



## Saint Vincent Alumni Council Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2019

Meeting Location: Foundations Room

Presiding Council Member: Jason Winters, Council President

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by J. Winters.

The opening prayer was given by Fr. Paul Taylor, O.S.B., followed by the Alma Mater led by J. Winters and general introductions.

**Saint Vincent College Update** – Fr. Paul Taylor, O.S.B. provided an update on the state of Saint Vincent College. He offered reflections on the meaning of his initial remarks at the press conference relating to the announcement of his presidency. He emphasized the importance of Alumni Council as a leadership organization for the school that has the power to give support to the College, and current and future students. He reiterated the importance of the four pillars for Alumni Council: admission and recruitment; Internships for current student; jobs opportunities and meaningful employment to graduates; and financial support. The school is looking critically at the recruitment process. Fr. Paul explained the importance of each student feeling loved at Saint Vincent and feeling that he or she belongs here and the impact of that feeling on academic success. An update was provided on the athletic programs and the Opportunity Program. R. Schulte asked about ways that Alumni Council can assist him in his new presidency and Fr. Paul indicated that they will be working to identify areas where Alumni Council can assist in each of the segments of his new strategic initiatives; Mission; Academic Excellence; Recruitment and Retention; Sustainability and Environment.

**Rev. Camillus Long, O.S.B. Award Presentation** – J. Winters presented the Rev. Camillus Long, O.S.B. Award to G. Martin, as a member of Alumni Council who goes above and beyond to support Council's initiative and as a great example of Benedictine Hospitality. G. Martin thanked Council and indicated that he looks forward to continuing to provide this support for as long as he is able.

**Approval of the Minutes of the May 17, 2019 Meeting:** A motion was made by E. McCormick to approve the Minutes of the May 17, 2019 meeting, which was seconded by R. Schulte. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

**Alumni Council Leadership Transition** – J. Winters provided an overview of the highlights of the last two years, thanking the committee members and the committee chairs who he was able to work with during his tenure as President of Council. He is encouraged about the future of Council under the leadership of R. Retter and A. Simmons. The Council Gavel was then presented to R. Retter as the new President of Council. R. Retter thanked J. Winters for his service to Council and provided brief remarks on the impact of J. Winters on Council and on in the lives of students and alumni of Saint Vincent.

**Alumni Office Update:** S. Gouch, Director of Alumni Relations, thanked G. Martin for hosting the summer picnic at his farm, E. McCormick for his leadership on the Athletic Hall of Fame and J. Winters for his service to Council. He provided an update that Ben Becze was hired as the new Senior Director of Development & Alumni Relations and explained that Alumni Relations and Institutional Advancement are working with Fr. Paul to implement his plans for Saint Vincent and to assist with expanding the role of Alumni Relations. S. Gouch provided a brief update on the following upcoming events: Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner and Reception (September 28, 2019); 2019 Homecoming Weekend (October 4-6, 2019) (this is an anniversary year for all of the 4s and 9s); Pumpkin Patch at Pleasure Acre Farms (October 13, 2019); Teutonia Männerchor (December 13, 2019); The Nutcracker at the Benedum Center (December 14, 2019).

**Institutional Advancement Updated:** B. Becze introduced himself to Council and explained that he is excited to work with Council on all of its initiatives. He stated that Saint Vincent presents many interesting opportunities due to the strong sense of tradition and history and the Alumni population's sense of pride in the same. B. Becze closed by offering himself to help

Council in any way that he is able going forward.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Executive Committee:** R. Retter presented his plans for moving Council forward during his term as President and beyond. He updated Council that the Treasurer position remains vacant; that M. Sigg was recently appointed as the new chair of the Father Gilbert Burke Alumni Scholarship Fund Committee; that S. Simmons and R. Schulte were appointed as co-chairs of Student/Alumni Networking & Outreach Committee; and that R. Zadzilko will be serving as one of Council's two Legal Advisers. R. Retter highlighted the areas that Council should work on moving forward, including: Council Giving; Communications; Involvement; Working Together as a Team. R. Retter re-introduced the idea of having the November Council meeting take place on a Friday to allow for more participation from other members of the Saint Vincent community. This meeting would take the place of the Saturday meeting. A draft schedule was presented and a discussion ensued regarding the November meeting. G. Martin made a motion to approve the plan to have a Friday meeting in November, tentatively set for November 1. The motion was seconded by C Cleveland and the motion unanimously passed.

