

## **Annual Meeting of the**

### **SIUE Alumni Association Board of Directors**

**June 3, 2010 @ 6:30pm in the Special Events Room-Evergreen Hall**

#### **Meeting Minutes**

In Attendance: President Bev George, Immediate Past President Ajay Kansal, President-Elect Tom McRae, Vice-President Finance Dr. Barry DeLassus, Vice President Melissa Glauber, At-Large Members Veronica Armouti, Paul Baeske, Bill Graebe, Jr., Christine Jackson, Dr. Karen Kelly, SJ Morrison, Kevin Nesselhauf, Jeremy Plank, Chuck Rathert, Stephanie Renken, Kevin Rust, STAT Representatives/President Brooke Wood & Immediate Past President Brandon Rahn, Constituent Directors Kelley Brooks-Black Alumni Association, Dr. Rhonda Green-School of Dental Medicine, Patricia Hufford School of Business, Advisory Council members Rita Adkins, El Douglas, Larry Lexow, Executive Director Steve Jankowski, Assistant Director Katie Bennett. Also in attendance was STAT Board Member Travis Bournes. Absent were Board Members At Large Brett Briggs and Kevin Doyle, and Advisory Council Members Marcia Wickenhauser, Deb O'Neill, and Janet Sprehe.

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm with Executive Director Steve Jankowski welcoming attendees and providing a description of the flow of the meeting, including information on the agenda, conduction of the business portion of the meeting, and the public comment section. Jankowski reported that individuals wishing to address the Board would have two minutes in which to do so during a 30 minute long public comment section. Jankowski also introduced Vice Chancellor for University Relations Patrick Hundley, informing the attendees that Mr. Hundley would be addressing the meeting during the public comment section on the "Your Voice" initiative. Jankowski then introduced Ajay Kansal.
- II. Ajay welcomed the group and expressed his pleasure with the number of attendees participating in the annual meeting. Ajay stressed that what the Association Board hoped to accomplish was to add some value and reach out to alumni, indicating that over the last few years we have seen more and more of that. He indicated that was a combination of what the Board was doing and how the alumni have gotten involved. Ajay then raised the issue of approving the minutes from the Board meeting of March 4, 2010. SJ Morrison moved that the minutes be approved. Christine Jackson seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was approved.
- III. Ajay then went on to share his final remarks as President with the assembly. Ajay thanked Bev George for handling some of the leadership responsibilities in the last few months because of his schedule. Ajay referred to the new brochure and stressed it provides a good outline of what is happening within the Association. He referenced the School of Dental Medicine, the School of Pharmacy, and the Black Alumni Association. He referenced the formation of STAT. He told the members there were many ways for alumni to connect. Ajay told the group this was accomplished through the use of fiscal responsibility and the work of the alumni staff. He also acknowledged the work of volunteers and board members. Ajay then passed the gavel to Bev George. Bev George then thanked attendees and introduced the new

officers. She then asked each of the Board members to introduce themselves. Bev then thanked Ajay Kansal for his service to the Board of Directors. She also thanked Larry Lexow for his longtime service to the Board.

IV. Bev then offered her thoughts on assuming the role, calling it an honor. She expressed her pleasure with having worked with past president Ajay Kansal and Larry Lexow. She also described what she called the exponential growth of the Alumni Association and involvement of members. She said: “The Association today is not what it was when I began my tenure on the Board several years ago.” Bev said it was thanks to Ajay, Larry, and the Alumni Staff of Steve Jankowski and Katie Bennett, as well as the support from Chancellor Vaughn Vandegrift and from Patrick Hundley, Vice Chancellor for University Relations. She thanked Patrick for being there. Bev then described Steve Jankowski “as exactly what we needed to make this Alumni Association move forward.” She told attendees “Steve keeps the Board focused on the mission, while giving its members wings.” Bev also expressed her deep gratitude and fondness for Assistant Alumni Director Katie Bennett, calling her “our joy, our spirit, and our spark.” She then shared a bit of her history with the university and the association, indicating she wanted the help of the attendees in helping the association grow as representative of “our magnificent university.” She said we like our memories of small town Edwardsville, but stressed the reality of today is that SIUE has become a world-renowned university, something which, as alumni, “gives us great pleasure and pride to be a part of.” She then stressed she believes the best is yet to come and that she looks forward to working with what she called the “most fabulous board of directors this association has ever seen.” She asked members attending to join her as “we make our mark and create proud legacy for this university.”

