

## Illinois State University Alumni Association

Board of Directors Meeting

September 19, 2020

9:00 a.m.

Zoom meeting

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 Absent: Pawlicki

### Meeting Notes

#### 1. Call to Order

**Steve Smith**

- a. Smith called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A moment of silence was observed to honor Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg and her accomplishments to our country.

#### 2. ISU Leadership Updates

##### a. President's Report

**Provost Tarhule**

Introduction by VP of Academic Affairs, Provost Tarhule, who started his position at Illinois State on July 1, 2020.

- i. Plan regarding Covid-19 is to keep the University safe and healthy
  1. Majority of students following protocols ; those involved in flash mob activities to face code of conduct and fines
  2. Local hospitals almost free of Covid patients
  3. 1000 students infected, but the focus is on the 19,000 students not infected.
- ii. Enrollment of 20,710 is strong – less than 1% of last year's total enrollment
- iii. 2<sup>nd</sup> highest enrollment in last 4 years
- iv. African American enrollment up 5%; LatinX enrollment unchanged
- v. Amount ISU is giving out in aid is more than half of state appropriations. Numerous laptops given out to assist students with virtual classes.
- vi. 181 million raised for Redbirds Rising Fund
- vii. Illinois State named #10 "Best Bang for the Buck"
- viii. Questions taken from Board members, with following information provided:
  1. Testing goals are showing encouraging numbers, but leadership is being cautiously optimistic.
  2. 20,710 total enrollment, and breakdown between grad and undergrad will be provided. Graduate enrollment up 4%, undergrad enrollment down less than 1%, 1<sup>st</sup> year freshmen enrollment down 10%.
  3. Black enrollment has an increase of 5%.

4. Number of mental health counselors has been increased, additional online help has been added, and limits have been removed on number of visits allowed.
5. 160 students have received funds from the Redbird Covid Fund.

**b. Trustee's Report**

**Kathy Bohn**

- i. Masters of Science added for low vision and blindness program
- ii. Fire protection to be provided with city of Normal
- iii. Bonds provided for Watterson air ventilation system, Multicultural Center, and Bone Student Center concourse
- iv. Naming rights have been secured for rooms in Multicultural Center
- v. August 10<sup>th</sup> special meeting to discuss Covid; Sept 10<sup>th</sup> informational meeting for enrollment, classes, athletics and Covid response
- vi. Moving to use U of I testing at approximately \$10 per test

**c. University Advancement Report**

**Kris Harding**

- i. Video shown highlighting the 1.4 million estate gift directed to Alumni Engagement by 1954/59 grads Ron and Kathleen Beales. The Alumni Engagement Suite will be renamed the "Ron and Kathleen Beales Alumni Engagement Suite".

**d. Alumni Engagement Report**

**Kris Harding**

- i. Virtual programming and events have had a large reach across the globe
- ii. RED will be hosting civic engagement "Table Talks" on Sept. 28th
- iii. Family Weekend events to be virtual, no Legacy Brunch (over 500 attended last year). Request for pics and videos sent to legacy families.
- iv. No info yet on Homecoming or Awards ceremony
- v. Athletics: men and women's basketball practice to start 11/25, March Madness set for March 4-7, Hoops in Heartland March 11-14

**e. Alumni Association President's Report**

**Steve Smith**

- i. Good planning and movement in Strategic Plan. First 90 days: committee appointment, network leader engagement, strategic plan preparation, diversity and inclusion conversations.
- ii. Richards and Guadalupe to co-chair Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Action Committee
- iii. Action steps to begin in September; final approval/adoption by Board in April

**3. Dr. Doris Houston, Interim Assistant to the President for Diversity and Inclusion**

- a. Has been in role for 2 months. Role is to advance University's core values of diversity and inclusion (Inclusive Excellence). Has met with LatinX and BCA; has an open door policy. Serves as advisor to President and others.
- b. Current priorities:
  - i. COVID-19 equity and inclusion planning
  - ii. Student movements (equity and social justice)
  - iii. Election preparation (demonstration support team)

- iv. Infrastructure for Diversity and Inclusion
  - 1. Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council
  - 2. Data reports
  - 3. Education and hiring (with evaluations)
  - 4. Inclusive hiring practices
  - 5. Departmental level equity goals and action plans.
- v. COVID-19 equity recommendations:
  - 1. Health and well being
  - 2. Student success and accessibility
  - 3. Faculty/staff performance and expectations
  - 4. Technology access
  - 5. Financial support
  - 6. Review of COVID-19 related outcomes specific to underserved communities
  - 7. Looking at date for Pass/No Pass options
  - 8. Suspension of standardized tests for admissions
  - 9. Removal of counseling limits
  - 10. Housing access during Spring shelter in place
  - 11. 7000 students claimed CARES Act funds; 160 students supported from Redbird Response Fund
- vi. Reckoning with History – Watterson Towers name removal of former slave holders. Intentional naming focusing on the acknowledgement of diverse leaders and contributions
- vii. Affirming Spaces – Multicultural Center, healing circles, advocacy
- viii. Goal is to balance history and acknowledge accomplishments of diverse populations. Work to be done: Anti-racism and anti-bias training

**4. Consent Agenda (Action Items)**

- a. Approval of June 20, 2020 minutes
- b. FY20 Financial Report – Final update
- c. FY21 Financial Report as of 9/4/20
- d. Griffin moved to approved Consent Agenda. Preston seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

**5. Continuing Business**

**Steve Smith**

**6. New Business**

**Steve Smith**

- a. Motion to approve committee assignments.
  - i. Griffin moved to approve. Mielneczek seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Scholarship Committee Proposal - Danny Mielneczek
  - i. Excess funds are available.
  - ii. Guidelines to request funds annually for alumni scholarship funds
  - iii. Increase scholarships from 10 to 15 (\$30,000 this year)
  - iv. Request funds annually

1. Nelson-Brown moved to approve. Garcia seconded the motion.  
Motion passed unanimously.

c. ISUAA Strategic Vision Workshop – Dave Horstein led the Board in a small group strategic planning workshop.

7. **Committee/Liaison Updates** - no questions regarding written reports provided. No new updates.

8. **Adjournment**

**Steve Smith**

“Points of gratitude” shared by Brandon, Mills, Foster and Smith. Griffin moved to adjourn. Foster seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.