

**UW-Stevens Point Alumni Association
Board of Directors Meeting
April 12, 2003**

Present: Patrick Braatz, Catherine Carter Huber, Jack LeDuc, David Marie, Patty Noel, Ray Oswald, Robert Piekenbrock, Chet Polka, Cindy Polzin, Jeff Prickette, Doris See, Bob Spoerl, Scott Thomas, Mary Wescott

Staff: Jennifer Blum, Sarah Otto, Steven Zywicki

Guests: Brant Bergeron, Christy Falkenberg, Chancellor Thomas George, Thomas Miller

Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. President Bob Spoerl welcomed everyone and introduced the new Alumni and University Relations staff: Jennifer Blum, Sarah Otto, and Steven Zywicki. He then introduced and welcomed two new board members: Cindy Polzin and Scott Thomas. Individual introductions were also made.

The minutes of the August 2, 2002 meeting were approved. Doris See moved/Patrick Braatz seconded/carried.

Report From Chancellor George

Chancellor George reported that the UW System makes up about 8% of state GPR (General Purpose Revenue) and matches every state dollar with two dollars from other sources such as fees, federal grants, and contracts. The proposed cuts to the budget would reduce the UW System to 7% of the state budget. 30 years ago it was as high as 15%.

The proposed cut to System for the 2003-2005 biannual budget is \$250 million, which accounts for 38% of the net budget decrease for the state. For UWSP, it could mean as much as a \$10 million cut when UWSP already sustained a \$2 million cut for 2001-2003. If this proposal is implemented UWSP may experience tuition increases to offset the budget decreases.

On March 24, 2003, Chancellor George and the UWSP Student Government Association President, Beth Richlen, presented to the Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee at a public hearing in Rhinelander, WI. Chancellor George and Richlen encouraged the Joint Finance Committee to refrain from bringing deeper base budget cuts to UW System campuses. Board members received a handout, which included a printout of the PowerPoint presentation.

Tom Miller encouraged all board members to be vocal and contact legislators. He offered his services and help in writing effective letters.

Even with the budget cuts, UWSP has had a few new developments. The Board of Regents approved a new major at UWSP, Web Digital Media Development (WDMD). WDMD will also be offered as a minor. The renovation of the Fine Arts Center is scheduled to begin in early summer.

UWSP has a superb athletic program with one of the strongest overall records in Division III. Pointer football had a third place finish in the WIAC. Women's soccer finished 18-1-2 overall and advanced to the regional championship match for the third straight year. Men's track had five first place finishes in nine meets during the indoor season, while Women's track had five first or second place finishes in nine indoor meets. Men's basketball had their fourth straight WIAC championship this year. Women's basketball had strong season, finishing 22-5.

Open Forum – Staffing and Budget

Jennifer Blum reported on the current situation of the staffing and budget in the Alumni and University Relations office.

The Alumni and University Relations department will suffer a permanent \$11,394 cut to the GPR budget, which funds personnel, supplies, equipment, and travel. They will also experience a one-time cut of \$5,758 to cover their share of a university-wide overage in 2002-2003. Finally, \$31,056 in GPR funds will be moved from the budget and transferred to the Foundation to help fund the salary of a director in this department. These funds should be returned to the Alumni and University Relations department in the next biennium.

Alumni and University Relations is experiencing a salary savings due to the departure of Theresa Wessels and Brant Bergeron. Sarah Otto, Steven Zywicki, and Jennifer Blum will be given contracts to serve in interim positions for a two-year period. The university must also decrease its total number of FTE's (a mandate from system), so Alumni and University Relations will be losing their half-time program assistant position. Some of the funds used to pay this personnel expense will be retained by the office, allowing the department to hire more student help. The staff believes that more student help will allow them to cover the duties currently performed by the .5 FTE. Those duties include database and clerical support.

GPR funds in 2002-2003 totaled \$250,083; each year during 2003-2005, total GPR funding will total \$201,875, a difference of \$48, 208.

The board's response was supportive. Scott Thomas mentioned the economy is making it difficult for everyone. Bob Spoerl stressed the importance of our successful background and the need to reduce the Chapter program, temporarily. Mary Wescott expressed her thanks to the Alumni and University Staff for stepping up and taking control of the office during a time transition and budget cuts.