#### V. Committee Reports

A. Awards Committee-Chairperson Stephanie Renken delivered the report. She announced the recipients of the SIUE Alumni Legacy Scholarship and the Stahlschmidt Family Legacy Scholarship. Under the Stahlschmidt Award, \$1,500.00 awards will be presented to Matya White and Kris Copeland. The two SIUE Alumni Awards of full one year scholarships will be going to current student Lisa Mosby and incoming freshman Courtney Hake. Stephanie also reported on the five-100 dollar scholarships presented as part of the SIUE Alumni Legacy Award, which are going to Catherine Hauser, Leticia Georgie, Kyra Long, Travis Bloom, and Kimberly Bruning. Stephanie also reported that alternates had been selected in case any of the winners decided to attend a different university. Stephanie then reported on the awarding of the Great Teacher Award for 2010. The recipient is Dr. Nahid Shabestry of the Chemistry Department. Stephanie, on behalf of Rita Adkins and herself, thanked members of the Stahlschmidt Family and the members of her committee who participated in the process. She acknowledged the large number of applicants and the task involved. She recognized Janet Hohenstein, Pat Stahlschmidt, and Agnes Stahlschmidt and Committee members Bill Graebe, Tom McRae, Kevin Nesselhauf, Debra O’Neill, and Janet Sprehe. Tom McRae suggested that the recipients attend one of the Board meetings to meet those who selected them. Tom also told the meeting he was moved by the stories and wished there was a way we could help more

students. Jankowski reported the Stahlschmidt recipient does meet members of the family with photos taken for use in the alumni magazine. He also reported the SIUE Alumni Legacy winners submit a photo and a letter of appreciation which is included in the alumni magazine. Jankowski then stressed to members in attendance that the dues they pay fund the scholarships. Association Member Rose Yarbrough suggested having a scholarship dinner or an awards ceremony at which time the recipients and donors could be recognized. Jankowski then reported on current methods being used to recognize the recipients. SJ Morrison then raised the issue of the Board of Directors Scholarship and how it was structured. He wanted to let the membership know it had been formed and to remind the Board to make their contribution to create additional scholarship. Jankowski then stressed it was hoped to disperse the funds in Fall 2011.

- B. Finance Committee-Dr. Barry DeLassus informed the membership that the Alumni Association does operate under an annual budget which was approved the upcoming fiscal year at the March Board meeting. He also reported that in 2007, the Finance Committee approved an investment policy which guides the handling of Association dollars. Jankowski then offered to make a copy of the budget and the investment policy available to any member who requested it. Member Mike Hurt asked if the information was available on line. Jankowski reported that it wasn't but that that option would be explored.
- C. Homecoming Committee-Katie Bennett provided members and the board with an update of plans for the 2010 Homecoming celebration. Katie told the members she has the pleasure of working with the alumni homecoming planning committee, now in its second year. She reported there were eight members of the committee, including Nicholus Hughes of the Black Alumni Association, who was in attendance at the meeting. The events this year will begin Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> with the Alumni Hall of Fame dinner in the Morris University Center. Saturday involves the Chili Cook-off starting at 10:00am, the Club Football Game at 11:00am with the SIUE squad playing the club team from "The Ohio State." The weekend will close with the soccer game involving the men's team playing Bradley University. Katie then described the new event being put together by the Alumni Association which is designed to bridge the gap between the club football game and the soccer game. The Homecoming Cougar Fest will run from 2:00pm until 6:00pm on the YMCA soccer fields adjacent to Korte Stadium. She announced it will include a stage with three different bands, and cooperation with local chambers to bring vendors and businesses to the site for the event. Katie also reported that Alumni Reunion Row will continue for the second year. Reunion row is designed to get affinity groups or alumni with a special interest to rent a space and gather liked minded alumni and guests together. Katie reported the student theme for Homecoming 2010 will be welcome to Cougarville. Katie reported that approval has been received to create one central website for all of the Homecoming activities. Katie also reported that "save the date" postcards would be going out in July. Member Mike Hurt then offered congratulations on the Homecoming efforts, saying he has lived in Edwardsville 30 years, and he said "we never know what's going on out here." Katie added that it was hoped community partners will place signage in their windows promoting Homecoming.

