

Illinois State University Alumni Association

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2023

9:00 a.m.

In Person Meeting at Office of Watterson Dining Center

Alumni Association Mission: To support the University through the knowledge, skills, financial resources, and loyalty of its alumni; to communicate and interpret the University's goals and achievements to others; and to promote a spirit of unity and loyalty among former students and friends.

Members Present: Walton, Horstein, Griffin, Mills, Nelson-Brown, Aguirre, Ramsey, Richards, Durnell, Rillie, Fontenelle (Westbrook), Scholl, Goldsmith, Schurter, Grant, Shingles, Jackson, McGuire, Spann, Mielneczek, Wells, Preston, Clark,

Guests: Navarro (Board of Trustees Liaison) Mary Anne Louderback (Board of Trustees), "Ash" Aselimhe Ekikhumi (Board of Trustees)

Members Absent: Smith

Meeting Notes

1. Call to Order

Leah Walton

- a. Walton called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

2. ISU Leadership Updates

a. President's Report

President Kinzy

- i. President Kinzy thanked all who attended the MLK Dinner on Friday night.
- ii. Dr. Tom Keyser has been named Dean of the College of Engineering
 1. Dr. Keyser will lead the vision for the College of Engineering as a 22nd century college; does not have the "we have always done it that way" attitude.
 2. Engineering should be ready to accept a freshmen class in 2025.
 3. Dr. Keyser was announced on Chicago area news – channel 7.
- iii. E-sport is the #1 program in Overwatch in the country.
 1. Will be hosting a tri-meet with Illinois Wesleyan and Heartland.
- iv. Big capital projects going on around campus- College of Fine Arts building. (In Julian Hall until completion.)
- v. New residence hall construction is underway.
- vi. ISU had a big voter turnout for the last election. Voted "Most engaged college for student voting".
- vii. Research and grant money has been received for supporting tutoring of underserved people who were affected by COVID.

- viii. Received a \$1 million global professorship – Chocolate and Culture.
- ix. MCN has been awarded a \$2 million community project grant from the federal government. (Known as Earmarks)
- x. College of Education is the highest producer of outstanding teachers in the nation.
 - 1. More than general education teachers than 10 years ago.
 - 2. Top ranked for Physics teachers.
 - 3. # of Special Education teachers down as kids aren't going into special ed.
- xi. Basketball teams helped raise \$150,000 for the Kay Yow Cancer program which reaches out to underserved cancer patients.
- xii. NIL (Name, Image, and Likeness) does anyone know a business that might be interested in contributing?
- xiii. The new baseball practice facility will be named after the initial contributor – Paul DeJong.
- xiv. The Horticulture Center received a gift to fund the Childrens' Garden from the Betty Norris Fairchild Estate.
- xv. The Governor has submitted a proposal 7.5 % increase in state funding; if the funding is viewed with a lens on the Pell Grant ISU could get a 10.2% increase. Last years increase was 5%.
- xvi. Brian Bernardoni is going to help develop a government affairs position.
 - 1. Will work on getting dollars due to equity in the Pell Grants.
- xvii. President Kinzy made a “call to Action” for equitable funding for ISU. If you know any legislators, reach out to them.

b. Trustee's Report

Bob Navarro

- i. In December meeting, the improvements for Watterson Dining were approved.
- ii. Naming of the baseball facility was approved.
- iii. Next meeting is February 17, 2023.

c. University Advancement Report

Pat Vickerman

- i. Fund raising is going well. Goal is \$25M (largest we have ever had).
- ii. Commitment to the College of Fine Arts of \$7.5 Million will put us over the goal this year.
- iii. 4 Colleges have already met their fund raising goals: College of Fine Arts, College of Arts and Sciences, MCN and Millner Library.
- iv. Will continue funding raising efforts.
- v. Unite an Ohio based company is helping advancement work with corporations for the following:
 - 1. Research opportunities and funding
 - 2. Sponsorships

3. Philanthropy
 4. Career Services
 5. Other ways to expand relationships.
 6. Starting with a list of 10 companies; Pat will share that list with the board; Precision Planning of Morton is on the list.
 7. Nikita Richards inquired about whether these target companies are vetted on their social responsibility practices.
- vi. Kinzy is to meet with the Council of Economic Development.
 - vii. Currently looking for a replacement for Dr. Doris Houston in DEI.
 - viii. Birds Give Back; Karyn Aguirre established a scholarship for underserved.

d. Alumni Engagement Report

Kris Harding

- i. Kris mentioned that the MLK dinner was wonderful.
- ii. Men's basketball game is tonight.
- iii. Kris thanked EMDH for breakfast, lunch, and the tour; Also thanked the tech support staff.
- iv. Kris introduced AshLynn Cowles – new customer service staff in the AE office.
- v. AE has a position posted for Beth's former position in the Chicagoland area.
- vi. Alumni Attitude survey is closed.
 1. 2200 responses (5883 in 2018 survey)
 2. Vendor said this is normal to have a higher response (2018) when the survey hasn't been done in 10 years due to survey fatigue.
 3. The board will be invited to one of several Zoom sessions to review the results.
 4. Kris is sending Birds Give Back information next week.
- vii. Feb. 8 at 6pm is an overview of the budget with COO Jill Wilbur will take place. How the money works? How is the money spent?

e. Alumni Association President's Report

Leah Walton

- i. Leah shared where she has been and where is going as our Board President.
 1. Family Weekend
 2. Legacy Brunch
 3. Network leaders' event at Keg Grove
 4. Homecoming
 - a. Parade
 - b. Game
 - c. BCA Meet & Greet
 - d. Lan Social
 - e. Alumni tent
 - f. College tents
 5. Past President's Roundtable

- a. Insights and their ideas are helpful.
- 6. Dec. 17th Graduations exceeded expectations – wonderful experience!
- 7. Spring graduations on May 2 and 3.
- 8. MLK Dinner was wonderful.
- 9. Attended most of the committee meetings and worked on the Constitution.
- 10. Will continue to find interesting campus locations for board meetings and allowing networking time during the meetings.
- ii. Going forward Walton will continue to improve communications and look for board development opportunities.
- iii. The board will be able to purchase tickets for the Friday night April 21st Gamma Phi circus performance at 7 pm \$20.

f. ISU Campus Conversations

Tammie Keney, Director Student Access and Accommodation Services introduced the board to this campus service.

