

**Truman State University**  
**Alumni Association Board of Directors**  
**April 12, 2014, Meeting • Official Minutes**



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The Truman State University Alumni Board of Directors met Saturday, April 12, 2014, on the University campus in Kirksville, Mo. The meeting was called to order shortly after 1 p.m. by Alumni Board President Ellen McLain.

The Alumni Board members attending the meeting were, Donna Bailey, Don Bindner, Keith Epperson, Sharon Husmann, Ashley Kuykendall, John Mathis, Ellen McLain, Ann Patterson, Geraldine Ready, Denise Smith, Justis Tuia, Jason Turk, Vid Vidyasagara, and Mike Wilson. Also attending and representing Chicago was Tom Peterson. Board representative nominees, Natalie Gerhart, Hope Harms, and Jean Kaul, were also in attendance. Caitlin Kern, Stacy Tucker-Potter, Rachel Stirling, and Callie Templeton were in attendance representing the Alumni Relations Office. President Ellen McLain welcomed everyone and introductions were made. The agenda and minutes were both approved at 1:20 p.m.

**Chapter Reports:**

**Arizona:**

Vid Vidyasagara gave the Arizona Chapter report. They were at 80 percent of membership at the time of the meeting and are very confident in making their goal. They have a full slate on the Executive Board. They started the year with "Pursue the Gold" where Mike Wilson ran the Rock 'n Roll marathon. Larry Whitney brought in Ronzas from Kirksville for the dinner which followed the marathon event. Vid said the banquet in February was a success and the Chapter used it as a way to campaign for the scholarship. Vid discussed issues of having to cover the whole state (versus a region) and traveling to see other alumni. They are going to Tucson at the end of the month to see the Kartchner Caverns, but are making the trip there the event in case Tucson alumni do not attend. They hope to make it to Flagstaff to see other alumni in that area as well. Vid explained their "flash events" that are only posted on Facebook. People come thinking that it's just a social, but they end up talking business about the chapter. It's a good way to get new people involved when they otherwise wouldn't be. They are trying to host one event a month and discussed future events. They hope to have more succession planning as this is Vid's last year.

**Chicago Chapter:**

Mike Wilson gave the Chicago Chapter report as Sarah Theriault was unable to join the meeting. Tom Peterson joined the Board in the treasurer position. He was able to join us for part of Friday and Saturday morning as his daughter was touring Truman on a college visit. Baillie stepped into the event chair position, and Lori Smerz is now secretary. Sarah is in her last year as president and hopes to have more succession planning before she steps down. They've had a few events and are on track to meeting their membership goal. They kicked off the year with Trivia Night, had a service event at the Lakeside Food Pantry and a happy hour event in conjunction with National Spirit Day. Next on the calendar is an event with Mizzou.

#### Colorado Chapter:

Denise Smith gave the Colorado Chapter report. The Colorado Alumni Chapter has a whole new leadership team in place. Denise and Brad Chambers helped host a visit in Denver this past winter that included a happy hour and breakfast. The breakfast was cancelled due to the weather. The Chapter has a new president, Thomas Riggle. Their first event is May 5 and they are hosting a barbecue. Denise said they are on track to completing their membership goal although the letters were sent out late.

#### Dallas Chapter:

John Mathis gave the Dallas Alumni Chapter report. The chapter is very excited to welcome a whole new slate of officers. He said they have a board of aggressive young women who are striving for more chapter development. The Dallas Chapter has their annual banquet planned for April 26<sup>th</sup> featuring guest speaker, Coach Gregg Nesbitt. They hope for more improvements this year. He ended by introducing Natalie Gerhart who is the new Alumni Board Representative.

