

Alumni Council minutes
November 14, 2015
Conference Room 319, Mollohan Campus Community Center

Members in attendance: Bob Marshall, Alumni Association President; Ruth Chisler-Baughman, Kyre-Anna Minney, Maureen Gildein, Martha Deel, Bill Deel, John Hoover, North Central WV Chapter Chair Julie Yearego, Alumni Director Debbie Nagy, and GSC President Peter Barr.

Dennis Pounds, Executive Director of the GSC Foundation, was in attendance for part of the meeting to give the Foundation report.

Bill Deel offered a prayer before the meeting started and John Hoover led everyone in the Pledge of the Allegiance.

Maureen Gildein introduced herself as the newest member of the Alumni Council and spoke of what she hopes to bring to the group and her alma mater. Members in attendance took turns welcoming her and introducing themselves.

Minutes from the August meeting were approved with one correction, that being to change a period to a comma in one of the CD totals, making it \$8,002.41 instead of \$8.002.41 as written.

President Barr's report:

- The Hidden Promise Consortium continues to grow with 52 of the state's 55 counties now participating in the program
- Our students' ACT scores are up a full 2 points
- More students are living on campus during their first two years at GSC
- Enrollment is down just a bit but this is because the State has quit funding classes for students in Corrections
- The College is exploring the possibility of leasing properties in Summersville to offer business classes. If this materializes, these classes will be for two plus two degrees.
- Continuing State cutbacks are creating a challenge for colleges in West Virginia, including GSC because we can't keep raising tuition and fees to bridge the difference.

Denny Pounds' report:

- There are only two options when the State cuts funding (1) increase tuition and fees or (2) increase monies coming into the Foundation.
- The Foundation needs endowed funds for the Hidden Promise Scholars program and hopes to break the amount needed down to the amount of counties participating and ask each county's superintendent to help identify prospective donors within their county.
- Fundraising is a process, the Alumni Association can help by friend raising.
- There needs to be more of the three CCCs (Communication, Cooperation, and Coordination) between the Association and Foundation.

Debbie Nagy gave Alumni Association account balances, these being:

- Checking \$4,183.25; CDs \$5,220.61 and \$8,010.48

Council broke for lunch and then reconvened afterwards for a brainstorming session about things we might be able to do to become more visible to alums.

Discussions ran the full gambit from increasing chapter participation, to more chapters, to creating an Academic Hall of Fame much like the Athletic Hall of Fame, to a drive for brick purchases in the plaza at the Alumni House and in the Dora Heflin Garden, to seat naming opportunities in the Waco Center and Fine Arts Auditorium, to selling alumni soft goods at games and chapter events, to highlighting alumni from predetermined geographical areas of the State at home football games, this in addition to the big push for more alums to come back for homecoming. It was also thought that tours of the campus might be done before these games.

These discussions were spurred by Council President Marshall's thoughts that the College Administration and specifically Dr. Barr wanted Council to pick something and become more involved in helping the College.

Martha Deel spoke of her desire to organize a Wirt County chapter and Maureen Gildein, who used to chair the North Carolina chapter before moving back to West Virginia, shared that her friend, Becky (Carr) Sabo, Class of 1981, was willing to take over the reins of the North Carolina chapter. Additionally Debbie told Council that Professor Emeritus Dr. Gary Gillespie, Class of 1959, was entertaining the possibility of working to revitalize the alumni chapter in the Teays Valley/Huntington area. She also spoke of Leandis Hodges' desire to partner with friend Karl Bennett, both members of the Class of 1978, and organize something in the Dallas/Fort Worth area since former Chapter Chair Mick Hartley has moved to Colorado and co-chair David Sotelo has taken retirement and is no longer interested in taking a lead with the Texas chapter.

Kyre-Anna Minney expressed an interest in assisting with revitalizing the Gilmer County chapter and Maureen Gildein agreed to serve on the chapter committee consisting of council members Dennis Carpenter, Mark Downey, Terry Williams, John Hoover, Julie Yearego, and Joe Duncan with the thought that she might be able to organize something in neighboring Lewis County.

It was moved and seconded that Debbie Nagy solicit portrait shots of council members and put these alongside their names on an Alumni Council section of the Alumni and Friends link on the College's website.

Before soliciting the pictures, Debbie referenced Article VI, Section 4 of the Alumni Association's Bylaws; specifically

"Unexcused absences from three (3) consecutive regularly scheduled Executive Council meetings shall terminate membership on the Executive Council upon ratification by a majority vote of the Executive Council members present at a regularly scheduled meeting. Council members should notify the Alumni Director of such absences with cause. Notification of termination shall be from the Alumni Director. This provision shall not apply to ex-officio members of the Executive Council."

in trying to determine who are current members of Council. She suggested that Council consider authorizing her to send termination notices to Council members Jackie Joe Robinson and J.D. Rogers since J.D. has only attended one meeting since coming back on Council, that meeting being in 2013; also to Jackie Joe who has never attended a meeting in person and has only

participated in part of one conference call since being appointed to Council in early 2014. Martha Deel indicated that this wouldn't be a first time, that she had let a couple of folks go when she was Alumni Council President; not that she valued them any less as alums but... that we need folks who can give of themselves to make a contribution at Council meetings. The majority of those present thought that it would be ok for Debbie to proceed with letter notifications, thanking them for their services and inviting them to express interest in serving on the Alumni Council in the future when their schedule(s) permit time to become actively involved.

Regarding Council's August nominations of perspective new members in addition to Maureen Gilden, Debbie reported that Ryan Bailey has accepted a three year position on the Alumni Council and will, per e-mail response, begin attending Council meetings at a later date although Mike Wilt, Paul Ayers and Phoebe Truex have declined their invitations because of time constraints.

Although the expectation to attend our four meetings a year is in the correspondence going out to perspective new members, Council President Marshall thought that we might need to tweak the letter before sending it out to others saying only that they are being considered for nomination, soliciting their interest and availability to attend meetings and then Council members meeting again to vote on those interested before actually inviting perspective members to a meeting.

The brainstorming session concluded with Bill Deel suggested that Council President Marshall consider doing a small newsletter much like what Athletics is doing. This could be done, at least monthly, with Debbie sending these newsletters out to everyone on the lists that Athletics and the Foundation are using, his thought being that this next newsletter could mention that Maureen has joined Council and was at today's meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Nagy

11/14/2015