

# University High School Alumni Association

## Meeting Minutes: July 12, 2021

### Present:

Ryan Scritchlow, David Martin, Peter Pontius, Marc Leonard, Stacey Meyer, Eric Schlipf, Kathy Murdoch, Tommy Elmore, Nate Brent, Tara Nafziger

### Absent:

Dixie Lewis, Andrea, Markert, Cory Roop, Meghan Pantaleone, Tom Feely, Stephen Wilson, Teri Wilson, Dana Klauss, Wilma Bates, Barbara Blunk, Bob Fitzgerald

### Call to Order:

- Minutes of the May 2021 meeting were emailed and approved.
- Welcome Nate Brent and Tommy Elmore!

### Administration Report:

- No updates

### Foundation Report:

- Last balance was \$6,784.
- Current balance was not available.

### Awards Committee:

- David Martin emailed the chairman; no updates at this time.
- David offered to touch base with Tom Feely and will follow up with Kathy Murdoch.
- David will also touch base with Stacey Meyer as well.
- The chair position will be open at Homecoming; there are 2 people per decade on that committee.

### Newsletter:

- The fall newsletter is set and will go out late August; arriving in mailboxes 3-4 weeks prior to Homecoming.
- The deadline for the spring newsletter would be February 2022.
- Discussion regarding achieving a better balance between newsletter issues; consideration of getting the first newsletter of the year out earlier in the year, such as early February. Consider the fall delivery to be around early August. Stacey will touch base with UMC and make sure this does not conflict with anything on their end.
- This should work well with reunion planning.
- David mentioned that material is needed for the fall newsletter.
  - Consider getting a picture of the current board and writing a feature story around this.
- We will follow up on this topic at our next meeting.

## Alumni Relations:

- No updates.

## Homecoming:

- Discuss the food order and other needs at our next meeting.

## New Business:

- Welcome Nate Brent! Graduated in 2000 from UHS, graduated from U of I; moved back to BLM; married with two children; one of their daughters will be a freshman at UHS in the fall. Their other child is going into 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Evans; he has a background with finance and strategy in the corporate environment.
- Welcome Tommy Elmore! Graduated in 2000 from UHS; graduated from U of I as well; moved to Chicago; just moved back to BLM about 2 months ago. Married with two young children.
- Funding for alumni related activities/events discussion:
  - There will be some changes to the amount that the superintendent's office is able to cover for Homecoming. This conversation was planned for March but was just delivered in our July meeting.
  - In the past, the superintendent's office covered the newsletter, the alumni breakfast, lunch and other things. Some of these things will be shifted to the alumni board and their accounts.
  - In the past, just under \$15,000 has been spent on these items, per year.
  - **Effective July 1, the only item/event that the superintendent's office will continue to fund will be the Homecoming luncheon and those associated costs.**
  - Marc asked for an itemization of the costs so we could have an informed discussion regarding these events and expenditures. Stacey shared her screen during the meeting.
  - Discussion – there was a suggestion made to hold/cancel the fall newsletter, since that cost is about \$5,000. The decision was made to halt the fall newsletter publication, due to the associated cost. It was confirmed that it would cost about \$20 to send the newsletter electronically. There was some discussion regarding sending a postcard mailing encouraging all to submit their email addresses as a way to continue to communicate with alumni, and consider sending the newsletter electronically.
  - Eric asked if there was a way to discuss this with the ISU Foundation group; shift alumni expenses to the ISU foundation. Would that be something that the ISU Foundation could cover? Kathy M. offered to discuss with Pat D. as she knows him personally. She will set up a meeting, communicate that information, and is asking 3-4 board members to join her at the meeting. Marc has offered to attend the meeting as well.
  - There is concern that this will really damage the alumni association and severely limit our ability to connect with alumni. There is an urgent need

to connect with Pat regarding the ISU Foundation. There was also discussion to meet with the dean of the college of education. Kathy is going to do some work on this and keep us informed.

- There was also discussion to pull away from the university and become our own entity. There are advantages and disadvantages to this.
- Should the alumni associate come out and tell alumni that ISU is no longer supporting us? This was discussed as well.
- If the board feels that these events do benefit the students, is there a way that the board can formally appeal these decisions?
  - Stacey stated that she and Barb would have to take any appeals to their legal department.

#### **Old Business:**

- Continue to work with Cory to obtain the Homecoming sign in sheets.
- Search for replacements of the Wilsons on the awards committee-tabled for a future meeting.
- Committee to review and update constitution and add Spirit Wear committee role.
  - Kathy M., Tara N., and Dave M. will sit on this temporary committee and work through the updates. This committee has been tabled at this time; we will revisit at our next meeting.

#### **Miscellaneous:**

- No topics.

#### **Next Meeting:**

- Monday, August 9, 2021 at 6:00 PM