

## **Illinois State University Alumni Association Board of Directors**

April 13, 2019

### **Minutes**

**Board Members Present:** Kathryn Bohn, Walter Brandon, Jr., Val Brown, Megan Cain, Tyler Clark, Fellicia Foster, Liz Garcia, Ryan Gilbert, Michelle Guadalupe, Dave Horstein, Jerry Kerber, Daniel Lopez, Jr., Joe McGuire, Danny Mielneczek, Susan Nelson-Brown, Stacy Ramsey, Doug Reeves, Marsha Reeves, Kaci Rollings, Steve Smith, Alice Spann, Leah Walton

**Board Members Absent:** Lisa Castleman, Tim Pantaleone, Scott Preston, Ron Whitton

**Alumni Engagement Staff Present:** Kris Harding, Lauren Hardy, Beth Theobald

**Guests Present:** Larry Dietz, Mary Elaine Califf

### **Call to Order**

Reeves (President) called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. at the Illinois State University Alumni Center. He welcomed the board members and noted there would be a special meeting of the alumni association membership to follow.

### **University Update**

President Larry Dietz provided an update on several items including:

- Recognition of ISU as a “best place to work” by Forbes magazine
- Funding/appropriations from the state and recent legislative activities in Springfield
- Freshman application trends year-to-date (higher compared to same time last year)
- Redbird Rising progress (\$141 million as of April 2019)
- Official confirmation of new Board of Trustee (BOT) members
- Participation in recent alumni events, including Los Angeles and Phoenix

### **Trustee’s Report**

Julie Jones, Board of Trustee liaison, shared information about recent BOT appointments; highlights from ISU legislative day and increases in external grants awarded to the University. Jones also shared her appreciation for President Dietz and the important advocacy work he does on behalf of ISU and the other public Universities in Illinois.

### **Presentation on ISU Cybersecurity Major – Dr. Mary Elaine Califf**

Illinois State University is the first university in Illinois with a cybersecurity major. The major was first made available to students in fall 2017 and includes courses focused on defensive security, offensive security, and a combination of security incident and event management with forensics. The program has grown faster than any other program during the past year. State Farm established an endowed chair position that will provide leadership for the newly-created major in cybersecurity in the School of Information Technology, as well as fund program enhancements and renovation of existing space to strengthen the learning environment for students.

### **President's Report**

Reeves shared he has enjoyed representing the Alumni Association since the January Board meeting at numerous meetings and activities, including:

- Board Development Committee meetings focused on criteria and enhanced processes for consideration of new board members
- Executive Committee meetings (noting with gratitude that the February meeting was chaired by Lisa Castleman)
- Event planning and onsite activities associated with the Phoenix alumni engagement program
- Staff appreciation and award activities associated with the Agriculture department
- Telephone interviews with board candidates
- Commencement preparations (key chains)
- Participation in the on-campus glass house alumni event

### **Executive Director's Report**

Harding provided updates on the several items, including:

- The Alumni Association Scholarship fund account had just over \$48,000 in expendable balance. To date, the scholarship committee has awarded \$18,000 per year. In order to be fiscally responsible, \$20,000 transferred back to principal to gain better returns for the future. Scholarship recipients were invited to attend lunch at the University Residence along with the alumni board members immediately following the April 13 board meeting.
- Several events were hosted in recent months:
  - LAN annual meeting on February 9
  - Alumni Awards dinner on February 21
  - The College of Education, Student Affairs, and Alumni Engagement hosted a breakfast for alumni recruiting students at the Education Career Fair
  - The Higher Education Consortium advocacy reception for all public institutions in Illinois. This was a joint effort coordinated by government relations specialists and alumni directors to advocate for higher education funding
  - Over 500 alumni and friends cheered on the ISU Men's Basketball team in Ballpark Village during the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament as part of Arch Madness in March
  - Cooking with a Redbird Chef on March 19
  - ISU Printmaking on March 22
  - Peoria Rivermen Hockey event on March 29
  - CYAN Service project at Garfield Park Conservatory on March 30
  - A full-day and a half of glass making occurred at the Glass House on April 6
  - Printmaking session for ISU Alums on March 22

- Dallas alumni network hosted a pregame before the Rangers/Cubs game on March 30
- TV-10 Reunion and Hall of Fame, Acafellaz, and Gamma Phi 90<sup>th</sup> reunions throughout early 2019
- CAST Academy of Achievement and Student Affairs Hall of Fame Awards on April 11
- In the coming weeks:
  - Acafellaz are hosting their first alumni dinner on April 12
  - The Student Alumni Council will host Mocktails: A Networking Event in collaboration with the Association for Women in Communication student group and the School of Communication on April 16
  - The Half Century Club reunion is planned for April 26 – April 27
  - Redbird socks are now available for those who donate to ISU

### **Consent Agenda**

Smith (Secretary) submitted the minutes of the January 19, 2019 Board of Directors meeting for approval. Harding provided a brief Financial Report (preliminary through December 2018). Gilbert motioned to approve both items as part of the consent agenda. Ramsey seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

### **Continuing Business**

Reeves encouraged all board members who are interested in serving on the executive committee or in committee leadership roles to let him or Kris Harding know as soon as possible. Interest forms are also available on the board web page.

