

Illinois State University Alumni Association

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2023

9:00 a.m.

In Person Meeting at the Student Services Building

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, and Smith.

Guests: President Aondover Tarhule, V-P Pat Vickerman, Asst. V-P Andy Morgan, Bob Navarro (Board of Trustees Liaison), Kris Harding, AshLynn Cowles, Jill Hills, and SAC Cam Hinman

Members Absent: none.

Meeting Notes

1. Call to Order

Leah Walton

- a. Walton called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

2. ISU Leadership Updates

a. President's Report

President Tarhule

- i. President Tarhule assured the board that ISU was in a strong position despite recent difficulties.
- ii. Dr. Jeri Beggs was appointed Interim Athletic Director. She comes with many years as Faculty Representative at Athletics as well as several years working on various MVC/NCAA committees. She currently is in the COB.
 - 1. Dr. Beggs goal is to restore trust and confidence with students, athletes, donors, alums, and the ISU community.
- iii. ISU received the ALL MVC All-Sports award. (3rd year in a row.)
- iv. Enrollment is strong for the fall. Expect a "bumper" class of freshmen.
- v. The retention rate is up to 80.3%. Rate is lower among black and Hispanic students.
- vi. 96% of students are from Illinois.
- vii. ISU's credit rating is up. A- with a positive outlook, which is very good.
- viii. ISU students are excelling in the classroom.
 - 1. 2 Chemistry Goldwater Scholars. This is one of the highest honors for students.

2. American Association of Physics Teachers reported that ISU has the most Physics Scholars that go on to become Physics teachers.
- ix. E-sports is doing very well. The only collegiate team to go to international competition.
- x. Students are active on campus – in reducing waste and in volunteering.
- xi. Many ISU professors have received national cognition and one professor presented to the United Nations on the Status of Women.
- xii. The great need for Engineers in Illinois supports the decision to bring Engineering to ISU.
- xiii. Grants made it possible to purchase an electron microscope.
- xiv. Students now have more health care options with 24/7 access.
- xv. All lights on campus were replaced with LED lights to conserve energy.
- xvi. Dr. David Strand created a diversity award 30 years ago.
- xvii. \$4.5m has been devoted to a faculty diversity program.
- xviii. SOAR 450K to increase graduation and retention rates among minority students.
- xix. President Tarhule thanked us for our service, knowledge, and advise to ISU.
- xx. Nikita asked if we as ambassadors of ISU will be given “talking points” to assure others that ISU is on the right track. The President said that “athletics stumbled but did not crash”. ISU immediately appointed an interim AD, requested the audit, creating over-sight of the fund raising, and moving as quickly as possible to make a permanent replacement.
- xxi. The College of Education Dean position is open. There has been a high turnover rate and the deans have stayed on average 2 – 3 years. Provost can appoint the dean or name an interim dean.
- xxii. There was much discussion on the board budget and the need for control systems. JD urged them to invest in a system to control the budget.
- xxiii. Tarhule explained that ISU uses a historical budget. Each department gets the \$ they got last year. He has never seen a presentation on budgets. Tarhule said that budgets are the #1 reason Presidents get fired. He is setting a high priority on addressing the budgeting process. Need to institute a mechanism for transparency and why.
- xxiv. In 2003, ISU gave \$2m in financial aid to students. In 2015 - \$25m and in 2022 \$47m.
- xxv. “Driving the car with the hand brake on! Need to release the brake! Part of that is legacy issues being that is always the way it is done.”

b. Trustee’s Report

Bob Navarro

- i. Board of Trustees met in February and voted to bring Tarhule on as Interim President.
- ii. The board thanked Louderback and Dobski for their service to the Board.

- iii. Several resolutions were reviewed and voted on:
 - 1. Health insurance rates
 - 2. Expenses for green house
 - 3. Renovation cost for CEFCU
 - 4. Williams Hall Rehab
- iv. Schurter asked about the search for a new President. Navarro explained that the options are an open search, a closed search, or use a firm.
- v. Navarro explained that the Governor appoints Board of Trustees members, and the appointment requires Senate approval. Trustees can be appointed to a 4-year term or a 6-year term. There are both Republican and Democratic trustees.
- vi. Kathy Bohn was reappointed for a 6-year term.
- vii. Navarro's transparency and candid comments were appreciated.
- viii. Next meeting will be held before commencement.

c. University Advancement Report

Pat Vickerman

- i. Fund raising is up. Currently at \$29.8m.
- ii. Many have already exceeded their goal: CAS, COE, CFA, Milner, CAST is at 91%, COB is at 70%. Athletics is behind – their fund-raising dropped when the bad news came out.
- iii. Trademark and licensing royalties are up.
- iv. Looking to build partnerships and merchandise branding opportunities.
- v. In the Redbird Rising campaign - of the 270 contributions over \$25K only 4.4% were cancelled or written off.
- vi. Preston raised the question about how much is spent to raise the money. Vickerman said that there is a total \$180K board development budget. Each developer has \$15k-\$20k. Athletic and Fine Arts spend the most on entertainment.

d. Alumni Engagement Report

Kris Harding –

Presented by Pat Vickerman

- i. This is Gamma Phi and Siblings weekend.
- ii. Graduation is coming up! Great celebration of Redbirds. 240K alums worldwide.
- iii. President Tarhule is throwing out the 1st pitch at the Alumni Cubs game.

e. Alumni Association President's Report

Leah Walton

- i. Leah shared where she has been and where is going as our Board President.
 - 1. Women's BB versus UIC.
 - 2. BB in February.
 - 3. Chicago Suburban group held a going away party for Lindsay Dean.

