

**UW-Stevens Point Alumni Association
Board of Directors Meeting
April 24, 2004**

Present: Al Barrow, Penny Copps, Gordon Faust, Tom Girolamo, John Jokela, Jack Le Duc, Shannon Loecher, Mary Ann Nigbor, Chet Polka, Cindy Polzin, Jeff Prickette, Doris See, Bob Spoerl, Scott Thomas

Staff: Jennifer Blum, Sarah Otto, Steven Zywicki

Guests: Nick Crawford, Catherine Duemler, Interim Chancellor Virginia Helm, Cristin Kowalski, Steve Menzel, Vice Chancellor Bob Tomlinson

Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 pm. President Tom Girolamo welcomed everyone.

Individual introductions were made.

The minutes of the October 11, 2004 meeting were approved. Bob Spoerl moved/Jack Le Duc seconded/carried.

Recognition of Retiring Directors

Tom Girolamo reported that four of the Alumni Association Board of Directors will be retiring. Those four individuals include Greg Hayward (served from 2002-2004), Pat Okray (served from 1976-2003), Chet Polka (served from 1984-2003), and Doris See (served from 1995-2004).

All four retirees received a UWSP medallion to represent the Alumni Association's appreciation for their many years of service. Polka and See attended the meeting and shared their appreciation with the board. Both plan to continue being involved with the UWSP Alumni Association.

The board expressed a special thank you to Bob See and Carol Polka for their involvement with the Board throughout the years.

Directors Term Renewals

President Girolamo stated that Bruce Bay, Shannon Loecher, Patty Noel, Bob Piekenbrock, and Mary Wescott terms expire in 2004. However, all have accepted the invitation to renew.

In addition, Scott Roeker's term has expired. Unfortunately, he has not responded to the invitation to renew.

Term renewals for Bay, Loecher, Noel, Piekenbrock and Wescott were approved. Jack Le Duc moved/Gordon Faust seconded/carried.

Appointment of New Board of Directors

Two new individuals were nominated to join the Board of Directors. John Jokela, class of 1989, is a Wausau resident and an attorney with the James L. Bartells Law Group.

The board approved the appointment of John to the UWSP Alumni Association Board of Directors. Gordon Faust moved/Jack Le Duc seconded/carried.

John thanked the board and stated he is looking forward to becoming more involved with his alma mater.

Tom Klismith, class of 1980, is a Plover resident and owner of Klismith Accounting and Tax Group.

The board approved the appointment of Tom to the UWSP Alumni Association Board of Directors. Al Barrows moved/Penny Copps seconded/carried.

Unfortunately, Tom was not able to attend the meeting but the board looks forward to his participation in the fall meeting.

President Girolamo announced that the board's membership is now at 29 members and that the constitution specifies no membership limits. The nominating committee will be asked to research a list of potential members and invite one new individual to the fall meeting. That person will then be nominated to the board for approval at the spring 2005 meeting.

Foundation Report, Bob Spoerl

Bob reported that the Foundation is getting closer to announcing a new Executive Director. Three candidates recently visited campus and a decision should be made within the next few weeks.

Report from Virginia Helm, Interim Chancellor

Interim Chancellor Virginia Helm introduced the term "sustainability" to the board. Sustainability includes, "meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." One example of sustainability on the UWSP campus is the installation of more efficient toilets. The new toilets use 1.6 gallons of water per flush compared to the 3.5 gallons per flush used by previous toilets.

Interim Chancellor Helm then highlighted the Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR). (See handout.) Helm stated that it is crucial to have an advocacy group to ensure that UWSP's

students, staff and faculty are heard by our representatives. The board agreed to be active in political issues by writing letters to our legislators. Interim Chancellor Helm asked that the board approve a policy to allow UWSP to communicate important legislative issues to the board through e-mail correspondence. Mary Ann Nigbor moved/ Jack Le Duc seconded/carried.

Due to time constraints, Interim Chancellor Helm was not able to discuss all of UWSP's recent accomplishments. Please review the interim chancellor's handout for a complete report.

Open Forum – Homecoming

The Alumni Relations staff asked the board for help in “overhauling” traditional Homecoming activities. Some traditions are working well where others are in need of some attention.

The Executive Committee would like to implement a Homecoming Committee to evaluate and rebuild our Homecoming activities. Patty Noel has expressed interest in joining this committee. Any other board members who are interested should contact the Alumni and University Relations office at (715) 346-3811.

Unfinished Business

Alumni and University Relations Director Update

Tom Girolamo and Bob Tomlinson announced the resignation of Interim Director of Alumni and University Relations, Jennifer Blum. Both Tom and Bob thanked Jennifer for all of her leadership and guidance while she served as interim. Effective immediately, Jennifer will be resuming her duties as assistant director of University Relations.

Bob Tomlinson reported that Jennifer will be focusing her time and efforts on helping the new Chancellor, Linda Bunnell, become “known” to the community and alumni. It is the administration's goal to have a new director in place by January 1. Until then, a current UWSP employee will be appointed as interim director of Alumni and University Relations.

Jennifer thanked the board for their assistance while she served as interim director and reported she looks forward to continuing her involvement with the Alumni Association. She also asked that each board member give her a call so they could talk on an individual basis.

