

Wheeling Jesuit University
Alumni Council Meeting Minutes
Recital Hall, CET Building
October 27, 2018

In Attendance:

Martha Bogue	Tom Burke
Danny Brosnan	Tim Cogan
Beth Bowman Currerre	Robby deAndrade
Betsy Della Vecchia	Robert Dobkin
Jennifer Elias	Marybeth Emmerth
Lee Flanagan (via phone)	Jane Friday
Vince Gallagher	Patrick Gannon
Dan Haller	Pete Harlan (via phone)
Nancy Hogle	Keith Kearney
Chris Kreger (via phone)	Adam Levitsky (via phone)
Jake Lucas	Audra Macri (via phone)
John Egan McAteer	Mike McDermott (via phone)
Larry Messina (via phone)	Anthony Migliaccio
Joe Munhall	James Osborne
Valerie Piko	Jacob Plichta
Kevin Sikora	Joey Subasic
	Paula Felt

Call to Order:

President Joe Munhall called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM, and led the Alumni Council (AC) in a prayer. He asked that the minutes from the July 21, 2018 meeting be approved. Lee Flanagan moved to approve, Tom Burke seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Joe reviewed the rules of engagement for the AC meeting. He said President Michael Mihalyo and Vice President of Advancement Joe Edmiston generously agreed to speak with us today, and it is important for us to listen to what they have to say before asking questions about recent University decisions. They would like our help, and the AC Constitution speaks to our purpose “to foster a continuing relationship between alumni and Wheeling Jesuit University, its administration, faculty and students.”

Several AC members expressed their thoughts regarding issues they wanted Dr. Mihalyo and Joe Edmiston to address, especially their vision for the future of the University.

President's Report:

Dr. Mihalyo introduced himself and spoke of his Upper Ohio Valley roots and ties to the University, having his sister and her husband as well as his niece attend WJU. He talked about his more than two decades of experience in higher education, especially in West Virginia, with Davis & Elkins and Bethany Colleges. He received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Duquesne University and his Doctorate from WVU.

He and Joe Edmiston addressed the challenges for WJU such as its readiness to meet accreditation and federal compliance review deadlines, its marketing strategy to meet the current geographics of fewer students and second-career students, its concern about oversight regarding admission acceptance requirements and discounts offered to incoming students, and the university's legal fees relating to the faculty's dispute over control of the curriculum, and the NCAA's pending investigation.

Both spoke of better communication between their offices and the AC, ensuring openness and transparency with the AC. They then introduced Kelly Klubert as their selection to be the University's Alumni Director and assured the AC that this would be Kelly's primary job. Kelly received a round of applause and the AC looks forward to having her back in this position and working with her.

Committee Reports:

Robby deAndrade agreed to chair the Career Development Committee that includes Pete Harlan, Keith Kearney, Robert Dobkin, Marybeth Emmerth, Paula Felt, Tony Migliaccio, Adam Levitsky, and Valerie Piko. Robby indicated WJU is looking for a new Career Development person, and he is currently working with Carrie Banks from the school's HR staff to promote career days. He mentioned a spring Career Day event was being planned, and he gave short bios of the AC Career Development Committee members to Carrie. He also spoke of having a database of all the AC members and their backgrounds to enable Carrie to assist students with their job searches.

Tim Cogan, Chair of the Advancement Committee said that he and Committee member, Dan Haller, were encouraging alumni to update their contact information, and that they will continue to work with Ed and Julia in the Advancement Office on this and other matters.

Tom Burke agreed to continue to chair the Alumni-in-Recruitment (AIR) Committee whose members consist of Betsy Della Vecchia, Danny Brosnan, Jim Stafford, Martha Bogue and Beth Bowman Currerre. He mentioned AIR training on the website and that 20 college fairs were scheduled this past fall. He is working to see how to capture the number of recruits that come from AIR's efforts.

The Chair of the 50-Year Club, Dan Haller, spoke of the ideas that he and his committee members, Lee Flanagan, John McAteer, and Jane Friday, are promoting. He talked about the Senior Ambassadors program, the Allied Health Initiative, the luncheon for area high school counselors, alumni family scholarships, and many other initiatives.

The Recognition Committee consists of Stacy Keller Kelleher, Robby deAndrade, and Keith Kearney, and they are working on preparing a list of nominees for awards to be presented to the AC at the January 19 meeting and voted on at the April 13 meeting.

Martha Bogue agreed to work on revisions to the AC Constitution with Chair, Chris Kreger, and other members of the Committee, Robert Dobkin, Nancy Hogle, Tony Migliaccio, and Pat Gannon.

Chris Kreger has offered to continue to chair the Archives Committee and is looking for AC members to serve on the Committee.

The focus of the Membership Committee is currently to provide an up-to-date listing of AC Members and their contact information, to come up with January nominations to be voted on by April. Committee members, Betsy Della Vecchia, Kevin Sikora, Peter Harlan, and Pat Gannon are working with Chair, Adam Levitsky, who was recognized for the excellent job he and his Committee did last year in recruiting alumni to serve on the AC. The current focus is to recruit alumni from the 2000 era.

The Chair of the Engagement and Alumni Events Committee, Valerie Piko, said the Committee thought it was important to find ways to attract younger grads to attend the alumni weekend, and suggested a possible wine tasting or brewery event be held that weekend. She also spoke of the need for the alumni website to be updated. Working with Valerie on this Committee are Tom Burke, Jim Osborne, Marybeth Emmerth, Danny Brosnan, Beth Currenre, Dan Devine, Jake Plichta, Jake Lucas, and Paula Felt.

Joe said a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.