- D. Membership and Marketing-Chair SJ Morrison outlined the purpose of the committee as being pretty obvious: “to increase membership and get the word out about the Association and what we do.” SJ then reported that we currently have a total of 4,710 members of the SIUE Alumni Association. He reported that of those 3,364 are lifetime members. SJ also reminded members that during the last board meeting each member was to reach out to friends and family they knew were alums but not Association members and invite them to join. SJ admitted he hadn’t done that yet, but he wanted to stress that each member of the Board needed to get in the process of making that happen. SJ reported that in looking for ways to get the word out, the idea was being discussed to create a project that would appeal to a variety of our members. SJ reported the concept was still in its infancy, but the idea was to have an annual project where the Board and the Association would go to the university and say “what is your need?” SJ then reported that recent survey data showed that the number one reason people participate in the Association is to support the university. He said the project would be like an assignment, similar to the Senior Assignment Project. The Board and Association would have an SIUE Alumni Association Assignment. SJ felt that if we could agree on a project each year that we could do some good for the university. SJ then told the members that they were empowered to offer suggestions and ideas for projects.
- E. Programming Committee-Chair Tom McRae reported that the committee was formed 18 months ago. Tom thanked members of the committee which includes Christine Jackson, Bill Graebe, Veronica Armouti, Karen Kelly, Brett Briggs, Melissa Glauber, and Katie Bennett. Christine Jackson stressed she was excited about taking over as Chair of the Committee. Christine extended an invitation to the members to participate if they are interested. Tom reported on past events including the Wine Tasting at Crushed Grapes. Bev George encouraged members to look at photos of the event on the website. Tom also reported on the Happy Hour at Fast Eddies which was attended by more than 20 people. Tom told the members we try to host events each month with a signature event once a quarter. Tom raised the suggestion of having a volunteer serve as the official chair or an ambassador for a specific event. Katie Bennett then provided details on the plan to have an individual or several individuals sign up to serve as a host for the event, greet the guests, and invite friends to attend. It was hoped to have three ambassadors at each event. Tom then asked if a few minutes could be taken to get individuals from the Board or from among the attendees to sign up. The process occurred with members of the board and the Associations signing up for the various events coming through the Cards/Cubs game on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Tom then brought up the idea of large signature event like a black tie gala in conjunction with a charity auction to raise money for scholarships. Tom solicited feedback on the possibility. SJ stressed whatever we can do to generate dollars for scholarships we should do. Bev stressed she felt it would take a commitment from the entire board to make the event successful. Others interjected that it should be set for the same time each year to generate some anticipation. Tom felt there was enough support to move forward with the idea. An Association member suggested that we secure art produced by SIUE students to be part of the

auction items. Stephanie Renken suggested it would be important to seek out some campus related activities, like basketball tickets for the auction. Member Mark Shashek then stressed if the evening includes an oral auction to limit the number of items to ten or less. Bev George then asked Steve Jankowski to provide information on the Gib Singleton Exhibit. Jankowski then outlined the history of the artist and the works, telling attendees the exhibit was open until June 27<sup>th</sup> at the Morris University Center Gallery.

