



Sacred Heart UNIVERSITY

**MINUTES OF SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, 4/1/14 AT 7:00 PM
VIA CONFERENCE CALL**

In Attendance:

Cheryl Janus
Robert Scarpetti
Emily Gillette
Joe Bacoulis
Claudette Thompson
Taylor Richard, President S.T.A.T.

Absent

Steven Dzik

Called to Order/Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. Cheryl welcomed and thanked everyone for joining the meeting and reminded everyone that the next all-board meeting will be held at the Webster Bank Arena as part of Undergraduate Commencement Ceremonies on May 18, 2014.

Committee Updates – Vice Presidents

Individual Development – Robert Scarpetti

Community Service Initiatives

Rob said that his main focus was the Habitat for Humanity project planned for the Day of Service on April 12, 2014. He said that, unfortunately, only three people had confirmed their commitment to help: Jeff, our SHU contact for Habitat, Shirley Pavone (who planned to try to get others to attend), Michelle and himself. He will also find a role for Barb who was willing to donate but due to her health, won't be able to help physically. Cheryl asked if there was a minimum # of participants required and Rob said Jeff had said 6 members. Claudette suggested that the cost of \$60.00 required from each participant to cover supplies might be a deterrent to some people who are willing to help, like herself, but cannot afford it. Cheryl asked Rob to send her a blurb about the event so that she can send it out on Twitter and/or Facebook to try to get more participants. Claudette had reached out to the Bridgeport Rescue Mission and discussed with the contact there, Gail Sullivan, areas in which we could help them. They are going to need help starting in May and the Committee will make a decision, after the Day of Service, and get back to them.

Membership & Recognition – Joseph Bacoulis

Joe said he was not really feeling well but he will contact his committee to try to get some participants for the Day of Service. The Recognition Committee did not do any work in the past few weeks because the awards are still some time away. Cheryl said that was okay as the Membership Committee brought in two new members: Dan Pascone and Rich

Kuroghlian. Dan was already actively working with Cheryl and truly exhibiting the SHU spirit on the Pioneer Pride Committee, and Rich is excitedly looking forward to getting on board. Cheryl challenged the Board to get more diversity in all aspects on the team. She is in contact with a prospective member and Emily had sent info for another contact to the Committee. Cheryl raised a vote for the two new board members, seconded by Emily. All were in favor. Rob asked for their contact information so that he can reach out to welcome them onboard. Emily said that the Committee will also take a look at our By-Laws and compare them to other universities' to see if faculty/staff can become board members. Term overlaps on committees and board memberships need to be addressed. Cheryl commended Joe for the work done by his committee.

President – Cheryl Janus

Cheryl stated that she has been working with the very active Pioneer Pride Committee. They are very excited to be working with us and she derived some ideas from the group that she discussed with Emily:

- One idea is to create a banner which will be signed by alumni at each game that they attend. The design is being worked on.
- Additionally, John was working with Emily to design a logo for Pioneer Pride to use on T-Shirts, banners, etc.
- Also, social media can be a blessing and a curse but we are hoping to pool together all media on the games to one place to get alumni to attend the games.
- The committee will also be drafting a letter for local little league coaches and pop warner type of teams to attend SHU games.

Next meeting will be at commencement weekend. Due to prior commitment, Cheryl will be unable to attend the undergrad service but Steve will officiate in her absence. She will however speak at the grad event the day before, May 17.

Administration – Steve Dzik

Gratitude Committee & Donations Committee

Since Steve was unable to attend the meeting, Emily updated the group. She stated that she met with Steve that morning and they discussed gratitude packets for members of the gratitude committee to write notes and hand address to thank alumni donors for their gifts. Also a letter will be going out to Board members urging them to support SHU's goal of 100% participation by board members.

The Pulse of the Heart Student Update – Taylor Richard '16

Taylor reported that there is still great morale on campus for the Spring. Members of STAT attended a conference with other universities which was a great success as they learned a lot about other institutions and their student alumni associations. The Young Alumni Panel was a huge success as there were about 60 attendees. The panel talked about their favorite professors, gave the students tips/tricks, etc. The event was also written about in the SHU magazine and newspaper. Emily said that they should be proud of themselves as they contacted the alumni on their own, and took the event from beginning to end. To Cheryl's question, Taylor responded that the students were happy except for

the current room selection, which can be stressful. Cheryl congratulated Taylor who will be the RA at the Roncalli building. Students will be happier now that the weather is improving. They are also very excited about the new construction.

Good of the Order – Emily Gillette

Emily will send a reminder about Commencement activities, as well as any relevant updates. William (Bill) A. Reidy has been named as Vice President of Advancement. Cheryl will invite him to the Commencement event. Megan will remain until the Gala is over and she will help in transitioning Bill. Bill, Megan and two other board members will be attending the Gala. Cheryl thanked everyone for their continuous participation.

Adjournment

There was a motion to adjourn by Cheryl, seconded by Robert.
Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.