Alumni Board of Directors
September 13, 2014
9-4pm
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:
Mary Nebus, Marjorie Hale, Jacqueline Sandy, Debbie Hanley Williams, Elaine Warga-Murray, Ashley Tito, Diane Szubrowski, Alicia Somers, Connie Reynmann, Mary Peckiconis, Cheryl Stoeber-Goff, Nancy Marrow, Shelley Wasilewski, Keri Tarantino Carlton, Martha Collins, Marylu Dalton, Mellissia Zanjani, Joyce Heckman, Beverly Milo, Colleen Diveny, Mary Halpin, Melissa Prosperi, Marcela Knipper, Shealyn Sullivan

Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve – Debbie Williams, Elaine Warga-Murray 2nd

President’s Report Rosemary Jeffries RSM Ph.D.

- Since June – busy summer and fall – 233 class of freshman and disproportionate number of transfers makes totals close to 500
  - About 900 people on campus for orientation – OL – started relationship with students – emailing and talking with them, Orientation Leaders are part of Freshman experience who meet every Friday for 1st semester – getting students acclimated, conflict resolution, appropriate behavior, showing around campus, etc. OL creating smaller communities with students – heard from faculty and staff how much more ready freshman seem
  - Graduate education – numbers down again – some result of changes in regulations in School of Education and how people are paying for graduate education – was often supplemented by school districts which has decreased and they changed how graduate education schools and change in requirements – districts will only pay for certain types of degrees

- Renovating Raymond Hall (West side) where School of Ed is and Hamilton Hall where school of nursing is – nursing program doing well and needs more space and probably another simulation lab; cohort of Orthodox women going through Nursing Program and take labs on Sunday;
renovating A&S – thru bond money; Maria Hall will be renovated and St. Joe’s was totally renovated last year floor by floor (new furniture) added a game room –

• Alums – game room mobbed with students all the time and they have some stuff in Lion’s Den but looking for spaces around campus (soft spaces/community spaces) doesn’t have community center in strictest terms; closest is Gavin Lounge and Court Café; Lindsey Taft made presentation to Board of Trustees – looking for more places to hang out – looking to create smaller venues for students to hang out and as that is done, looking for finances and different support for furniture (not used donations – won’t meet code) will need fundraising in particular for that, looking at Student Commons and way possibly enhance where they are already spending time

• Addition to Administration – Evelyn Quinn new VP of Mission Integration – will be meeting with all campus employees and putting them into cohort by number of years employed – orientation with Mission

  • More opportunities for spirituality growth for employees – some grant funded

• Bob Wicks is coming for a lecture on 10/5/14 on anterior resilience – free and open to public; 1st responders and types still coming

• Advancement and Finances in Alumni Giving – up slightly but still long way to go

  • Healthy operation but still struggle with operating costs – revenue coming in and expenses going out – New CFO John Sommer – overseeing bond initiative

• Academics – started new ABA clinic, community clinic, small, coming out of school of Psychology and will probably go – family with children with Autism

• Mercy – new certificate program for Mercy Spirituality and completely on line – thru curriculum committee and thru 1st of board approvals

  • 3000-5000 other employees in various Mercy Institutions throughout the US and all of those employees can access this certificate for credit

• Global initiative – started 2 yrs ago with anonymous donor – provide great opportunities for students – 6 students had internships in various countries, one in Guyana, Mercy Leadership Conference in Ireland

• Homecoming – whatever participation alums could do would be great – looking for more alums to attend – softball and soccer alums coming back to play in some games; 5K run/walk

Vision of AA – we are elected representatives so we need to keep vision and our mission of the group in mind – copy of Mission in packets
Report from OIA

- Primarily exist to provide philanthropic funds for University and look for different ways for creation of revenue; looking at variety of strategies, tactics and approaches thru direct/indirect conflict with variety of constituents, OIA provides culture of philanthropy focused on sustainable success for student and academic success
  
  o Organizational structure of academic, student and administrative functions within university may change but case for support of programs does not; students still need scholarships and internships, faculty still require support for research and teaching
  
  o If the students can’t pay, they can’t stay; want facility that speaks as though it is well taken care of – donors that give for Mansion restoration

- Where we are – last September, Mellissia had been there about 6 months – bifurcation – 2 directors with 3 units each – as went through year, become more clear that alumni as a group needed more attention because we wanted to build more infrastructure
  
  o May/June started to switch structure in a way that gives alumni staff to focus on AA and not be split 3 ways
  
  o MILL moved to Conference and Special Events and eventually will go to education unit because Alumni wanted continuing professional unit that provides continuing credits