- F. STAT-Brandon Rahn, Immediate Past President provided a breakdown of STAT activities. He reported that Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow was starting its third year. He told the attendees that over the past two years STAT “had done some remarkable things.” He then described the “Paint the Rock” opportunity with Freshmen Welcome and the expansion of the mentoring program. He then reported STAT now had 139 members which is up from 56 last year. He then invited attendees to consider participation in the mentoring program, which is the group’s signature program. He then described the alumni mentor mixers which bring the students and alumni together for great interaction. He then provided information on the Polar Bare Run event which was held in February as a fundraising and awareness raiser for the organization, which will become an annual event. Brandon then reported on the launch of the rose sales at commencement which raised 600 dollars during the December commencement program and almost two thousand during the May commencement. He called the program a great program and great service. STAT President Brooke Woods then told attendees that her goal as president was to not only keep STAT member numbers growing but to take the alumni mentorship program to the next level. Brooke quoted a research study which indicated top executives call mentoring one of the keys to their success, but many programs fail because of inadequate commitment from the participants. Brooke said her goal was to have all STAT members paired with their alumni mentor by the middle of the fall 2010 semester. She wants STAT members to meet on a bi-monthly basis with their mentors to get the most of out of the mentoring program. She stressed with the help of the Association, STAT members and her as President, STAT will get this program where it needs to be. Jankowski then thanked members of the Association because their dues will help pay the costs associated with sending the entire STAT board to an ASAP Conference in Kansas City in August. This conference provides students great networking opportunities as well as idea generation.
- G. Executive Director Report-Steve Jankowski told the membership that we do operate with a budget and this year, for the first time in several years, the Finance Committee and the Board had approved a zero deficit budget. Jankowski told the membership The Association has a balanced budget of 213,600.00 for Fiscal Year 2010. Current revenues as of April 30, 2010 totaled \$144,434.00 which includes membership dues, payments for events, donations, grants, and merchandise payments; and expenditures of \$143,245.00, which includes postage, publications, administrative costs, printing, travel, etc. So we are just over one thousand dollars to the plus side. Jankowski reported the School of Dental Medicine alumni group has 84 members. The School of Pharmacy alumni group has 37 members, which accounts for almost 25 percent of all of the graduates of the

program. The Black Alumni Association now has 83 members and that group is growing. Jankowski then reported on communication efforts in the fiscal year. Since July 1, 2009, the Alumni Association has originated more than 300-thousand email messages which includes the monthly electronic newsletter the eDition, which went from a twice per month piece to a one per month piece based on member feedback. Since July 1, 2009, the Association has placed more than 200-thousand pieces of mail into the hands of SIUE alumni, including the alumni magazine the eConnection. Jankowski then added that thanks to the cooperation of Patrick Hundley, all SIUE alumni in the system (almost 70,000) received a special edition of the magazine. Jankowski reported on the updated alumni website thanks to the efforts of Katie Bennett and the Department of Marketing and Communications, which now averages about three thousand visits per month. Jankowski then reported the Association has paid out more than \$25,000 in nine scholarships. Jankowski then reported that the Alumni Association Board of Directors Scholarship fund now contains \$500.00. Jankowski reminded the board of the program approved during the March board meeting which would have each board member contact one of the 20 universities defined as a peer institutions of SIUE. He instructed each member to see him after the meeting to draw from the list of 20 the university they were to contact. The board members will make the contact and complete a questionnaire with the peer institution they select. Jankowski reported the project will enable the Association to gauge how well it is doing in relation to our peer institutions. Brandon Rahn then asked for the floor and recognized the exceptional work done by STAT adviser Katie Bennett, Assistant Director of Alumni Affairs.