- Provide confidential services and compliance-based counseling for students with various needs including ADA, religious, pregnancy, among other needs.
- ADA expanded disability to include medical, mental health, and disabilities (vision, hearing and others)
- Students must self-declare a need. Cannot by law seek students out.
- 6.6% of students have self- declared, with the biggest need in psychological disabilities.
- Collaborate with other departments on campus such as health services, housing, etc.
- Referrals come in from high schools or from university staff.
- Barriers for students: cost of testing, course content is not accessible, lived experiences.
- COVID helped in that it forced the university to put everything online. Have closed captioning and transcription services available.
- Support service animals and support animals.
- SAAS – RSO -Student Disability Network - advocates, discussion talks, and events/speakers.
- Several scholarships available.
- Mentorship – connect students with alums with similar disabilities.
- Workforce recruitment – federal government is recruiting for interns with disabilities.

g. University Strategic Planning Committee Presentation/Discussion, Angela Engel and Brian Beam

- i. Strategic Plan from 2018 – 2023 – Educate, Communicate, Elevate
- ii. Working on new plan, including visits with different groups around campus to gather information. Plan to have final version done by fall 2023.
- iii. Comments from board members will be in a separate document for use when developing the board strategic plan.

h. Consent Agenda (Action Items)

- i. Approval of September 17, 2022, minutes. Schurter moved to approve the minutes with updates on the data of freshmen class. Griffin seconded that motion. Motion approved unanimously.
- ii. FY23 Financial Report as of 1/6/23. Shingles moved to approve Financial Report. Ramsey seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

i. Continuing Business- none

Leah Walton

None

j. New Business

Leah Walton

- i. Motion to approve Karyn Aguirre’s appointment to the Executive Committee. Smith moved to approve. Griffin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- ii. Motion to Approve committee assignments. Griffin moved to approve. Ramsey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

k. Committee/Liaison Updates –

i. Awards -Susan

- 1. Awards Brunch is April 21, 2023, at the Bone Center at 9am.

ii. Board Development – Dave

- 1. Ad Hoc committee to is reviewing the Board Handbook for updates.
- 2. Committee is going to research different Board Leadership training opportunities.
- 3. Looking to add a Treasurer.
- 4. 4 open board positions in June. Deadline is 02/21/23.

iii. DEI -Matthew

- 1. Update representation on website as result of survey.
- 2. Listening session on Representation – Mar 21st

iv. Executive – Leah

1. As a result of the Board Experiences Survey, we will be focusing on communication and Board Development leadership/training programs.
- v. **Homecoming -Stacy**
 1. Homecoming was a success!
- vi. **RED-Julia**
 1. Blood Drive on Oct 11th at Homecoming exceeded expectations.
 2. Redbird Table Talks on Representation postponed till 03/30/2023.
 3. Stephanie provided an update on Alternative Spring Break.
- vii. **Prime/Half Century -Tim**
 1. Thinking of rebranding the Prime. The name Prime does not resonate with alums. One suggestion: Golden Redbirds.
 2. Thinking about changing the age of the group and the focus.
 3. Half Century Club is on Friday evening of Homecoming weekend.
- viii. **Scholarship committee -Tyler**
 1. Applications due 02/10/2023
 2. 8 new scholarships
 3. Review should be complete by 03/10/2023.
- ix. **Student Alumni Council- Cam Hinman**
 1. Several meetings planned. General council meets on 1/23.
 2. WinterFest – big recruiting event.
 3. Valentine’s Day event – sell roses and flowers to raise funds.
 4. Spring retreat and Sibling carnival.
 5. Senior sent off.
 6. Invited Board members to attend council meetings.
- x. **Athletics Liaison-Stacy**
 1. Reformat with NCAA, NIL, and Portal changes.
 2. Redbird Athletes average GPA is 3.36. 345 were on the Honor Roll; 120 athletes had a 4.0 GPA.
- xi. **Bone Liaison-Brent**
 1. Will start in February or March.
- xii. **Foundation Board- Dave**
 1. First meeting is next Monday.
- xiii. **Honorary Degree-Leah**
 1. Reviewed nominations.
 2. JD thought it might be good for Dr. Craig McLaughlin to join us for a lunch and learn at a future meeting.

3. Other Discussions

- a. Alums will gather for a pre-game event and to watch Women’s Basketball at UIC on 2/1.
- b. Upcoming BCA event: Redbirds in Ink: 4 Redbirds Authors:
 - i. William Anderson ’87 – *Exchanging in the Zone*

- ii. Damone Bester '96 – *Mendel*
- iii. Felicia Madlock '88 – *The Misadventures of Geno*
- iv. Terrence Seaphus '82- *Balancing the Bias: Cracking the Mind thru Critical Thinking*

Latinx Leadership will be joining the board for lunch and the tour of the Watterson culinary center.

4. Adjournment

Leah Walton

Ramsey moved to adjourn. Shingles seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m.