



TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY | NATIONAL ALUMNI BOARD MEETING MINUTES | OCTOBER 24, 2020

Truman's National Alumni Board met via Zoom on Saturday, October 24, 2020. In attendance were: Mahlon Barker, Phillip Campbell, Tania Cook, Natalie Gerhart, Hope Harms, Lori Hart, Meadow Heiman, Joshna Karki, Zach Lepperd, Bernee Long, Lisa Marty, Jamie Matthews, Alison Mayer, John Nash, Susan Scheurer and Stacy Tucker-Potter. Also in attendance were president Sue Thomas and coordinator of alumni relations Mandi Wiser,

The order of the meeting was adjusted to allow time for a University update from President Thomas. Enrollment at Truman is down 12%. This is consistent with nationwide trends. If a student is deferring admission until next year, we are honoring their scholarship offers in an attempt to increase enrollment next year. A new director of admission is starting soon, and we are currently in the process of interviewing candidates for the director of the student recreation center. There are currently 23 active COVID cases with 24 days until students go home for the semester. Many fall sports have moved to the spring. There are challenges to meeting testing guidelines for athletics. Truman has partnered with ATSU to meet the needs. The University is utilizing money granted through CARES Act HEERF (Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund) to meet student need and to backfill part of the \$4 million that was refunded to students when the University closed residence halls in the spring. Truman also applied for and received about \$130,000 in CARES Act funding from the county. Funds are being used for things like testing, sanitization, signage, improved wi-fi, etc.

Approval of Agenda Phil motioned we approve the agenda. Zach seconded. Motion was approved.

Approval of Minutes from April 2020 Meeting Zach motioned we accept the minutes from the April 2020 meeting. Mahlon seconded. Motion was approved

Chapter Reports

Arizona – No report

Iowa – The chapter produced a video greeting for graduating seniors from Iowa. The need to recruit a new president and are looking at having a virtual planning meeting to re-engage leadership.

Kansas City – KC hosted virtual wine tasting in August. They partnered with a local winery. People were able to pick up wine kits from the winery and someone from the venue joined the Zoom call to walk the group through each pour. The chapter also hosted their annual golf tournament in October.

Kansas Club – It's been hard to get traction in the Kansas Club. Alumni there have recently been involved with gathering alumni from their social sorority Sigma Sigma Sigma and invited current students to interact with alumni.

Mid-Atlantic – No report

Mid-Missouri – The chapter has hosted two virtual board meetings and facilitated the scholarship award process electronically. They also hosted a small Bulldog social happy hour.



NEMO – The board continues to meet. They did a matching challenge to contribute to student emergency funds. Outside the auspices of the chapter, Don Bindner organized a virtual poker event that was really popular.

Omaha – No official report but ing to be conscious about social networks and promoting events.

St. Louis – The chapter coordinated fundraising efforts for Meet the Need including stewardship to donors to emergency student relief. The chapter three \$1,000 scholarships this year.

Colorado – No report

Student Report – Joshna reported that campus saw a little surge in cases this week. There are 23 active student cases and 1 active employee. One hundred twenty four have recovered. Student Government is taking steps to recognize local businesses that have adopted safe procedures with COVID. Students are currently registering for spring courses, and the options are very similar to the fall delivery methods. The University has sent out a survey asking for opinions about the spring calendar. Student Government has programming emphasizing voting and diversity, equity and inclusion.

Committee Reports

Nominating – Board positions open in Chicago and Dallas.

Executive

President – Natalie thanked the board for the hard work planning Homecoming/Homestaying activities. Zoom has allowed us to work well together.

Vice President – Jamie reported that we are using a content drop as a way to expand the BFF and work on development throughout the year.

Secretary – Membership promotion didn't happen as usual this year due to staff turnover and the implications of not having events during COVID. The office is interested in developing more micro-volunteer activities as a way to engage alumni who are not in a chapter area or who can't join regional events.

Chapter and Club Development – Tania Cook reported that the committee has been working on the BFF, the content drop and an onboarding document for new board members.

Programs and Awards – Phillip Campbell reminded the board that our virtual trivia will be on Thursday. Recipients for alumni awards have been selected and winners will be announced at the BFF Town Hall on 11/1. Programs and Awards developed some strategies around social media for Homecoming but ultimately yielded to the university in terms of marketing. The committee is still engaged in ongoing projects like the role the board can play in recognizing alumni milestones.

Student and University Relations – John Nash reported that we are exploring the chance to mentor students through the Career Center's new platform Symplicity. The link was sent out to the group with the encouragement to sign up.

Foundation Board Report – Hope Harms, Alumni Board liaison to the Foundation Board, reported that the relationship with a new investment company seems to have gone well, and the audit has gone well.



Old Business

In between meetings, there were two electronic ballots cast. The message below was sent by board secretary Stacy Tucker-Potter on August 18, 2020.

We have two measures we need to vote on. These are being motioned by committee and therefore do not need a second. Below you will find a summary of each measure up for vote. Please reply back by 4 p.m. Friday, August 21st on each.

1. **Motion from the Executive Committee to Spend down the Chicago treasury** – Our recent [revision of our bylaws](#) included expectations for financial oversight of chapter funds. In the event there weren't enough officers to officially approve financial transactions, the Alumni Board must step in to make financial decisions for the chapter. Additionally, all chapters are advised to keep \$5,000 or less in their treasury due to auditing expectations. To date, the Chicago Alumni Chapter has only one acting officer, and their treasury is over \$7,000. Excess chapter funds need to be directed toward the fund that is closest to the original purpose of the dues paying chapter members. The Chicago Alumni Chapter has an endowed scholarship. We move that the excess funds over \$5,000 be donated to the Chicago Alumni Chapter Scholarship.
2. **Motion from Programs & Awards to add a new award called the Bulldog Forever Initiative of the Year Award** – This award recognizes an exemplary event, activity, or other initiative that advances the mission of the Truman State University Alumni Association. Initiatives may support alumni and the greater Truman community through a single occurrence or sustained recurrence over time, demonstrating significant impact within the past year (July 1 - June 30). Eligible events include but are not limited to those hosted by Alumni Association Chapters and Clubs, and nominations may be made by anyone. You can find the full details of the new award as outlined by Programs & Awards here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/11iG67UElysk0NqSHGdDx4NOzDmLEQL8Y/edit>

Board members cast their votes by reply email. Both motions passed.

Strategic Plan Ad-Hoc Committee – The current Strategic Plan is ending in 2021. The plan provides a good foundation, and the emphasis for the next iteration of the plan is to develop metrics and goals around the pillars outlined in the current strategic plan. If anyone is interested in volunteering to draft the new strategic plan, please let Natalie know.

New Business – no new business.

Next meeting – scheduled for April 9, 2021.

Adjourn – Phil motioned to adjourn and Bernee seconded.

Board President

Board Secretary