

## SIUE Alumni Association Board of Directors

### Minutes of the March 4, 2010 Meeting

- I. The meeting was held in the Special Events Room of Birger Hall on the SIUE Campus. In attendance were: President-Elect Bev George, Immediate Past President & Interim Vice President of Finance Larry Lexow, Vice President Tom McRae, and Board Members Rita Adkins, Veronica Armouti, Brett Briggs, Kelley Brooks, Dr. Barry DeLassus, Kevin Doyle, Melissa Glauber, Bill Graebe, Jr., Dr. Rhonda Green, Christine Jackson, STAT Immediate Past President Heather Jeffers, SJ Morrison, Jeremy Plank, STA President Brandon Rahn, Chuck Rathert, Stephanie Renken, Kevin Rust, Executive Director/Board Secretary Steve Jankowski, Assistant Alumni Director Katie Bennett, and Advisory Council member El Douglas. Also in attendance were STAT Officers Carly James, McKenzie Conley, Jamie Springer and Travis Bourne. Also present were guest speaker Chancellor Vaughn Vandegrift and Patrick Hundley, Vice Chancellor for University Relations.

Absent were: President Ajay Kansals, Foundation representative John Simmons, Paul Baeske, and Dr. Karen Kelly.

- II. President Elect Bev George called the meeting to order at 5:39pm. She then presented the Minutes of the December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 meeting. There was no discussion. SJ Morrison moved that the minutes be approved. Christine Jackson seconded. The motion passed.
- III. Bev George then introduced guest speaker Chancellor Vaughn Vandegrift who provided the Board with a power point presentation updating members of progress being made on campus. The topics ranged from new construction, strategic planning, impact on student development, economic impact on the area, and the transition to Division I. Chancellor Vandegrift also took questions from the membership, responding the issue of state funding. The Chancellor provided an update on student enrollment and the conservative budgeting which the university utilizes. He indicated payroll would be covered through the end of the current fiscal year. He also stressed the university was also planning on an eight percent cut in state appropriations in the next fiscal year, providing for the continuation of educational services. When asked if layoffs were a possibility, he stressed the university will have 14-thousand students next year who will need an education. He also told the Board any tuition increase at SIUE “would be zero or modest,” nothing on the order of other state universities who he said were considering increases in the double digits. He concluded his remarks by applauding the Board and the efforts of Steve Jankowski and Katie Bennett in building a strong alumni program. Bev George also thanked the Chancellor for what she called his “amazing leadership.” Bev also thanked Steve and Katie for their efforts at getting and keeping the Board members engaged.
- IV. President’s Report-In Ajay Kansal’s absence, there was no President’s report.
- V. Committee Reports
- A. Awards Committee Chair Rita Adkins updated the Board on the status of Scholarship applications for the Alumni Legacy and Stahlschmidt Family Legacy Scholarship. She said a total of 59 applications received with the committee to receive the documents the week of March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Rita stressed she would like to

maintain the program they used last year with the score sheets and letters to potential recipients indicating if they were offered other scholarship, the committee would move down the list. Jankowski then updated the Board on the Board of Directors Scholarship. The account now rests at \$500.00 thanks to five donors who have given amounts ranging from 50 to 200 dollars. He also reminded members to write any check to the SIUE Foundation with the memo line to indicate the gift was for the Board Scholarship. Tom McRae then offered praise for Rita and the job she did as Chair of the Awards Committee, as well as the work Katie had done. Tom stressed it would be great if we could provide each of the recipients a scholarship. Rita added each of the members took their job very seriously. Tom added he thought it would be beneficial for every board member to serve on that committee. Bev George then led the membership in a round of applause for out-going Chair Rita Adkins.

- B. Bylaws Committee-Jankowski stressed that each member had received a copy of the revised bylaws and the recommended approval of the Executive Committee. Chuck Rathert moved that the revised bylaws be approved. Kevin Doyle seconded. The motion passed.
- C. Executive Committee-Bev George then outlined all of the recommendations and nominations for Board positions and Committee Chairs. (See attached List) Chuck Rathert moved that the list be approved. Larry Lexow seconded. The motion passed.
- D. Finance Committee-Interim Vice-President of Finance and Committee Chair Larry Lexow provided the report. Larry reported that he was presenting a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2011 with the materials on the last sheet of the Finance Committee Minutes. He also provided a brief breakdown on investments. He then went through some of the main items in the budget proposal, indicating the plan was to try to make as many events as possible to be as self-funding as possible. Larry also discussed travel expenditures which were raised to accommodate the ASAP trip in August for the STAT Board. He also discussed the elimination of 20-thousand dollars in expenditures for merchandise, primarily the provision of a graduation gift which data shows has had little impact on membership rates. Larry also reported on the 990EZ form, which we are required to file. He added this year we were able to go with EZ Form. Next year, we may have to go with the long form. He then asked for a motion to approve the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2011. Christine Jackson moved the proposed budget be approved. Tom McRae seconded. The motion passed. Larry then updated the Board on the audit process which allows the Alumni Association to negotiate our own contract which had resulted in a savings of 35-hundred dollars. Jankowski then told the Board negotiations were completed with our new firm which will keep the cost at the current level, saving a thousand dollars over anticipated costs.
- E. Katie Bennett then delivered the report for the Homecoming Committee, indicating the first meeting was held two weeks ago. She described the composition of the committee and then outlined the Homecoming Weekend plans

