



Saint Vincent Alumni Council Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2021

Meeting Location: Remote via ZOOM

Presiding Council Member: Ryan Retter, Council President

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM. A brief introduction was provided by R. Retter expressing gratitude for the members' participation in the meeting.

The opening prayer was led by R. Retter, followed by the Alma Mater, which was played via video. R. Sossong conducted a roll call of those in attendance.

Approval of the Minutes of the August 1, 2020 Meeting: ***Motion to approve minutes was made by C. Cleveland and seconded by F. Susko. The motion was unanimously approved by Council.***

Extension of Terms: A. Panebianco provided an overview of the proposed extension of terms for all members of council and for the executive officers. She explained the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the ability to engage fully as a group and to work with the Saint Vincent community, as well as the desire to pick-up with projects that were paused during the pandemic and maintain continuity on Council. She noted that if the motions pass and any member of Council does not desire to have their term extended, those individuals can opt out of this extension. The language of the proposals was previously provided to Council via email distribution with the meeting notice. The first proposal reads as follows: ***Emergency Extension of the Terms of Saint Vincent College Alumni Council Members*** - *The Council has determined that the current Covid 19 crisis that has been ongoing since March of 2020 constitutes a national emergency that has prevented the Saint Vincent Alumni Council from meeting at its normally scheduled times. Pursuant to its authority to carry out the purposes of the Association, the Council hereby extends the terms of all elected and appointed Council Members by one year. Any Council Member who does not wishing to extend their term may elect to opt out of this provision and may keep their original term. A motion to adopt this first proposal was made by F. Nelson and seconded by C. Cleveland. A voice vote was held and the proposal was unanimously approved.* The second proposal reads as follows: ***Emergency Extension of the Terms of Saint Vincent College Alumni Council Officers*** - *The Council has determined that the current Covid 19 crisis that has been ongoing since March of 2020 constitutes a national emergency that has prevented the Saint Vincent Alumni Council from meeting at its normally scheduled times. Pursuant to its authority to carry out the purposes of the Association, the Council hereby extends the terms of all of the Officers of Alumni Council by one year. Any Officer not wishing to have their term extended may elect to opt out of this provision and may keep their original term. A motion to adopt this second proposal was made by F. Nelson and seconded by F. Susko. A voice vote was held and the proposal was unanimously approved.*

Appointment of New Members

R. Retter announced the appointment of Miranda (Randi) Senchur, C'16, as a new council member, with a term set to expire in 2023. Next, R. Retter announced the appointment of Mitchell Farrell, C'18, and John Wojtechko, C'18, as the new co-chairs of the Student Alumni Networking and Outreach Committee.

Career Center Update

R. Retter gave a brief update on certain activities that the Career Center has undertaken and provided a recap of some of the activities that occurred during the Career Center's Challenge Series. Member's of Council were thanked for their participation in those challenges and encouraged to look at the Career Center's digital content available on You Tube at: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBCUqgiWdqG8PvvcKLX85NRmx_dtEUrvS

Alumni Office Update

K. Vitale provided an update that the Alumni and Friends Golf Outing will take place on Friday June 4, 2021 at Champion Lakes Golf Resort and Latrobe Elks Golf Club, with a picnic to follow. The Alumni Office plans to begin rolling out more events after Commencement. K. Vitale provided a general update on the status of life on campus and announced that the plan is to have some version of an in person graduation for the Class of 2021. C. Cleveland asked if K. Vitale had heard when spectators would be permitted at sporting events, but there has been no definitive guidance on this issue yet. K. Vitale reported that she has accepted a new position at a different institution and will be leaving Saint Vincent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive committee: R. Retter explained that the Executive Committee is continuing to stay in touch while being respectful of everyone's different situations due to COVID-19. He assured Council that we will plan to return to in-person meetings on campus as soon as we are able.

Secretary Update: R. Sossong and the Alumni Office will work to develop a process for updating meeting minutes on the Saint Vincent website.

Treasurer Update: D. DeYulis explained that we continue working toward our goal of having 100% of Council donate to Saint Vincent by June 30, 2021. After the meeting, he intends to begin a campaign of direct follow-up correspondence with those individuals who have not yet contributed.

Membership Committee: A. Simmons presented that there are currently 28 Council members. Six of these members have terms that will now expire in 2022, due to the previous term extension. Council members were encouraged to contact A. Simmons if they are aware of anyone who might have interest in serving on Council.

Student/Alumni Networking Outreach Committee: J. Wojtechko provided introductory remarks and stated that the committee would be scheduling its own Zoom meeting shortly with the current members and the new co-chairs in order to begin brainstorming ideas and start moving things forward.

Fr. Gilbert Scholarship Committee: M. Sigg explained that the TopGolf event will be happening in late summer, so as to not conflict with the Golf Outing event. The event deposit with TopGolf has been held over throughout the pandemic and is still held for our benefit. The prices for the event will stay the same and more information is to come as we get closer to the event.

Homecoming Liaison Update: Planning for homecoming is moving forward and we are cautiously optimistic about the kind of a homecoming that we will be able to have. G. Maurer encouraged anyone with questions to reach out to him and provided an update that he has sent out save the dates to his class, which class will be celebrating 40 years.

Prep Reunion Liaison Update: R. Stillwagon provided an updated that, after an April planning meeting, a request was distributed to check the level of interest from alumni regarding having a Prep Reunion this year. Depending on the results of this inquiry, they may have a reunion, which would consist of Mass, a picnic dinner and a social.

Legal: No report.

Core Curriculum Committee Update: R. Sossong provided an update on the current status of the implementation of the new Core Curriculum based upon a discussion with Dr. Watkins. Dr. Watkins' committee, which undertook the initial development phase has now handed the Core over to Dr. Jason King and two governance teams. Dr. Watkins will be leaving Saint Vincent in the coming months to work at a new institution. The new core is a non-disciplinary core that is focused around three discussion-oriented and text-based seminars. These core also includes a number of other scaffolded core courses that students will take in between the seminars and which are all centered around the previously adopted Student Learning Outcomes. Overall the new core is approximately 15 credits smaller than the prior core, which consisted of about 60-61 credits. Dr. King is in the process of developing the freshman seminar, which will be implemented for the incoming class in fall 2021. The current students are grandfathered into the current core, but the new core will apply to new students as the program is phased in over the next few years. Dr. Watkins explained how Alumni Council's previously provided written recommendations

were helpful in their process and are reflected in the strong writing focus in the new core. Additionally, the recommendations stressed the importance of verbal communication, as well as written communication. These are both expected to play a key role in the new core. Council will request that Dr. King present to a future meeting of Council on the development and implementation of the new Core Curriculum.

NEW BUSINESS

E. McCormick provided on the Alumni of Distinction and Athletic Hall of Fame selection process. The committees for those awards will be working through those submissions and individuals are encouraged to nominate individuals. The nomination forms are available online and are attached with these meeting minutes.

Adjournment: C. Cleveland made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by F. Nelson. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM.

ATTENDANCE

David Braum
Charles Cleveland
Tom Cocchi
Dom DeYulis
Megan Farrell
Chad Ferri
Ann Giacobbi
Greg Maurer
Ed McCormick

Carey McMonagle
Frank Nelson
Ryan Retter
John Reilly
Megan Sigg
Rich Stillwagon
Amy Panebianco
Alé Simmons
Shane Simmons

Renold Sossong
Molly Stoltz
Frank T. Susko
Jason Winters
John Wojtechko
Katie Vitale

Respectfully submitted by R. Sossong, Alumni Council Secretary. For additional detail, please see the slide materials used during this Council meeting, which are attached to these minutes.