## **VI. Public Comment Section**

- A. The meeting then moved to the public comment section. Jankowski directed those wishing to speak to the Board to identify themselves, indicating they would have two minutes to make their presentation. A member of the audience then raised the issue of a letter containing questions regarding the Cougar Lake Pool and the signatures of concerned users of the pool. The person asked if the letter could be read. Jankowski indicated that he had a copy of the letter, and what he said he would like to have happen was to address the questions and provide information about Cougar Lake Pool. Jankowski said he would be happy to provide attendees with the information provided him by Campus Recreation and the name of a contact person with Campus Recreation. Jankowski then asked how many individuals in attendance were concerned about the situation with Cougar Lake Pool. There were approximately a dozen people represented by the raising of hands. Jankowski then provided the group with some background regarding the issue of Cougar Lake Pool. He told the attendees a phone call had been received in the Alumni office from an individual who had signed up for summer membership and was told the pool would close August 15<sup>th</sup>, instead of staying open until Labor Day. Jankowski reported that individual wanted to know what the story was. Jankowski reported he made contact with Mick Ostrander of Campus Recreation and because of a combination of economics, usage, and the fact that high schools in the area start classes August 17<sup>th</sup>, it was decided to close the pool early this year. Jankowski reported that he asked Mick and Campus

Recreation if they would consider keeping the pool open on weekends through Labor Day and Campus Recreation is looking at that to see if it is financially feasible. Jankowski then referred to the letter from pool users which referenced a rumor that the pool was going to be closed permanently. Jankowski told the group that was not the case. Jankowski then asked those who were concerned about Cougar Lake Pool to contact Keith Becherer in Campus Recreation. Keith Becherer has indicated he would be happy to answer questions regarding Cougar Lake Pool. Jankowski then stressed the pool was not going to close next year, adding they might look at adjusting hours, but Campus Recreation is not going to close the pool. Jankowski then told attendees that in the past, the monies paid by alumni members, funded pool operations, but the cost of operating it has increased dramatically in the last three years. Jankowski also reported that numbers provided by Keith Becherer in Campus Recreation indicated that alumni usage of the pool had dropped. Jankowski then repeated that to get straight information, contact Keith Becherer. He also encouraged attendees concerned about the issue to contact Keith before restating all of the facts learned from Campus Recreation: The pool will close on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August this year, Campus Recreation is reviewing the possibility of keeping it open weekends through Labor Day, and the pool will not close next year.

One of the attendees, who identified herself as a long-time user of the pool, then described how the maintenance of the pool had gone down, which could contribute to the decreasing membership numbers. She said the clubhouse had not been maintained, the showers were inconsistent in terms of hot water, i.e. sometimes you don't have hot water and sometimes you're scalded. She said that has been going on for years. She also described the dirty conditions and dead bugs in the shower. She also said "you can't always count on the shuttle to be there during pool hours." Jankowski then stressed that he appreciated her concerns, but added as the Alumni Association and our mission statement involves "your voice" that we will be your voice with the university, mentioning that Patrick (Hundley) would get a chance to talk about that in just a second. Jankowski then said "if there is an issue with a service that you're getting through the university, make us aware of it, but the discussion should be focused on Campus Recreation and on the maintenance done by Campus Recreation." Jankowski said "we can certainly get information," referring to the conversation with Mick Ostrander. Jankowski then said "Ultimately, as users of the pool, if you have an issue with the pool, I would encourage you to bring that to attention of campus recreation as a user of the pool, and that way you're going directly to the source of someone who can provide you with the answer with what is going on with the finances and maintenance of the pool."