**Secretary:** R. Retter and R. Sossong explained the new timing for distribution of meeting minutes and materials digitally to all Council members by the Wednesday after the meeting. This will provide for more real-time communications and help to keep those who are unable to attend a meeting informed on the materials covered at that meeting.

**Treasurer:** This position remains open. R. Retter updated council on the goal to have 100% of Council giving completed by October 1, 2019. He clarified that this goal includes giving to the broader Saint Vincent community, including the Seminary, College, Archabbey.

**Student Report (SGA):** Joel Santoro was unable to attend the meeting.

**Membership Committee:** A. Simmons discussed the new member orientation and two recent dismissals from Council. She provided a reminder of the duties of the elected Council members and provided Council with an update on the status of total number of membership indicating that there is room for four additional members of Council. The newly elected members of Council provided a brief introduction of themselves.

**Student/Alumni Networking and Outreach Committee:** S. Simmons provided an overview of the plans to move the committee forward focusing on solidifying Council's involvement with events historically supported by the committee and expanding into new events. Upcoming Get Acquainted Days will be held on Saturday, October 19 and Monday, November 11. A handout was provided showing how alumni can participate at the Get Acquainted Day. A new Council Directory will be generated in the coming months by asking members of Council to complete a survey. The Committee plans to pursue a new outreach opportunity this fall by participating in the cross country alumni event.

**Father Gilbert Burke Alumni Scholarship Fund Committee:** M. Sigg provided a summary of the Alumni Picnic at Pleasure Acres Farm. From the event, Council was able to deposit \$2,679 into the scholarship fund. She then led a discussion on the plan for the 2020 event, focusing on council involvement and ways to increase awareness. Various ideas were discussed, including a Casino Night and a Dinner Event. She then opened the floor to a discussion on various other ideas for the 2020 event. Various members of Council expressed the opinion that it is nice to involve the scholarship recipients at the dinner to help increase awareness.

**Homecoming Liaison:** G. Maurer explained that there will be a large event at the Fred Rogers Center for members of the anniversary classes with tables for each class. He encouraged the attendance of all members of Council, noting that three members of Council will be receiving awards at the Alumnus of Distinction Award Dinner.

**Prep Liaison:** R. Stillwagon provided an overview of the Prep Reunion, which was a success and he explained that the next reunion will occur on June 13, 2020 and will be held off-campus. The reunion will be back on campus for 2021.

**Legal Advisor:** No update.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

K. Simmons congratulated K. Vitale on her recent marriage and presented her with a card signed by members of Council.

**Motion to Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by C. Cleveland and seconded by G. Maurer and passed with unanimous approval.

## **ATTENDANCE**

**D. Braum**

**H. Brinker**

**C. Cleveland**

**D. DeYulis**

**M. Farrell**

**G. Fetkovich**

**A. Giacobbi**

**A. Jeffers**

**O. London**

**J. Marsico**

**G. Maurer**

**G. Martin**

**E. McCormick**

**C. McMonagle**

**A. Panebianco**

**R. Retter**

**R. Schulte**

**J. Selep**

**M. Sigg**

**A. Simmons**

**S. Simmons**

**R. Sossong**

**R. Stillwagon**

**F. Susko**

**J. Winters**

**Guests:**

**Fr. Paul Taylor, O.S.B.**

**K. Vitale**

**B. Becze**

**S. Gouch**

**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.**