



Saint Vincent Alumni Council Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2020

Meeting Location: Fred Rogers' Center

Presiding Council Member: Ryan Retter, Council President

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by R. Retter, followed by brief introductory remarks by R. Retter.

The opening prayer was given by R. Zadzilko, followed by the Alma Mater led by Mitch Farrell and general introductions.

Approval of the Minutes of the November 1, 2019 Meeting: A motion was made by G. Maurer to approve the Minutes of the November 1, 2019 meeting, which was seconded by F. Nelson. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Appointments to Council: R. Retter next introduced that D. DeYulis has been appointed as Treasurer of Council and that four new members have been selected to fill spots left vacant by previous members: T. Cocchi; C. Ferri; and M. Stoltz – each with terms expiring May 2020 and A. Geisel - with a term expiring May 2021.

Career & Professional Development Center Remarks – Courtney Baum, Director / Career Consultant, provided an overview of certain changes that the Center has undergone. She explained that the Center oversees all student jobs on campus – about 800 student employment positions. She provided an overview of the Center's staff and highlighted a recent Alumni outreach project that the Center has been working on, among other things, asking Alumni to "Share your wisdom." Next, she provided an overview of the Center's corporate partner program and the Handshake Portal through which Saint Vincent students can access information about employment opportunities. Lastly, she presented the finding of a survey that the Center conducted finding that 99% of 2018 Saint Vincent graduates thought that they were successful in landing where they wanted to be after graduation. This survey was completed with a 94% knowledge rate, meaning that they were able to connect with 94% of that year's graduates.

Admissions Update – Bill Barnes, Assistant Dean of Admission, provided an update on the admissions landscape. Overall there are fewer college bound students and there is more competition for those students. He explained some of the difficulty that comes from the media's focus on student debt and the pressure created from the removal of the NACAC guidelines. Next, he highlighted several of Fr. Paul Taylor's new initiatives; including new travel, increased focus on activities with athletics and new Elite Students Dinners. He explained certain changes to the way financial aid is being awarded and discussed a statistical model that Professor Zachary Davis, Assistant Professor, Economics, was able to develop to help the Department model and anticipate an applicant's likelihood of enrolling at Saint Vincent based upon a number of factors. This has enabled the Department to better tailor its financial aid packages to allow Saint Vincent to put its best foot forward initially with potential students. Lastly, he encouraged Council's continued participation at Get Acquainted Days and other recruitment events and provided an example of how direct contact and continued follow-up by C. Cleveland with a prospective student has helping to, hopefully, bring the applicant all the way in the door.

Alumni Relation Office Remarks – Shawn Gouch, Director of Alumni Affairs, provided a brief overview of upcoming Alumni events, including the upcoming Topgolf Event, Golf Outing (scheduled for the first weekend of June) and upcoming Harvard Glee Club performance on campus. Additionally, he provided an update on the status of the Alumni of Distinction and Athletic Hall of Fame selection process, which have recently kicked off. Alumni Council has representative on each of those committees.

Institutional Advancement Update – Ben Becze, Senior Director of Development and Alumni Relations, provided an update on the new Alumni E-Newsletter – the Bearcat Bulletin, which is now operational. He discussed the capital campaign and provided an update that we are at \$108 million of the \$110 million goal. He introduced Rachelle Dillinger, Director of Annual Giving, who presented on the upcoming Day of Giving (April 7, 2020). This day will be promoted and will be a special day for giving to Saint Vincent, which will include a dollar-for-dollar match and various other promotional items. She explained the importance of peer-to-peer solicitation as the most valuable approach. After this presentation, T. Cocchi asked a question about restricted versus unrestricted gifts and whether donors wishes are respected. A discussion ensued and B. Becze confirmed that if a donor directs a gift to a certain department, program or aspect of campus, that wish is followed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive committee: R. Retter provided a recap of the Friday Council meeting in November and requested continued feedback on that new format. He indicated that the next Friday meeting will likely occur in the Fall. He next provided an overview of the current state of Council, highlighting the areas of Council's success that we have control over. Lastly, he introduced a new Ad Hoc Committee that is being formed to assist the College's internal committee that is undertaking a comprehensive evaluation of the Core Curriculum. The Committee will be chaired by R. Sossong and will consist of the following members: A. Geisel; D. Braum; J. Marsico; A. Giacobbi; A. Panebianco; F. Pipak; and J. Reilly.

Secretary Update: R. Sossong provided a brief overview of the current digitized meeting invitation and minutes distribution process. He also indicated that we have now started to invite the Student Government Association and Seminary Representative to the Council meetings via direct emails. Although these emails were sent for this meeting, none of these representatives were able to attend.

Treasurer Update: R. Retter provided the update on Council Giving. We are currently at 96% for current council members, with only one member outstanding. This is a great position to be in at this point of the year.

