

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Alumni Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Friday April 15, 2016
Founders' Room, Old Main

Board Members Present: Tamara Moore, President, Dave Bauer, Dave Bruha, Deb Dorshorst, John Gardner, Peter Graening, Jon Greendeer, Melissa Hardin, Grant Huber, John Jokela, Bob Kemps, Jeff Kurowski, Joanne Loeffler, Dave Marie, Melanie Patterson, Jody Rowland, Brian Valleskey

Conference Call Participants: Erich Bacher, Bee Leng Chua, Lee Hecimovich, Ray Oswald, Martina Spears, Pat Weiland, Mary Wescott, Grant Winslow, Steve Zywicki

Retirements: Mickey Fitch, Betty Jenkins

Staff: Laura Gehrman Rottier, Sherry Lazar, Maggie Marquardt, Steve Menzel, Nicole Pare, Tony Romano, Julie Smith, Ryan Weir, Carie Winn

Guests: Chancellor Bernie Patterson, Chris Richards, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement, Rhonda Sprague, Interim Dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication.

Student Government: Katie Cronmiller, President, Amy Vida, Vice-President, Andrew Glazner (incoming Vice President)

Welcome and Introductions (Moore)

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 PM. Minutes from the October 2, 2015, Alumni Board of Directors meeting were approved as published (Patterson, Loeffler). President Moore welcomed the Alumni Board and thanked them for attending.

Membership changes: Betty Jenkins '63 moved to emeritus status. Mickey Fitch has retired.

New Members: Terry Harper '76 Sociology, Nancy Krei '74 Elementary Education, Gina Neuville '08 Biology and Chemistry

UWSP Update (Patterson)

Chancellor Patterson provided an update on the university. Budget cuts have led to a structural deficit, which we plan to manage by increasing enrollment, although competition for students is very keen. The number of high school graduates is down, with demographics indicating that this trend will continue for the next decade or so. Our current retention rate is 76% (2014 statistic). Our four-year graduation rate is 32.9% (2011 statistic). Faculty retention is a concern as 94.7% of UW-Stevens Point faculty members are paid less than the national average by discipline and rank.

We do have some possibilities for increased revenue. There are four new academic programs: Doctor of Physical Therapy, Bachelor of Applied Studies, Doctor of Sustainable Education and Masters in Business Administration. Also, \$1.1 million of the \$25 million lapse in the 2015-17 budget may be returned to UWSP. And, there may be an increase in tuition in the next biennium.

There are some great things happening at UWSP. We received a gift from Sentry Insurance in the amount of \$4M to endow two new faculty positions and to create a new major in data analytics. An accreditation visit for the School of Business is underway, approval of which would put us in the top 20% of schools in the country and the top 5% in the world. Our first-ever comprehensive Capital Campaign was launched on April 30. The UWSP men's hockey team won a national championship. One of our students won the Employee of the Year award from the National Association of College and University Food Service (NACUFS). And, construction is starting on our new science building.

Chancellor Patterson also announced that John and Patty Noel will receive honorary doctorates in recognition of their many contributions to cultural and philanthropic causes around the world. (See Chancellor Patterson's presentation [here](#).)

Update on COFAC (Sprague)

Rhonda Sprague, Interim Dean of COFAC, gave an update on COFAC, especially the involvement of alumni who have been coming back, demonstrating what they do now, looking at portfolios and resumes and talking to students about career paths, with special emphasis on what they did here to get where they are now. The department tries to match alumni with the classes who might benefit the most from their stories and experience. (See presentation [here](#).)

Men's Hockey (Kurowski)

Jeff Kurowski's son, who is the liaison for the UWSP hockey team came in along with the entire team to talk about their experiences and to thank the alumni for their support.

Advancement Update (Richards, Romano, Winn)

Richards thanked the Board for their efforts to create the new Distinguished Alumni display in the DUC. He stated that it would not have happened without their generosity. This display truly honors our legacy and connects to our future by sharing the stories of those alumni who have achieved greatness. Going forward, he would like to see a similar display in each of the colleges. Romano and Winn talked about the process that resulted in the receipt of the \$4 million gift from Sentry, and acknowledged the work of the many people involved, including Student Government. (See presentation [here](#).) A gift of this magnitude is truly transformational in nature and takes a lot of people, and a lot of time. They reviewed the timeline and discussion highlights from various stages of the gift consideration.

Update from Student Government (Cronmiller, Vida, Glazner, Richards)

Cronmiller and Vida introduced Glazner, the incoming Vice President. They gave an update of student initiatives. Differential tuition was passed with 60% of the vote. Student Government is now working to set up an academic advising model. They're conducting a study of off-campus housing issues as well as an appreciation drive for faculty and staff in response to the budget cuts. Issues to be addressed in the upcoming year include inclusivity, diversity, sustainability, student safety and sexual assault. Vice Chancellor Richards shared that Cronmiller will be attending graduate school at Harvard and that Vida was awarded the Charles P. Sweet Dean's Distinguished Achievement Award (\$4,000).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee (Moore)

Save the Date! The next Alumni Board Meeting will be on October 14, 2016. The date for homecoming is set for that Saturday, October 15, with the theme yet to be determined. (Update: the theme is Pointers Go Global) The Committee is reviewing policies, especially the giving statement as we would like to see 100% of our Directors participating with an annual gift of \$200. Working on a project regarding board engagement through a process called appreciative inquiry: specifically, how can we get more alumni to reconnect and how can we retain board members? Will report back in the Fall.

Awards and Recognition Committee (Graening, Jokela)

The top three have been chosen. Names will go to the Chancellor for final selection. Announcement will be made near the end of summer.

Communication Committee (Gardner)

The Day of Giving Event will take place on May 10. This will be our first ever one day campaign, following up on the April 30 launch of the "Then, Now & Forever – WE ARE POINT" capital campaign event and the groundbreaking for our new chemistry/biology building. This will be a day of fun, with the goal of raising money for freshmen scholarships.

Nominating Committee (Hardin)

Motion to approve new members made by Loeffler, seconded by Kemps, approved.

Motion to move Betty Jenkins to emeritus status made by Wescott, seconded by Kurowski, approved.

Hardin reminded members to sign a poster, featuring a picture of the Board members, that will be presented to Betty in recognition of her service.

Scholarship Committee (Patterson)

Committee has received 70 applications. Legacy Day was excellent. Committee wants to follow up on recipient experiences. Students and advisors who attended Posters in the Rotunda were enthusiastic, reporting that it was an amazing experience, and very worthwhile, with graduate research and alumni woven in.

Stewardship Committee (Valleskey)

Valleskey shared that this is an evolving committee, with the purpose of recognizing alumni in general and specifically. Priority will be given to the emeritus list from Gehrman Rottier. He asked that she break it down by their college of study and location. Possible ideas for recognition of current UWSP employee alumni include designating a special time to wear something identifying themselves so they can recognize each other. He asked for information regarding the budget available or monies allowed for committee recognition projects. He also encouraged Board members to share any ideas they may have for recognition.

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Motion to adjourn by Kemps, seconded by Winslow, Approved.

Adjournment at 5:03 PM.

Be sure to mark Friday, October 14, 2016, on your calendars for our next Alumni Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Lazar