which include the Hall of Fame banquet on Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> which will be held in the Morris University Center, with other activities on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> to include the Club Football Game, community festival, reunion row, soccer game and chili cook-off.

- F. Membership & Marketing-Bev George then led the presentation of an idea to get the Board more engaged with efforts to generate greater membership numbers. Jankowski then explained the proposal of having each Board member being assigned one of our peer institutions to which that board member would contact that institution with contact information and a prepared list of question to gather information on everything from marketing to events, to memberships. It had also been discussed that each Board member be given a list of the names of ten SIUE graduates who were not members to call and solicit each for membership. Brett Briggs suggested that each Board member probably personally knew at least ten people they could commit to calling, instead of being provided with a list. Veronica Armouti was concerned about duplication of efforts with Board members possibly calling the same people. She was also concerned about not knowing people who might have been here when they were because of the commuter nature of the campus. Jankowski suggested that members provide him with their list and he could check the names, so there would be no crossing of names. Jankowski then asked if the Members would be willing to take on the task, as well as contact the peer institution. The board agreed to handle the task. Action Item: Jankowski will develop the contact lists, questions, and process for making the calls.
- G. MRF Committee-Chair Larry Lexow reported the Illinois State Historical Society Monument was now complete, with additional members joining the committee. He described possible additional plans including landscaping around the monument, the clearing of the site, a possible fundraising concert and other efforts with 2011 as a target date.
- H. Programming Committee-Chair Tom McRae reported his committee will be meeting soon, but he highlighted events which had occurred since the last Board meeting, including the reception at the Governor's Mansion and the Blues Hockey Game. Tom also asked if there were any other Board members who would like to join the committee, it was great fun to develop the activities. Bev George thanked Tom and the committee for their hard work. Tom then indicated they would like to try to have a major event each quarter to engage more alumni. Katie then described the Speednetworking event coming up March 23<sup>rd</sup>, encouraging members to participate if possible.
- I. STAT-STAT President Brandon Rahn delivered a power point presentation on the STAT program and where the officers hope to go with the efforts. Brandon also shared that a new president (Brooke Woods) would join the Board in June. He reported STAT now has over 150 members. Brandon outlined the Rose Sales program at commencement which generated more than 300-dollars in profit. They plan on doing all four ceremonies in May. The presentation also included Carly James who shared information about the inaugural Polar Bare Run, which

Page4

she described as going extremely well. It was also used as a donation opportunity for the Ed/Glen Food Pantry. Carly reported there has been great “exposure” for STAT from the event. It’s hoped this will be an annual event. Brandon added the more events like this the group has, the more likely the students are to become members of the Alumni Association. Brandon stressed the greatest draw for the program was the mentoring program and invited all board members to participate. Brandon also thanked Heather Jeffers, President and Immediate Past President for her service as she graduates. Brandon also thanked the SIUE Alumni Association for their support.

- VI. Executive Director’s Report-Jankowski provided members an update on the status of the strategic plan with 52% of the tasks complete, 43% in process, and two percent tabled. Jankowski also described the response the office is receiving on the new edition of the *eConnection*. Jankowski also reported the receipts of \$432.00 from the bookstore for the sale of MRF t-shirts, the \$12,000.00 royalty check from American Insurance Administrators, and the fourth quarter royalty check from Bank of America in the amount of \$4,785.84. Jankowski also thanked the Cougar athletic program for the collaboration on the event in Los Angeles with the game against Cal-State Fullerton. Jankowski reported on how well the event went and how the alumni appreciated the great role of ambassador played by Lennox Forrester and his team.
- VII. There was no new business.
- VIII. There was no old business
- IX. Bev thanked all members for their hard work, including all past president. Larry Lexow then moved the meeting be adjourned. Christine Jackson seconded. The motion passed with the meeting adjourned at 7:02pm.