Another attendee indicated that she went to the pool because it had a baby pool, calling it a great place for her and her friends to take their kids. She suggested, to get more money, why not offer memberships of say \$300.00 to non-SIUE-affiliated members of the community. She said she belonged to a mom's club with at least 50 members, half of whom would welcome the opportunity to use the pool. She then added you could limit that to the first 250 people outside of the SIUE community who wanted to join. She also suggested that the price of

concessions could be raised to generate revenue. Jankowski then said these were all excellent suggestions, but stressed as a separate alumni association, we have nothing to do with the policy that impacts that, and he added “there could very well be a university policy that prohibits that because of liability or other issues.” Jankowski then said: “If you have a suggestion like that, which is an excellent suggestion. I would encourage you to “CC” me on them and send it to campus recreation.” Jankowski then stressed that “ultimately what was going to happen to the pool was going to happen through Student Affairs and the University.” Another attendee suggested putting something in the alumni newsletter to better promote the usage of the pool, as many alumni may not be aware of its availability and to increase advocates for the pool. Jankowski told the speaker that we could promote it because membership in the pool is discounted to members of the Alumni Association. Jankowski then added it is promoted through the alumni website and other channels as one of the benefits of membership. Jankowski then added that the alumni office could do a better job of promoting the pool as a benefit of membership.

Mike Hurt then raised the issue of awareness, but then asked what is available to alumni out here anymore. He then said “it sounded like to all us, or the perception is that all of our benefits are being slowly whittled away.” Mike then said, “The only thing we’ve got anymore is the library that is free.” Jankowski then offered attendees a listing of the campus benefits included with membership in the Alumni Association. Jankowski told the group all of the benefits are listed on the website and proceeded to list them: Discounted membership in the Student Fitness Center which includes all of the facilities of the SFC, free parking at Birger Hall, the swimming pool, the Lovejoy Library, discounts to the Arts & Issues programs on campus, and other events on campus. Jankowski then stressed members also get information on campus events through alumni communication pieces. Jankowski then added the office is investigating the potential for providing wireless internet access on campus, which would involve issuance of a pass word through Information Technology. Jankowski stressed the campus was willing to talk with us about these options. Jankowski also reported that the office looked into possibility of library access from the home computers of SIUE alumni. That again, he said, required a password, and the library could not afford the licensing costs necessary to make reference materials available on line. Jankowski stressed that when he came to the campus three and a half years ago benefits were minimal, but that has changed thanks in part to hard work and great cooperation within the campus community.

Another attendee, identifying herself as a teacher, stressed she understood the financial situation the pool faces, as well as the university, but she added the pool was also a great public relations tool for the university. She added, “Many of us raised our children there.” She then said all of the children who go there think of this university as a fun place to go and it is the expectation of the parents that they will attend SIUE. She then said, “even if memberships can’t cover all of the costs, it is still a great PR tool.”

Patrick Hundley then took the floor and told the attendees that they were talking to the wrong people. Jankowski then repeated that they should contact Keith

Becherer at Campus recreation. Jankowski then reminded attendees that the ultimate decision rested in the office of Vice Chancellor Nobby Emmanuel and they were within rights to contact him. Jankowski then asked that if they do contact Nobby's office that they carbon copy the alumni office on the communication. Jankowski then told the group the "Voice" campaign was designed to serve as a "conduit" to the university so interested alumni could get factual information, referencing the rumor the pool was closing completely. Jankowski stressed the purpose was to dispel those types of rumors before they turn into something negative. The attendee reference before said "it's nice to have a partner in this." She said "the reason we are here is that we hoped for support in this."

A member named Joan Henderson then addressed the issue saying she appreciated the information about contacting the appropriate person. She then said "as individuals we can contact the right people, but since there seemed to be such strong feelings in this, would it be appropriate for the Alumni Association to form an ad hoc committee to try to come up with ways to help make this pool a success." She suggested putting a lot of minds together to come up with some good ideas. She stressed she understood the money issue, but she felt there should also be an avenue besides individuals sending emails. She felt there should be a way for a group that is interested in this to get together, brainstorm, and then as representatives of the Alumni Association present "more muscle, more ideas."

