



# Saint Vincent Alumni Council Meeting Minutes

AUGUST 18, 2018

Meeting Location: Foundations Room

Presiding Council Member: Ryan Retter, President-Elect

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

The opening prayer was given by J. Bendel followed by the Alma Mater led by and general introductions.

**Guest Speaker:** Brother Norman Hippius, OSB, President of Saint Vincent College

- Approximately 90 families currently in the Rodger Center for Get Acquainted Day (110 registered)
- \$86M in pledges or gifts received- Jim Will Hall for Engineering (wing of the science center)
- \$22million project; expand library; art displayed in the library; build up the endowment—new faculty to help with endowment (both have Ph.D.s—chemical and electric engineering);
- new faculty member in international program- From Spain, speaks German:
- Fr. Rene will be endowed chair in monastic studies;
- incoming class: fewer football players, only 450- 415, with transfers not included in that number;
- sex abuse scandal—Archabbot's response on webpage and detailed policy description that has been implemented since 1991, names released of the alleged people, 15 named individuals only 2 alive, always immediate removal of ministry.

**Alumni Office Update: S. Gouch**

- Pumpkin Patch event
- Homecoming- Oct 5, 6, 7
- German Christmas Lunch- will be a bus from SVC
- Nutcracker- Benedum Center in Pittsburgh
- Reminder: alumni news—jobs, weddings, babies, etc. deadline August 27 ([alumni@stvincent.edu](mailto:alumni@stvincent.edu))

**Guest Speaker: Mr. Mark Abramavic**

- What is Wimmerstock- just an idea as of late, multi-day event on campus; signature program at svc; formally invite the communities; benediction value is hospitality; Fr. Paul came up with name
- April 11, 2019, Thursday-Friday, Saturday, Sunday morning; to ease into it we're doing it at the Spring Family weekend (usually 600 people come to this)—Spring Family will be rebranded into Wimmerstock
- Committee meets once a month and there are also subcommittees
- Oct 18 presenting detail of event (Fr. Dave and Dave H—Director of Advancement
- Wimmerstock website

**Options for Alumni Council involvement:**

- Boniface Wimmer Operetta- April 11 in Basilica; original music with original lyrics; tom octave will finalize contractual arrangements with composer—will eventually be on Wimmerstock website; proceeding that is a dinner (high-end)—we can contact everyone, foundations, businesses, etc. will include tickets of the performance; performance will be videotaped; this will be our major fundraising piece—will be split in 2 parts (Scholarship Fund; Benedictine Leadership Study Program); Originally thought we'd have it when students were off campus, students were upset to not be on campus during event, very expensive to have a number of stages for bands if you have a music fest, the fundraising would negatively affect the Capital Campaign, so we decided it would be best to slowly enter into Wimmerfest; hoping to have to grow to have 7K-10K people on campus
- Children's Event at Fred Rogers Center- Karen Meyers on steering committee—work with them; brainstorm ideas of what we can do with kids; IDEAS: Maybe Saturday morning with kids, get bands have kids march and then program takes place... whatever that could be, just should be about fred rogers

- Sponsor Band Saturday Night and Fireworks
- Food (variety of food stations)
- IDEA: use photos to show beginning to present - made by R. Zadzilko
- IDEA: American Abbot in print - R. Schulte

Approval of the Minutes of the May 19, 2018 Meeting:

**Action Item:** *Approved by J. Laffey, Seconded by E. McCormick*

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**President/Executive Committee:** Report by R. Retter. Committee met end of July; success and progress of Membership Committee; manifest review; upcoming events: move-in-day, homecoming, fall semester; not all required attended

**Secretary:** Report by A. Simmons. Submit Manifest info to Alumni magazine by August 28th; trying to update committee with our use of technology—with that being said we need to RSVP using the email

- o Bill Casey- add comment line explaining how to use form

**Treasurer:** J. Giacobbi not present.

**Membership Committee:** Report by A. Simmons.

- Resignation: Sarah O'Connor '06
- Dismissals: Taylor Berinti '13, Jessica Miskanic'13
- Free up space for people who want to be active
- Total member count: 31 (starting number 45)
- Starting to contact members who have expiring terms in 2020
- Want to start working with Treasurer to determine financial positions on council
- Develop process for outreach and relationships with past presidents
- Member Orientation- test group today

**Student/Alumni Networking and Outreach Committee:** Report by M. Sylvania.

- Better effort to get council to go Get Acquainted Days (10 people attended from council)
- Committee Discussion: can do more with career center
- Welcoming Seniors Event and then pull them in at the end of the year
- Question: A. Simmons: What's on the calendar for the Fall—better to know so committee can help to get involved
  - o Nothing in place for this Fall (will start the following Fall)
- Question: R. Schulte: Move-In Day and homecoming?
  - o No to homecoming- not part of committee
  - o Wanted to have a tent for Move-In Day, but fell through
- Question: Charlie Cleveland: Conference for high schoolers?
  - o Marco agreed to have this conversation
- Question: F. Susko: Workshop—career development
- Question: J. Bendel—coordinate Get Acquainted Day with Alumni Council
  - o Marco agreed to take responsibility to coordinating.

Fr. Gilbert Scholarship Fund: Report by R. Retter

- Revenue Goal: \$25-\$35k
- Revenue Actual: \$9,753
  - Due to attendance—goal 200+, actual attendance 106
  - Cost per person: \$80 (reduced 36 percent from last 2 years)
- Alumni Scholarship Fund: \$296,474
  - 2017-18- \$5,068 to 3 recipients
  - 2018-19- \$19,000 15 recipients
  - Why the difference in distribution—we do not distribute funds—need to get our hands back into this (financial aid, Fr. Paul, Br. Norman)
- Survey- sent to all 31 committee members, only 15 responded
- Next Meeting: August/September; location: TBD
- Wimmerstock 2019:
  - Send ideas to Ryan in the next week
  - Have a meeting to discuss ideas—too big of an issue
  - George Martin—offer to host a picnic so to not lose Fr. Gilbert's name and association
    - It will be very clear that some of the proceeds will go towards the Fr. Gilbert Scholarship Fund
    - Can name what we're doing with Fr. Gilbert's name (e.g. The Father Gilbert Food Court)

**Homecoming Liaison:** G. Maurer not present.

**Prep Reunion:** R. Stillwagon

- Reunion is June 7, 8, 9, 2018- George Martin Chair; picnic was in June 50 people attended; committee will meet in September to go over 2019 events
- August 24; 5pm—football team picnic at his farm- George Martin

**Legal Advisors:** A. Pianabianco and K. Colonna

No issues: no news, is good news

## NEW BUSINESS

- P. Conroy- Admissions Report: lost very few students of the ones that sent in deposits; new hires; numbers incoming: 418; 44 transfers; 462 new students; opportunity students: 47; 100 people have already applied for next year (last year, we only had 50 students applied)
- Ed McCormick - Cemetery Project—gardening- sometime in October
- **Motion to for special meeting of- September 8th**  
Motion by: Rich Stillwagon  
Seconded by: Ed McCormick

**Motion to Adjourn: Motion by R. Schulte; Seconded by D. Braum**

**Respectfully submitted by Katie Stevens, Alumni Council Secretary.**