



**SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES**

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2014 AT 7:30 AM
WEBSTER BANK ARENA

In Attendance:

Robert Scarpetti
David Howe
Roscoe Samuel
Matt Fortney
Emily Gillette, Director of Alumni Relations
Claudette Thompson
Steven Dzik
Michael Koosa
Dennis Bartley

Michelle Friedrich
John Ruzicka
Rich Kuroghlian
Barb Susi
Karen Zaneski-Malek
Bob Malek (guest)
Mario Bonetti '67 (guest)
Bill Reidy, VP for University Advancement

Absent:

Tom McCabe
Kelly Libby
Dr. Peter Maresco, Ex-officio member, Faculty
Taylor Richard '16, President S.T.A.T
Chad Betz
Nick Diieso (present for procession of decades)
Diana Rainho
Dan Pascone
Cheryl Janus
Joe Bacoulis

Called to Order/Welcome

The meeting was motioned to be called to order at 7:45am, Robert seconded the motion.

Welcome to New Board Members

The board welcomes new board members Richard Kuroghlian '90 and Dan Pascone '06, '12MBA.

SHU Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Omhp8L7v3Mc> Emily was unable to show the video during the meeting. Please watch this inspirational video on being a Pioneer!

Advancement/Campaign Update

Presented by Bill Reidy, Vice President for University Advancement. Bill reported that he is excited to be in his new position and is eager and ready to continue to propel us forward. Currently we are at 42% of the 30-million dollar goal and will go public with the campaign in 2015. Bill's work with the University began as a consultant on the campaign with Changing

Our World, an organization that Advancement is still involved with. Bill participated in the development and execution of a feasibility study, conducted in 2013 meant to gauge the level of ability and interest that alumni of varying levels have in becoming involved with and in making large gifts to the University. Bill stressed the importance of alumni to give back and get more alumni involved so that they choose where and how their money is being impactful.

Committee Updates – Vice Presidents

Membership & Recognition – Emily Gillette (in Joe Bacoulis' absence)

- The membership committee has approved the two new members (Rich and Dan).
- The recognition committee is now working on the alumni awards and soliciting nominations for the four board awards. Information for the criteria can be found online: <http://www.sacredheart.edu/alumniawards>.
- Emily CHALLENGED each board member to send to 10 fellow alumni and nominate at least one person themselves.
- The recognition committee will also be emailing former student government individuals and individuals who were in Greek life, since they were the pulse of campus, to solicit for nominations. Emily has provided Joe with those lists and a sample letter for language. The alumni awards will be on Friday, Sept 19, 2014.

Individual Development – Robert Scarpetti

Community Service Initiatives

- 50th anniversary day of service with Habitat for Humanity was a success. They had a good number of alumni and students, about 13 total including Shirley Pavone, longtime habitat supporter and fellow alum, as well as Jeff Daley, the student president of habitat for Humanity.
- The committee has expressed interest in a Homecoming Day of Service, preferably without cost, and maybe working with the City of Bridgeport, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and partnering with students again.
- The committee is also interested in assisting with Alumni mass as part of Homecoming weekend.

Administration – Steve Dzik

- Steve admitted that his involvement has been less than what he would like and that his work has slid a bit on the committees.
- Steve urged the entire board to aim for 100% participation and that it's important to send the message to Dr. Petillo as such.
 - **Gratitude Committee:**
 - The gratitude committee will be working with Judite to send hand written cards to alumni donors and thank them for their gifts.
 - The gratitude committee would also like to sign letters of solicitation for some of the annual appeals. Emily explained it's been difficult to segment by class because people don't want to sign the letters.

- Rich Kuroghlian joined the gratitude committee.
- Roscoe made a great point about utilizing matching gift companies and maximizing the gift itself.

President – Emily Gillette (in Cheryl Janus’ absence)

- **Pioneer Pride:**
- Emily met with Brad Hurlbut, of athletics, to discuss some of the committee’s ideas:
 - Developing a physical showing of alumni support of athletics either via a banner or smaller cut outs taped within the Pitt center with signatures.
 - A letter to alumni who are youth coaches talking about camps and upcoming season schedules
 - Assisting with logo review (John Ruzicka) of athletics marks
- Encouragement of attending and assisting with upcoming events.
- Emily discussed the two articles, one from Dr. Seamus Carey, former Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, and an article from the student newspaper on STAT’s young alumni panel. Each board member was encouraged to read in their own time.
- End of June, next issue of the digital magazine will be issued. Emily urged everyone to spread the word so that people will be aware.

Upcoming Events – Emily Gillette

- New student orientation parent receptions June 3, 5, and 9 around 8pm on campus. Please let Emily know if you will be able to attend and welcome the new parents to the SHU community.
- Cheryl, Dennis, and John Fallivene will host a NJ alumni reception on June 19, 2014 for alumni in Northern NJ.
- Homecoming 2014, Sept 19-21, 2014:
 - 19th = board meeting, alumni awards luncheon
 - 20th =Football game, various club reunions
 - 21st= Community Service Opportunity (tentative) And Alumni Mass

Good of the Order

- Matt suggested an update on the insurance programs at the next meeting and how well they are doing. Emily agreed.
- Emily discussed her lack of delegation to the board with regards to Homecoming and will be looking to get the board more involved with specific tasks. She asked all of us to tell 10 friends about the events, to volunteer at the game, and assist with mass. She will be asking individuals to assist in various areas.
- Emily reported on her very successful trip to California where she met with alumni entrepreneurs who were starting businesses and offering jobs. They donned their SHU t-shirts, met with her and she came back with some great ideas.

- Rob asked about the launch of the Evertrue App and Emily replied that it will not be launched until August.
- Bill gave examples of people already making connections via the app.
- Emily was congratulated on her graduation on Saturday with her masters in Applied Psychology.
- Mike McCabe has decided to resign from the Board in order to devote more time to his evolving private practice. We will formally recognize him at a later date.
- Karen noted that Mr. Carter Mario made a generous donation of \$25,000 to the wrestling dept. and received an SHU jacket. Emily also provided him with an apron and he was thanked appropriately via the University.

Adjournment

There was a motion to adjourn by Steve, seconded by Mike Koosa
Meeting adjourned at 8:53 a.m.

After the adjournment, the group met in the Limerick Pub, where they donned red robes, along with other alumni and participated in the first-ever alumni walk with the undergraduate procession! The alumni walked behind banners representing the decade they graduated.