most cities.

The decision about the Retreat could hinge on budgets; decisions should be made by the State in February or March. Should we host retreats every other year? Almost all in attendance are involved in the campaign and the many activities related to it. The general consensus of the Board was to continue the Retreat due to the value, teambuilding and training offered as long as it was fiscally possible. Denise will meet with Vice President Gambaiana to further discuss planning and budgeting. She will also investigate locations and costs related to hosting the retreat in Kirksville. Options include meeting at a Bed and Breakfast, on campus, at a hotel or utilizing student dorms. The Executive Committee will continue to discuss and check into options.

There was further discussion of hosting a Retreat amid budget cuts and the need to be fiscally responsible. Von Abbott moved that the Board forgo this year’s retreat due to budgets and campaign events and instead add a day to the April 10, 2010, Board meeting. Dave Peppard seconded, and the motion carried.

Jessica Hill thanked everyone for their time and efforts and encouraged everyone to enjoy all of the Homecoming activities and to travel safe as they return home.

Denise reviewed the weekend's Homecoming activities and reminded everyone to pick up their tickets for events at the Alumni Center. The date for the next meeting is April 9-10, 2010. Homecoming 2010 is October 15-17.

Kent Donaldson moved the Board adjourn. Sue Alexander seconded and the motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Denise Smith, Secretary

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
(President)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Secretary)

From the Executive Committee:

The date of the April Board meeting time and Board Retreat are combined this year into one weekend, April 9-10, 2010. The tentative schedule is to start at with the Retreat at noon on Friday, April 9, during a working lunch and continuing until 5 p.m. There will be a joint Board BBQ (weather permitting) at the Lake. On Saturday, April 10, the Retreat will continue with breakfast and sessions at 8 a.m.-noon. There will be a joint Board lunch at noon. The Alumni Board will meet at 1 p.m. with a break at 2:30-3:30 p.m. for a joint campaign session. The Alumni Board will resume and complete the meeting by 4 p.m. The Foundation Banquet Reception starts at 5:30 p.m., and the Banquet begins at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person and RSVPs for the Foundation Banquet are due by April 7, 2010. RSVPs for the Retreat, meetings and hotel reservations are due by March 27, 2010.