

Alumni Association Plenary Session
January 28, 2007
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Attendance: Michael Bales, Tom Byrnes, Dick Cowles, Carol Freeman, Dave Heimann, Allan Hoffman, Michael MacDonald, Jo Ann Mattson, Lee Mendelson, Joanne Murray, Patty Sollars, Steve Thomas, Liz Travis, Jason Walsh, Morgan White Smith

Quorum was reached.

President's Report- Jason Walsh

Mr. Walsh announced that this year Sam Kutler and Walter Sterling will be appointed as tutor representatives to the Board. In addition, the Board will appoint two undergraduate representatives from each campus. Sanjay Poovadan is picking up the BVG spot vacated by Keith Harrison.

Mr. Walsh proposed that the April Board meeting be changed from the weekend of April 28 to the weekend of April 20 to coincide with Croquet in Annapolis. It was moved and seconded, but the vote tied and thus lost. Mr. Walsh also proposed that the summer meeting be moved to the same weekend as the BVG meeting, July 28-29. It was moved and seconded, and passed unanimously.

The Capital Campaign has topped \$101 million. It was also announced that Ron Fielding started a \$2.5 million challenge grant for new and increased giving. In other Philanthropia news, Mr. Walsh told the Board about a spring training for the croquet team at Pinehurst Country Club in North Carolina, which will include a benefit dinner for the college. More information is available at the College's website.

The BVG passed a resolution extending sympathy to the wife of Mr. Ahmet Ertegun, who died in December at the age of 83. Mr. Ertegun was an Alumni Award of Merit winner, founder of Atlantic Records and co-founder of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

The BVG is concerned about the under-representation of students of color at St. John's College. The administration shares this concern and determines to do all it can to rectify the problem. Additionally, two of our alumni who were BVG members have had to leave the board due to personal and medical reasons. Mr. Walsh requested that Association Board members please contact him or Mr. Thomas with the names of any candidates for consideration for service on either the BVG or the Association Board that could increase the diversity of these boards.

Treasurer's Report- Bill Fant
(enclosed)

Mr. Fant announced that the Alumni Association has reached a new high in dues collection, almost \$45,000. He reported that the finances of AABD are healthy.

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes, which passed

Nominations- Steve Thomas

Members of the BVG term that ends in 2008 are in their first term. It was moved and seconded to re-nominate Joel Ard, Sanjay Poovadan, and Michael MacDonald. It passed. Award of Merit candidates were discussed. It was moved and seconded to award two candidates the Award of Merit in Annapolis. It was moved and seconded to award one candidate the Award of Merit in Santa Fe. Five At-large directors' terms will end at in 2007. Amber Boydston and Robert George cannot be re-nominated due to term limits. It was moved and seconded that three people be nominated as At-large directors of the AABD. It passed. It was moved and seconded that two people receive Honorary Alumni status in Santa Fe. It was moved and seconded that one person receive Honorary Alumni status in Annapolis.

Chapters- Carol Freeman (Report enclosed.)

Ms. Freeman reported that sixteen of the nineteen existing chapters completed the chapter survey. The chapters are very healthy. South Florida's reading group has petitioned to obtain chapter status. Austin, North Carolina, Santa Fe, Baltimore, Atlanta and San Diego have expressed a need support or are interested in growing.

The cost of the Chapter Presidents, lunch is being rolled into the general AABD meeting costs and thus the committee does not need any budget money for that expense. Dallas is meeting regularly and is considering petitioning for chapter status. Dick Cowles, Santa Fe Chapter President, extended an invitation to all alumni to attend the Santa Fe Chapter monthly brunch at the Mission Café on the third Saturday of every month.

Events- Liz Travis

In terms of the 2007 budget, Ms. Travis reported that the committee planned to keep allocation for Homecoming and Croquet the same as previous years. \$3000 was allocated to a dinner at each of the new Piraeus Programs. The timing of the Santa Fe Homecoming was discussed at length. In particular, moving it to the Spring semester. Senior dinners were also discussed.

Recent Grads- Dave Heimann

Mr. Heimann's committee discussed other activities that may attract recent grads than typical chapter seminars. The committee budgeted some funds to pick up costs of events for young grads. The goal is to support them without restricting them and ruining the sense of spontaneity. The committee will work to integrate the activities while keeping their character intact. The committee also discussed Career Services on both campuses, which is historically a controversial subject. The committee sent a note to the Dean's asking for a clarification of the role of these offices.

Communications- Joanne Murray

The committee discussed how to best utilize email and the resources of the college in communicating with alumni. The priority of the committee is to be clear on what the

college has and how it can be used. It was moved and seconded that the committee would commence a fact-finding mission and come up with a list of the Association's needs and concerns that would be sent through Jo Ann Mattson to the Director of IT.

Support Committee -- Bill Fant

2007 Budget enclosed. Treasurer Dick Cowles submitted a balanced budget for 2007 and explained the inflow and outflow of the Alumni Association's funds; adding that the actuals shown for 2006 were preliminary and would be revised once the 2006 books were closed. The 2007 budget as presented was approved by the Board.

Old Business

Ms. Eoyang shared some reflections on her term as president for the past six years. She recalled Aristotle's differentiation between friendships of utility and friendships for the good. This distinction is important for the college to remember on many levels in order to stay healthy. She encouraged the Association to continue to balance those friendships of utility and the good as they move forward with their relationships with fellow alumni and with the college.

New Business

No new business.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05.