Board Member Kevin Nesselhauf said he would be interested in creating a program like a pool party to kick off to help people recognize the pool is there. Kevin said he recently reminded another member of the Association about the pool's existence. Kevin said he felt there is a faction of people who don't even remember the pool is there. Kevin then asked if it were possible to create an event through the Alumni Association at the pool to remind members the pool is available to them.

Tom McRae then added that he felt we could definitely do that, at which point Patrick Hundley stood and said he believed things were "getting out of control." Hundley then said, "You have to remember this. Why does the Alumni Association exist? He then said it was to keep alumni connected with the university and "to expand the ways alumni and friends of the university can become meaningfully engaged with the university." He then said "anything that has to do with university operations is not the purview of this group." He then said, "We probably messed up in our office when the first person called with a complaint about the pool, we should have said let us transfer your call to someone else that handles the information." Patrick then made the statement, "We don't want to be the conduit for complaints to the university. We hope that you'll call us if you have information and we can put you in touch with the right person, but that's not the purview at all of this organization." Hundley continued with this statement: "We hope you'll also call when you have some positive things to say about the university, gee isn't this beautiful campus tonight, something like that, or how well the campus is kept up and all like that." Then Hundley said, "That's

what you have to remember. This organization does not have any responsibilities or purview dealing with university operations.”

Member Mike Hurt then said “It’s our voice with the university.” To which Hundley responded this should be a referral rather than being involved. “In other words, you call Steve with a complaint and Steve refers you to the person that can address your complaint.”

Mike Hurt then asked if this was permanent and were we going to give this up forever? Mike then said Illinois has a history of being in a budget crunch but he felt it would end eventually. He then asked if pool members would get back the hours being curtailed this season. Jankowski then answered by saying he didn’t know the financial situation facing the pool, other than a few numbers shared with him by Campus Recreation. He said student fees and memberships pay for the operation. Jankowski then added he did not know if state funding was involved with the pool or not. Jankowski then repeated the people who would have that information would be Keith Becherer, Mick Ostrander, and Nobby Emmanuel. Toni Oplt, an association member then asked for the floor. She said Patrick Hundley’s comments were “really offensive” to most of the people who were involved in the pool question. She said, “as an alumni of this school, the pool is one of the main advantages of even being an alumni of SIUE.” She then said, “If the alumni association is here for the alumni, and you’re telling us the pool really doesn’t have anything to do with that.” She continued, “Most of us can go to the Edwardsville library or the Glen Carbon library, so the SIUE library is so good, let me donate to the Alumni Association because it’s just that great. And if you’re telling us that you don’t really care about the pool because that’s just a recreational activity, I mean that’s the way it came out.”

Hundley then apologized for the way the statement came out while the alumna stressed it was their membership fees helping to keep the pool open. Hundley then said he couldn’t do anything about the pool because that was in another division of the university. When an alumna said the association was “our voice” to the university, Hundley said their voice needed to go to the division of student services that handles the pool. Then Hundley told the assembly if there were upset about a parking situation, they could call us and we will refer you to the parking people and if you don’t like the answer then, you call back and say I didn’t get a good answer from the parking person, then “I” can refer you to Kenn Neher who can do something about that. He then added that “was something we’ve done in more than a few situations.” Hundley then said “I don’t want to sound like we don’t care, we love you guys.” He then said his philosophy is “the basis of any great university is building great alumni relations.” He then said “if we don’t have active alumni, we certainly don’t get any gifts or you won’t send us your kids, and we want all of those things.” Hundley then said the issue here is (as he gestured to the board) that no one up here can do anything about the pool. Hundley then said we can give you the name of the person who can, indicating that person would be happy to meet with a “large group of you people and hear your complaints and then do something about it.” Patrick then went on to say “we can’t go to these people and say you’ve got to do something about the pool because the alumni are unhappy.” When a member of the board asked if we could

do that as the board, Hundley responded, “No you cannot, because you are a university related organization and you have to go by the University’s rules and regulations.”