Membership Committee: A. Simmon welcomed the four new Council members (T. Cocchi, C. Ferri, M. Stoltz, and A. Geisel) and explained that they all had an orientation prior to this meeting. Each new member provided a more detailed personal introduction. A. Simmons explained that C. Toy had resigned from Council and that his opening will be filled as part of the May ballot. She next provided an overview of the Council members whose terms will be coming to an end in May 2020 and explained that a ballot will be presented at the May meeting. Lastly, she welcomed suggestions for new members.

Student/Alumni Networking Outreach Committee: S. Simmons provided information on the upcoming Get Acquainted Days. Next, he introduced three new initiatives that the Committee is undertaking. C. McMonagle provided a detailed overview of the upcoming Medical Student / Alumni Dinner, which is expected to include a speaker presentation, tours of the Science Pavilion, networking dinner, and other events and is tentatively scheduled for late April. J. Wojtechko provided an update on the upcoming "Alumni Night at the Theatre" Event, which will include network between current theatre students and theatre alumni as well as attendance of a student run performance – likely this semester's Gilbert and Sullivan Club production. He hopes to do one of these events each semester. S. Simmons provided an update on the Cross Country Student / Alumni Luncheon. Lastly, S. Simmons discussed and requested feedback on the Alumni Council Directory. P. Conroy requested Alumni and Council members who may be willing participate in a college fair on behalf of Saint Vincent or a panel discussion to please let him know.

Fr. Gilbert Scholarship Committee: M. Sigg provided an update on the Topgolf event that is scheduled for March 22, 2020, for which registration is currently open. A discussion ensued about the fact that this is a very good deal to experience Topgolf and it is going to be a good benefit to the Scholarship Fund. Next, M. Sigg provided an overview of a potential upcoming Cornhole Tournament at Wigle Distillery in Pittsburgh. K. DeGroot offered to help the Committee connect with a Saint Vincent connection who also owns a distillery in the city for any future events.

Homecoming Liaison Update: G. Maurer provided an update on the status of Homecoming planning. We are still in need of a number of Class Agents. Additional information about Alumni Council's participation at and various aspects of Homecoming was provided.

Prep Reunion Liaison Update: The Prep Reunion will take place at Pleasure Acres Farm on Saturday, June 13, 2020.

Legal: R. Zadzilko and A. Panebianco explained that they would be undertaking the process of reviewing and refreshing the Council Constitution. One of the areas of focus will be the 30 person cap on membership of Council. R. Retter explained that it is a good thing that now needs to be expanded. We are actively doing many good things and we need to increase the membership

to assist with those undertakings. The Legal Advisors requested that any additional comments or feedback on the Constitution be directed to them for consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

Frank Nelson informed Council that a Saint Vincent Alumnus, Vince Morris (C' 70), holds the world record for Masters Speed Skating. In a recent competition, he took first place in the 3000 meter race and won a world record in the 1500 meter race.

Mitch Farrell raised two points that were addressed by the Student Panel at the November 1 Meeting, which he thought Council should continue to consider. First, one of the students discussed the possibility that Saint Vincent could attract more students by developing a direct acceptance program with a D.O. graduate program. Second, one of the students discussed how students who come from far away, while they feel very welcomed on Saint Vincent's campus, some feel somewhat less welcomed when they are out in the local community.

R. Retter indicated that there are blank notes in the meeting materials, which Council members can fill out with a handwritten note for Admissions to give to prospective students when they come to visit. These cards can be returned to the Alumni or Admissions officers. Next, R. Retter provided an overview of some key takeaways about the status of Council, which included, among other things, the fact that Council is doing a large amount of very good work and is working well together; the fact that we have four new members and are nearly at maximum capacity is a good sign that people want to be engaged with Council; he is excited about the upcoming events and the energy of the Scholarship Committee and the other committees; and he feels that the relationship of Council to the Administration, Offices and Departments of the College is stronger than it has been in a long time.

Motion to Adjourn: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by F. Susko and seconded by J. Laffey and passed with unanimous approval.

ATTENDANCE

D. Accorsi

D. Braum

H. Brinker

C. Cleveland

T. Cocchi

P. Conroy

D. DeYulis

K. DeGroot

Megan Farrell

Mitch Farrell

G. Fetkovich

C. Ferri

A. Giesel

A. Jeffers

O. London

J. Laffey

J. Marsico

G. Maurer

C. McMonagle

F. Nelson

A. Panebianco

R. Retter

J. Reilly

R. Schulte

M. Sigg

A. Simmons

S. Simmons

R. Sossong

F. Susko

M. Stoltz

J. Wojechko

R. Zadzilko

Guests:

B. Becze

W. Barnes

C. Baum

R. Dillinger

S. Gouch

K. 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.