- Goal is to raise $10 million over next 5 years; micro level – $1.6-2 million on sustainable funds and then when we get extra, it adds to revenue source for University
  
  o Frontline fundraises expected to get out and engage with individuals

- Search for team – there is a candidate for director of Alumni coming on campus on Monday with knowledge, skills and competency to do the job; Marjorie and Mary will meet with individual – looking for connection with University now that she has the competency for the job
  
  o Ad for Alumni assistant going to be posted on Monday
  
  o Vacant major gifts officer – 2 candidates coming on campus next Friday
  
  o Hopefully, by Tuesday or Wednesday will be able to give more concrete information

Workshops

- Committee Effectiveness – 1 yr ago started Strategic Plan for Alumni Association and strategic plan worked on in Sept and Feb, have come up with 4 goals that reflect common themes
Engage alums in variety of activities that reflect all of our diversities

Maintain alumni philanthropic endeavors and donor giving rates

Engage with current students to increase visibility of AA within student population and establish link to experience of GCU

Engage more alumni in work of ABoD committees

- This meeting to focus on 4 standing committees – Alumni Engagement, New Alums, Stewardship and Professional Development
  - “It’s not the progress I mind, it’s the change I don’t like.” Mark Twain

- Committee break out sessions

**Committee Reports – Action Reports (to be added from spreadsheets)**

- Alumni Engagement
- Stewardship
- Professional Development
- New Alumni
- Reunion ‘15
  - Several conference call meetings – incorporated some of commentary by few respondents from evaluation
  - Not serving hot lunch, Mansion gathering Friday evening, Luncheon, waiting for input from Sr. Rosemary since last reunion as President – details being hashed out; Mass and evening meal – casual dinner
  - One give away distributed at Luncheon

**Old Business**

- 1908 Endowed Scholarship
o Started 2008 and fully funded January 2014 and will be awarded for the 1st time next year – rules for scholarship is that the funds are actively invested for a full calendar year. Fall 2015 will be award

o Only award a small percentage to maintain the endowment (4% given)

o Annual award – apply with standard University application

o Scholarship can still accept donations

o Discussion on 2.8 minimum requirement – for graduates, it doesn’t eliminate any graduate

o 14 approval, one abstention. motion passed to accept criteria

• Task Force on Active Participation

  o Worked from minutes of EBoD and ABoD meetings to determine current participation

  o Metrics to establish meeting this criteria – use document as self-survey to establish meeting the ABoD expectations and responsibilities

  o Some flexibility with meeting so many out of the total requirements (using as checklist to help fill out volunteer tracking form with exception of Constitution stipulated requirements) 70%

  o Task force to write up in final form

• Volunteer Tracking Form – 990 Annual Form auditors complete and they ask if Board of Trustees is looking at this form and familiar with it

  o Key information regarding volunteer work – different between when volunteering an event or attending event (i.e. paid to attend Reunion, can’t be used for volunteer time)

  o Asking that it is done monthly - will eventually be in document library but currently it was emailed to all ABoD members

  o Looking to create electronic database so that this information can be completed electronically and immediately uploaded and calculated

• Strategic Plan

  o There will be updates based on the work done today but basically in final form

  o Aligned with Strategic Plans being developed across the University community

  o Hopefully will be completed by the end of the month
New Business

- Awards Committee – Mary Peckiconis chairing – looking for volunteers
  - Very specific timeline set out by regs and policies
  - Need more nominations and promoting input/nominations
- Nominating Committee – Marjorie Hale Chairing committee
  - Next year need to select new VP and Secretary as well as members
- Event Form
  - New event/planning checklist
  - Helps interpret results for improvement and gives Mellissia metrics she needs
  - Anyone planning event has to go through OIA initially – there has to be someone from that office if they are “frontloading” the event
  - OIA will do cost benefit analysis – used to plan before, during and after
  - There will be budgets for committees to plan events
- Need Chair for Reunion 16 Committee – can't be someone who is an anniversary year

Announcements

- Gail Gleason Milgram resigned for health reasons over the summer
- Year of Hope presentation – speaker from Sacred Heart in CT talking on Synod on the Family 10/25/14 - $15 cost including lunch – not alumni event
- On-line certification for Mercy Certification and 1st cohort starting in May
- 1st report of year 10/17/14 – please consider splitting donation so we can report 100% of board giving

Next Meeting February 15, 2015