Board Member Veronica Armouti asked if there could be some way we could get them (University) ideas or information to try to help that way.

Hundley responded “I think the thing they are doing right there. If you have this large of a group like this, I believe they’d be happy to meet with you.”

Veronica Armouti then stressed again the idea of better marketing the pool.

Immediate Past President Ajay Kansal then took the floor and thanked the group saying he was “honestly ecstatic to hear that we’ve got 30 or 40 alumni who are passionate about something.” Board President Bev George then added, “and the Board thanks you very much.” Ajay then added that some of us we’re not fully aware of the details, and then stressed that “all of the board members are just like you. We just happen to be on the board, but we are just fellow alumni, and we are just glad to see there is some interest.” Ajay then said what was an issue is what is the Board capacity to address the issue, which he said he felt that was what Patrick Hundley was trying to address. Ajay then said some of the points being made by the group might be “music to Keith Becherer’s ears.” Ajay said he felt we needed to continue this dialogue.

Hundley then said he had spoken with Nobby Emmanuel that day and was told the people should first go to Mick Ostrander and if there is no satisfaction, then go to Nobby.

Diana Lexow then remarked that they have repeatedly contacted Mick Ostrander and Campus Recreation with all of their complaints and so far have yet to get any answers or responses. She also stressed no one was marketing the facility.

Jankowski then expressed that he appreciated the passion expressed here tonight and the conversations held so far. He also said “we cannot stop a group of individuals from doing something, but we want to make sure that we funnel real information, factual information, and we make sure that you get heard by the university and the university hears from you. So the university has an opportunity to respond factually and appropriately.”

Hundley then said “don’t just contact them with a complaint.” He suggested they take the whole group to a meeting with the people involved. Hundley then said Mick Ostrander would schedule an appointment with you as a group. He then said, “If you don’t get help, I’ll help you get an appointment with Dr. Emmanuel, and if that doesn’t happen, and I can’t imagine that not happening, then I’ll help you get an appointment with the Chancellor.” Hundley then said, “I can assure with numbers there is power, and obviously you’re very passionate about this which I’m very excited about as I love to see this kind of passion.” Hundley then said you will get some satisfaction stressing that may not mean they’ll be happy about the hours, but he assured the attendees there would be some changes made. President Elect Tom McRae then stressed that the Programming Committee would love to have an event at the pool, inviting attendees to see him after the meeting.

President Bev George than stated; “This is exciting. This is the kind of interaction and engagement we like to see from our alums. This is what makes us

vital. This is what gives us the power and the energy to get something done.” She went on to say, “I can’t tell you how many members of the board up here didn’t know they could still get a membership to the pool.” She then said “This is the kind of education we need and we want to be your voice. We’re not the answer, we’re not the department but having you able to come here, let us get you with the right people and if you’re not getting the answers, we want to know.” Bev then added, “We’re not the hammer to make the university do what the alumni might think is necessary at that point.” The Public Comment section of the meeting was then officially closed.<sup>12</sup>

**VII. New Business**

- A. Jankowski then announced that the SIUE Alumni Association Board has a member who is a representative of the SIUE Foundation Board of Directors. The Executive Committee of the Foundation Board has recommended that Sandy Hardy Chinn (a 1974 Mass Communication graduate) serve as that representative. Jankowski reported the SIUE Alumni Association Executive Committee had approved the appointment and a motion would need to be made for the full board to approve the nomination. Chuck Rathert moved Chinn be accepted. Christine Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- B. The Board next considered the nomination of Christine Jackson to serve as the Chair of the Programming Committee. The Executive Committee recommended the nomination be accepted. Tom McRae moved the nomination be accepted. Karen Kelly seconded. The motion passed.

**VIII. Old Business**

- A. There was no old business. Christine Jackson moved the meeting be adjourned. Melissa Glauber seconded the motion. The motion passed with the meeting adjourning at 8:15pm.