4. Women's BB Hoops in the Heartland.
5. Met with Cathy Boswell, ISU BB player who will be inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame at the end of April.
6. Attended all committee meetings.
7. Sat in on constitution review.
8. Attended a cocktail reception at Ewing Manor for Jane Lynch. Jane is on campus for 3 weeks as she wanted to come back and work with students.
9. Alumni Awards Brunch.
10. Board networking at Fiala Brothers with 22 birds in attendance.
11. Gamma Phi Circus.
12. Graduation is coming up on May 12th and 13th.
13. Latinx and Chicago Suburban networks are having an event on June 3.
14. June day of service after the board meeting will be at the Horticulture Center.
15. Working on new meeting locations, please send suggestions.
16. Goals are to continue to improve meeting locations and continue with board development.
17. New board members will be joining in June. JD Schurter will be leaving the board and is not able to attend the June meeting. Leah presented JD with a gift as a thank you for his service.

f. ISU Campus Conversations

Dr. Andy Morgan

Dr. Andy Morgan, Assistant Vice President & Dean of Students

- i. Came to ISU from Indiana State in Jan 2023.
- ii. Major issues are student food and housing insecurity and safety.
- iii. Needs: student navigators for undocumented and homeless students. They are looking for new associations to work with in these areas.
- iv. Work with high-risk students, accessibility, collaborate to meet needs.
- v. Attended the Jewish students annual Sabbath. 6 years ago, there were 2 in attendance, this year 120 attendees.
- vi. Adding a full-time counselor in the Multi-Cultural Center.
- vii. Tarhule mentioned upgraded technology.

g. Teambuilder

- i. Due to time constraints, the teambuilding activity will be postponed to a later meeting.
- ii. Ramsey explained different services housed in the Student Services building including Dining and hospitality, event management, conflict resolution, Health services, Counselors, student health insurance, Dean of Students office, Information Tech among others.

h. Consent Agenda (Action Items)

1. Griffin moved that the Board minutes and the financial reports be approved. Preston 2nd that motion. Motion passed.

i. Continuing Business-

Leah Walton

1. Horstein presented the changes to the By Laws that have been approved by the Executive committee. Changes include:
 - a. Creation of a Treasurer position.
 - b. Will be 20 at large members.
 - c. 5 Officers (Pres., VP, Secretary, Treasurer and Past President.
 - d. Removal of the "Ex-officio" from Harding and Vickerman's titles.
 - e. The Executive committee will have 2 at large members (pending approval of the new Treasurer position.)
2. Ramsey presented updated committee guidelines in reference to non-board member participation. All guidelines are in the attachment to the agenda.
3. Griffin presented the rebranding of Redbird Prime. It will now be called Golden Redbirds and is for alums 60 years and above. Notes are included in the meeting addenda.
4. Griffin moved to change the name and age of Prime to Golden Redbirds and 60 years. 2nd was not required per Aguirre. Motion passed.

j. New Business

Leah Walton

- i. The board meeting dates for 2023 were discussed. Griffin moved to accept the dates and Mielneczek 2nd that motion. The possibility of changing one of the dates was discussed. Griffin revised the motion to accept the dates with the possibility of a change if the Executive committee approves the change. Mielneczek 2nd that motion.
- ii. Motion passed.
- iii. Discussion about moving date of the Awards Brunch or Dinner so that more board members could attend. Nelson-Brown explained that we are constrained by the availability of event space with a group of 200 or more. When the discussion of a weekend event came up, it was conveyed that the spaces are already booked that weekend.
- iv. Nelson-Brown mentioned that Jamie Sennett and Juliana Nelson were already working on securing the space for 2024.

k. Committee/Liaison Updates –

- i. Awards -Susan**
 - 1. Nelson-Brown thanked everyone for attending and said how great it was to meet these amazing alums. Please consider making a nomination for 2024. Deadline is July 31, 2023.
- ii. Board Development – Dave**
 - 1. See agenda for updates.
- iii. DEI -Nikita**
 - 1. Doris Houston has new data to present to us.
- iv. Executive – Leah**
 - 1. No updates.
- v. Homecoming -Stacy**
 - 1. Homecoming is Oct. 14th.
- vi. RED-Julia**
 - 1. Redbird Table Talks is on Utube.
- vii. Prime/Half Century -Tim**
 - 1. Half Century Club is the Friday night before Homecoming.
- viii. Scholarship committee -Tyler**
 - 1. Working on Applications.
- ix. Student Alumni Council- Cam Hinman**
 - 1. Hinman graduates in 3 weeks.
 - 2. New Executive board will be elected.
 - 3. Upcoming events – siblings carnival, general meetings every week, Mocktails during Comm Week.
 - 4. Social event last week at Blo-No Pizza.
 - 5. Recruitment is a priority for next year. Want to bring in 10-15 new members.
- x. Athletics Liaison-Stacy**
 - 1. No update.
- xi. Bone Liaison-Brent**
 - 1. Reviewed 58 applications. Will award 13.
- xii. Foundation Board- Dave**
 - 1. No updates.
- xiii. Honorary Degree-Leah**
 - 1. No Honorary degree will be awarded this year.

3. Other Discussions

4. Adjournment

Leah Walton

Griffin moved to adjourn. Ramsey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.