#### Iowa Chapter:

Jean Kaul talked about the Iowa Chapter. They have an event set each month. They are hosting a second trivia night to try and reach younger alumni since the events don't take much planning. The event at Chocolaterie Stam went well and there were some current students in attendance including the Iowa Chapter scholarship winner. Jean reported more than 30 RSVPs for the Ronza event. She discussed future events for the year including their big event, "Battle of the Bulldogs." On September 6, they are planning a tailgate for the football game against Drake University. Jean mentioned their events are very Des Moines centric, and like Arizona, they have tried traveling to other parts of the state without much luck. They have some new young leadership on the board, but graduates from Iowa are decreasing in numbers.

#### Kansas City Chapter:

Mike Wilson gave the Kansas City Chapter report. He reported the Accepted Student event on March 1 was a "smashing success." They have a duel event coming up called "Choose Your Brew." The first part of the event is at the Martin City Brewing Company which is co-owned by an alumnus. The second is a Caffeine Crawl on June 1. They plan on doing their standard events such as the Student Send-Off, Royals game and golf tournament. They have several younger alumni wanting to get involved, including their new Alumni Board Representative, Hope Harms.

#### Mid-Atlantic Alumni Chapter:

Justis Tuia gave the Mid-Atlantic Chapter report. The ice-skating event did not draw out as many new people as the chapter had hoped. The Cherry Blossom Festival Fireworks was unfortunately cancelled. There were not enough RSVPs. In May, they are celebrating Harry Truman's birthday and Truman's Reading Day tradition with a social hour. They have plans to visit the zoo this summer, have another Ronza night, and to continue working with their internship program. The chapter was able to reach their endowment last year and are still adding to it this year. Justis said the chapter is in a good position financially. They've had a lot of turnover on their officer board and haven't had a lot of time to succession plan.

#### Mid-Missouri Chapter:

Ellen McLain gave the Mid-Missouri Chapter report. They started the year off with a painting party. The chapter sent a photo of Red Barn Park in to a company and one of their artists painted it prior to the

event. During the evening, the artist showed them how to paint it and there was wine available. They helped host a legislative reception at the Capitol with desserts provided by the Alumni Association, which was followed by a casual dinner at Madison's. The Accepted Student event did not have enough room for interested alumni as there were too many students in attendance. They also hosted a Spirit Day event which brought out more people that they usually don't see.

#### NEMO Chapter:

Don Bindner gave the Northeast Missouri Chapter report. They've already held a few events such as the Lyceum Reception prior to the ballet, a basketball game tailgate and the winery event the night before. They had some trouble with the basketball event as the concessions were overwhelmed with another large group. The Gold Medal Concert went smoothly. They're now looking to May when they help host the Senior Barbecue, followed by the NEMO Golf Tournament in June.

#### St. Louis Chapter:

Jason Turk gave the St. Louis Chapter report. They hosted a basketball game UMSL. Jason pre-ordered tickets for \$1 each and the event ended up hosting more than 150 people. New alumni participate and the chapter gave our care packages to the basketball players. Jason reported that it was senior night at UMSL and Truman had a bigger crowd than they did. Sharon and Jeanette are holding a cultural event at a church that alumni give tours at, and are planning a historic cemetery tour at Bellfontaine. They would like to host a football tailgate now that the Bulldogs are in the GLVC. Jason discussed looking for someone to sponsor or help host the student send-off instead of the golf tournament as the send-off has better attendance.

#### Nominating Committee:

Ellen McClain read the list of Directors up for re-election. John Mathis made the motion to pass, Geri Ready accepted and it was passed at 2:06 p.m.

The new Board nominees, Hope Harms, Jean Kaul and Natalie Gerhart, were asked to leave the room while the Alumni Board voted. Geri Ready made a motion to accept Jean's nomination, which was accepted by Denise and passed at 2:07. Mike Wilson made a motion to accept Natalie's nomination, which was accepted by Jason Turk and passed at 2:07. Justis Tuia made a motion to accept Hope's nomination, which was accepted by Jason Turk and passed at 2:08. All three were asked back in and welcomed on to the Alumni Board of Directors.