Travel Program Update

Jennifer Blum reported that the travel committee met to discuss some possible travel destinations. As a result, the Alumni Association is offering a trip through Global Holidays to Switzerland and Italy's Lake Garda on September 10-18, 2004. Currently, nine individuals are registered.

For more information please contact the Alumni and University Relations office at (715) 346-3811.

Young Alumni Program Update

The Young Alumni Program is getting closer to being completed, according to Jennifer Blum. A contract has been signed with Sentry Insurance to offer discounted home and auto insurance to UWSP alums. Sentry Insurance recently sent out a small mailing and received 43 phone calls, which resulted in eight written policies.

Contracts are currently being reviewed that will offer short-term major medical insurance and loan consolidation services to our alums. Once the contracts are signed, information will be available on the UWSP Alumni Association website:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/alumni/>.

Starting in May of 2005, the Alumni Association will be recognizing outstanding young UWSP alumni with the Emerging Young Alumni award. This award will be presented in conjunction with the Distinguished Alumnus Award, the Alumni Service Award, the William C. Hansen Award, and the Sebold Scholarship.

Blum also reported that she has been working with the University's Information Technology department to determine the best way to offer a UWSP e-mail address to alumni. It has been decided that a meeting will be organized with the Alumni Association, Foundation office, Admission office, and Career Services office to identify how their programs would benefit from the proposed project. Alumni and University Relations staff will continue working on this issue and update the board on their accomplishments at the fall board meeting.

Board of Directors Committees

The board of director's directory includes a listing of the various committees within the board. Girolamo stated he would like to evaluate and reform these committees. To do so, he asked that one representative from each committee draft a one sentence description of the mission and functions of their committee. Once the Alumni and University Relations office hears from all of the committees, a short meeting will be arranged.

New Business

Board Contributions

Girolamo reported that a new board contributions policy will be put into effect. The new plan will include the mailing of an "invoice" from the Alumni Association. Contributions will be due on January 1. In 2004, Sarah Otto will send a reminder in May, asking for the contributions to be made by a certain date. A business reply envelope will be included. Please contact Sarah Otto at (715) 346-3811 if you are unsure as to whether or not you have made your 2003 or 2004 contribution. The \$100 annual contribution is used to help cover Board of Directors expenses.

Future Alumni Association (FAA) Report

Two Future Alumni Association members, Cristin Kowalski and Catherine Duemler, reported on the Future Alumni Association. They were happy to report the many successes of the organization, which include:

- The name of the organization was changed from Student Alumni Association to the Future Alumni Association.
- Membership has more than doubled. Currently the group has about 15 active members.
- The group is kept busy by participating in the Alumni Association's events such as Commencement, Grad Grill, First Nighters, award ceremonies, etc.
- Special shirts have been designed for the members to wear at events so they can be recognized as student volunteers.

Spring Awards Banquet

Sarah Otto reported that the 2004 Spring Awards Banquet will be extra-special. Two board members will be honored – Gordon Faust will be recognized with the Distinguished Alumnus Award and Robert Spoerl will be recognized with the Alumni Service Award. Please see the invitation for more information and let the Alumni and University Relations office know ASAP if you plan on attending this special luncheon.

Athletic Hall of Fame

Jennifer Blum stated that the 2004 Athletic Hall of Fame Recipients have been selected. Those individuals include:

- Peter Lucas: football 88-90
- Mark Porier: wrestling 88-93
- Stephanie Sobieck: softball 87-90
- Nan Werdin: swimming 91-94
- Chuck Ritzenthaler: baseball 64-67 and basketball 65-67
- Virgil Thiesfeld: faculty athletic representative

The awards banquet will be held during Homecoming on October 2.

UW Spirit Day

Sarah Otto reported on UW Spirit Day which will be held on Friday, May 7. This is a special day where all UW System graduates are encouraged to show their school pride by wearing their school colors. Please see the Spirit Day handout for more information.

Directors Report

President Tom Girolamo called on Jennifer Blum. Jennifer first gave an update on the MBNA program. She reported that the program continues to be lucrative. In the fourth quarter of 2003, the Alumni Association received \$16, 563.99. See handout for additional information.

See handout for budget update.

Blum was happy to announce that the contracts for both Sarah Otto and Steve Zywicki were renewed through June of 2005. Before the expiration of their contracts, the administration will be meeting to discuss future permanent staffing needs of the Alumni and University Relations office.

The UW System Board of Regents recently approved a pilot program called “Return to Wisconsin”. This is a program which will offer a 25% waiver of non-resident tuition to the daughters, sons, and grandchildren of UW-Stevens Point graduates. The program will be open to all University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point undergraduate students beginning in the fall of 2004. See the Return to Wisconsin handout for more information.

Miscellaneous/Adjournment

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 1 at 9:00 a.m. in the Alumni Office.

Gordon Faust extended his appreciation to the nominating committee for selecting him to receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Tom Girolamo invited the entire board and guests/spouses to his home for refreshments and pizza.

Cindy Polzin moved the meeting be adjourned/Chet Polka seconded/carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah A. Otto

Save the date: Fall Alumni Association Board Meeting – Friday, October 1