Reeves reminded board members that a lunch would follow the Special Meeting at the University Residence and that all those who are available should also plan to attend the board service project at the campus food pantry after lunch.

### **Committee/Liaison Reports**

The following committees provided written reports and updates in conjunction with the meeting:

- Awards
- Board Development
- Foundation
- RED
- Redbird Prime/Half Century Club
- Scholarship
- Student Alumni Council

## **Adjournment**

Reeves requested a motion to adjourn the board meeting. Clark made the motion. Rollings seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

## **\*Special Meeting\***

### **Call to Order**

Reeves (President) called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. at the Illinois State University Alumni Center. He welcomed the board members and other association members who were present.

### **Proposed Constitution Changes**

A copy of the proposed revised ISU Alumni Association Constitution was provided to all in attendance.

Reeves provided background and an overview regarding the Constitution revisions.

In 2018, it was determined that procedures outlined in the ISU Alumni Association Constitution were in need of review. An ad hoc committee was formed to review the existing constitution and bring recommendations for changes or updates to the board of directors.

The ad hoc committee was comprised of board members Leah Walton, Ryan Gilbert, Walter Brandon Jr, Jerry Kerber, Scott Preston, Doug Reeves and led by Steve Smith and Michelle Guadalupe.

The committee met by conference call several times to review the existing constitution and recommend changes primarily focused on the nomination of new board members and officers.

Examples of items the committee suggested be revised included:

- Various locations within the document: Name change of the Office of Alumni Relations changed to Office of Alumni Engagement
- Article II, Membership; Section 1: Removed the requirement for representatives of student organizations, appointed to the board of directors, to make financial contributions to the Alumni Association.
- Article IV, Board of Directors; Section 1: Removed two categories of non-elected board of director members, Emeritus and Honorary.
- Article IV, Board of Directors: Section 5: Revised the process of filling vacancies occurring on the board of directors.
- Various locations within the document: Corrected punctuation and grammar errors.
- Article IV. Board of Directors; Section 2: The process of nominating new members for the board of directors was reviewed and the identified conflicting procedures were discussed. Suggested revisions for the nomination process were created to allow for transparency and clarity for anyone interested in being nominated to the board of directors.
- Article III, Officers; Section 2: The process for nominating new officers to the board of directors was reviewed and the identified conflicting procedures were discussed. Suggested revisions for the nomination process were created to allow for transparency and clarity for any board member interested in serving in an officer role.

- Three new procedures were outlined to guide the nomination process for new officer candidates with specified deadlines for application.

The proposed revisions were submitted to the board of directors Executive Committee on November 28, 2018 for review and discussion. The Executive Committee approved submitting the proposed revisions to the ISU legal department for review and submission to the Alumni Association board of directors meeting on January 19, 2018 for review and discussion.

The proposed revisions were submitted to the ISU legal department for approval. An additional section 3 under "Article 1. General" was suggested and has been added describing the purpose of the Alumni Association. The proposed revisions and corrections have been approved by the legal department.

The ad hoc committee presented the proposed revisions to the Alumni Association board of directors for discussion and a motion to present to the general membership at a special meeting called by the president. That motion was approved at the January 19, 2019 board meeting.

Following approval, notice was provided to the general membership announcing a special meeting of the Alumni Association to be scheduled following the April 13, 2019 board of directors meeting.

A vote of 2/3 of the members in attendance is needed for the constitution revisions to be adopted.

With the approved revisions to the constitution, new procedures would become effective for the nomination of 2019-2020 board of director candidates and elected officers of the board of directors.

A motion to approve the revised Constitution as presented was made by Smith. The motion was seconded by Guadalupe. The motion was approved by the required number of voting members present.

### **Adjournment**

Reeves requested a motion to adjourn. Bohn made the motion. Guadalupe seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Executive Committee: May 8, 2019

Board: June 22, 2019

*Respectfully Submitted by Steve Smith, Board Secretary*