Unfinished Business

Travel Program Update

Jennifer Blum reported that one person has signed up for the France trip. The situation overseas is primarily responsible for this lack of interest, but other issues exist in terms of public sentiment in regard to France. The travel committee had previously suggested planning a cruise in the winter of 2003 and a trip to London in the summer of 2004. The executive committee now suggests that the board approve a moratorium on the travel program for a six-month period, to be reviewed at the end of that time. The Alumni Association would not, then, plan for a winter cruise at this time. The executive committee also suggested a retreat from participation in the France trip. The one alum that has signed on will be notified that she will be able to travel with the Mayflower tours group, but that no Alumni Association representation would be traveling with her. Patrick Braatz motioned/ Chet Polka seconded/carried.

Chapter Program Update

Sarah Otto reported that the list of Alumni Chapter gatherings is smaller than in previous years. The decline is due to changes in staffing and budget in the Alumni and University Relations office. The office is hoping this decline in the number of events will only be temporary. As the summer wears on, they will know more about the budget and the possibility of again extending the Alumni Chapter events. Sarah Otto encouraged board members to be active and involved in the Chapter events that are being offered.

Board Meeting Schedule Changes

Sarah Otto reported that this April meeting is the first since the board voted to consider an April/October calendar of meetings. In the past, meetings have been held in January and July, but winter weather and summer engagements sometimes created poor attendance. The next meeting has been scheduled for October 10. At that time, the board will revisit this issue and determine if an April/October schedule should be permanently approved.

New Business

Student Alumni Association Report

Student Alumni Association (SAA) member, Christy Falkenberg, reported on the Student Alumni Association. Kristy did a quick overview of Student Alumni Association activities including: a tailgate party at a home football game; a hat, mitten, and glove drive in conjunction with Operation Bootstrap; and a parking pass raffle and tuition raffle. The SAA also provided assistance in selecting the December student Commencement speaker.

SAA will be hosting the Association for Student Advancement Programs conference in November. This event will bring approximately 17 student alumni association organizations from around the state and nation to UWSP, and will offer our members an excellent opportunity to research the incorporation of new activities into UWSP Student Alumni Association programming.

The organization's overall goal is to improve student pride and involvement at UWSP. However, the main goal for the 2003-2004 school year is to increase enrollment. The board had a few suggestions and ideas on how to achieve this goal. Cindy Polzin recommended the group become a Student Government Association sponsored organization. She offered her assistance to help make this possible. David Marie suggested the president of the Student Alumni Association become a board member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. Sarah Otto is going to check the bylaws to see if this is permissible and update the board at the next meeting.

Directors Report

President Bob Spoerl called on Jennifer Blum. Jennifer discussed the goals and objectives for the Alumni and University Relations office: 1) maintaining the quality and excellence in programming for which the UWSP Alumni Association is known; 2) continuing to improve upon communication with and support for our major constituencies - UWSP alum and friends of the university; 3) maintaining and continuing to improve upon the communication and collaborative efforts with the other advancement units – News Services and the Foundation – and with our college development officers; 4) working to prioritize Alumni Association activities in light of budget cuts. Jennifer shared a document prepared by Brant Bergeron and herself. With the resignation of both the assistant director of alumni relations and the director of alumni and university relations, and in light of proposed cuts to the budget, they determined that certain programming efforts will be put on hold.

Jennifer also discussed the event calendar and the upcoming programs: the University Awards Dinner on April 30, Board of Regents meeting on May 8–9, Distinguished Alum Luncheon on May 17, Commencement on May 18 (Doris See will be presenting the Charge to Alumni), various Chapter events, Chancellor's State of the University Address on August 27 (tentative date), Spud Bowl on September 27, Alumni Association Board meeting on October 10, and Homecoming on October 11.

Appointment of Officers

President, Bob Spoerl, reported that the following Alumni Association Board of Directors members have accepted positions on the Executive Committee.

Tom Girolamo – President
Shannon Loecher – President Elect
Patrick Braatz – Vice President
Bob Spoerl – Past President
Mary Wescott – Member at large
Ray Oswald – Member at large

Jack LeDuc moved/Catherine Huber seconded/carried.

Miscellaneous/Adjournment

Bob Spoerl thanked Brant Bergeron for all his hard work and involvement with the Alumni Association through the years. The entire board wished Brant luck in his new career as the Director of Marketing and Public Relations at Saint Michael's Hospital.

Brant Bergeron recognized and thanked outgoing President, Bob Spoerl. Bob thanked the Board for allowing him to serve as President and said it was a great opportunity for him.

Doris See moved the meeting be adjourned/Patrick Braatz seconded/carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah A. Otto

Save the date: Fall Alumni Association Board Meeting – Friday, October 10