#### **Executive Committee:**

##### President:

Ellen McLain gave the president's report. There was no update on audit-bylaws. The Alumni Board goals for 2014 are to work on succession planning for the Board as well as in the chapters. She mentioned that if you know someone who would be great on the Board, talk to someone else on the Board so we can work on recruiting them.

##### Vice President:

Keith Epperson gave the Vice President's report. He talked about how the committees were changing with the addition of new Board members.

##### Secretary:

Denise gave the Secretary's report. The Alumni Association is doing phenomenal when it comes to membership numbers. She reported that we are about 20 percent short of reaching our overall goal for 2014. The need for a membership goal formula was discussed as some chapters were having trouble setting a feasible goal. Denise also reported the Planetarium funding is complete and will be open in October. Don proposed touring it in this year at the Alumni Leaders Conference.

#### **Chapter Development Committee:**

The Chapter Development Committee talked about necessary changes for the Alumni Resource Book. Jason surveyed some chapters if they used the Alumni Resource Book, and most did not know what it was or where it was located. It was mainly used by Colorado to follow guidelines and procedures as their chapter leadership is all new. They are hoping to get some new information and feedback at the Alumni Leaders Conference to update the Resource Book. Jason brought up the point that our benefits should be rewritten to focus on the less tangible things such as networking, career opportunities and leadership opportunities, and should reflect the benefits instead of features. The title of the Alumni Leadership Conference was changed to the Alumni Leaders Conference. The Committee also plans to have phone calls with chapter officers, presidents, treasurers, etc. to plan for ALC and for general help in those areas. There was a request to start an alumni events blog so chapters could keep record of what worked and didn't work while planning events. They hoped this would help future officers, or with annual events. Jason talked about the importance of personal networking. When he meets someone new, he asks if he could call on them to speak to students about jobs, careers, networking, etc.

#### **Programs and Awards Committee:**

The Programs and Awards Committee talked about the Legislative reception that was held at the Capitol in February. They thought that the desserts were a good change of pace and heard a lot of great feedback about it. Denise showed some pictures of the Alumni Travel Program's trip to Costa Rica, which was also deemed a success. They discussed the Bulldog Volunteer of the Year award that is given out at Homecoming. The alumni department is planning to send out an email communication about the award and how to nominate someone in the next few weeks. They recapped April's Truman National Spirit Day. There were 12 times as many entries for this Spirit Day than the last one. They hope to keep the momentum going for the next Spirit Day on October 3, 2014.

#### **Student Relations Committee:**

Student Relation Committee hopes to strengthen relationships with the Career Resource Center. They reported that the mock interviews (held Friday morning) went very well but could have used more students. They said the interviews made them proud to be a Truman alum as the students are very well spoken and have impressive resumes. They discussed making it a requirement to do mock interviews. They also discussed doing short videos featuring alumni and what to expect after graduation such as saving for retirement.

#### **Foundation Board Report:**

Mike Wilson attended most of the Foundation Board meeting at the same time as the Alumni Board meeting. The report presented earlier by Charles Hunsaker covered campaign information and Mark Gambaiana will speak at the afternoon Alumni Leaders Conference to cover additional Foundation news.

**Old Business**

Homecoming 2014 is October 10-12. The Alumni Board will meet in the morning and the Alumni Leaders Conference will follow the luncheon.

**New Business**

Alumni Leadership Conference received a new name as it will now be referred the Alumni Leaders Conference. The Board discussed moving the ALC to a new location so they weren't in the Alumni Room all weekend. Vid hoped to see this become more than a once-a-year event. He proposed to follow-up on what was discussed/decided at the Conference. He thought we could have more people attend through technology via phone or Skype.

As the Chapter Development Committee discussed, they hoped to start a presidents, treasurers, etc. phone call to prepare for the Conference and to help each other through the year. The Board also liked the idea of having tours in different departments to highlight new or interesting parts of the University.

Ellen made a motion to adjourn at 4 p.m. and invited everyone to the Foundation Reception in the HUB prior to the Foundation Banquet. The next meeting will be on October 10, 2014, in Kirksville Mo.