

University High School Alumni Association

Meeting Minutes: November 15, 2022

Present:

Kathy Murdoch, Steve Mower, Darcy Drexler, Debi Grossman, Ryan Scritchlow, Sara Punke, Angie Parker, Dave Martin, Dr. Anthony Jones, Dixie Lewis, Meghan Pantaleone, Tara Nafziger, Cory Roop

Absent:

Andrea Markert, Pete Pontius, Marc Leonard, Jeff Rogers, Eric Schlipf, Stacey Meyer

Call to Order:

- Minutes of the September 20, 2022 meeting were emailed and approved.

Administration Report:

- Giving Tuesday is coming up after Thanksgiving. Information was sent to parents.
- Discussed some upcoming events that students will be taking part of.

Foundation Report:

- Current funds available: \$14,232.46.
- Since Sept 1, there were 14 gifts ranging in amounts from \$10 to \$500
- Outstanding bills to be paid-Avanti's bill has been processed but the check has not yet cleared.

Old Business:

Discussion regarding future expectations for UHSAA:

1. *Explanation of the role UHS administration envisions UHSAA to fill/play?*
2. *Explanation of what support UHSAA can expect to receive from ISU/lab school/UHS administration?*

Comments from Dr. Jones:

- Dr. Jones has taken some time to better understand the purpose of the UHSAA. He looked at our purpose on the website. The purpose is broad and will allow us to be creative. Dr. Jones shared he sees three main purposes for us:
 1. Scholarship-could be defined however the UHSAA sees fit. Could include an application process.
 2. Liaison-being a liaison for UHS students. Are there mentor opportunities, internship opportunities, networking opportunities that could match students up with some of these opportunities.
 3. Support for student programs-Mindy is the curriculum director. They have engaged students in what they are calling the "design lab". This is student driven and project based and would be for sophomores. There would be some lab sessions and then time for exhibition. Students are encouraged to follow their

passion and interests. Alumni could serve as consultants on these various projects.

- Updates should be provided from the director of the lab schools. And then Dr. Jones could take feedback back to other parties, such as Andrea and Stacey. Andrea's presence in the meeting would be at invitation only.
- Continue to be a liaison to help connect alumni with their graduating classes. The awards event-he has heard this is a great experience and Dr. Jones stated he would like to witness this event so he could better provide his feedback.
- Possibly record alumni stories and experiences in the form of a podcast or other media format. When we get better at telling our stories, this will draw in more alumni. We need to do a better job of sharing what is currently happening at the lab schools. Dr. Jones see foundation sharing a lot of this, since they have a greater reach.
- Dr. Jones commented that he would like to hear from our board collectively to understand what we see as our vision moving forward. He suggested we come together to determine our top three things we would like to focus on.

Comments from Andrea M:

- Andrea was ill and not able to attend.

Group Discussion Comments:

- Darcy commented that she has always valued reading about the alumni awards in past newsletters.
- Ryan commented that the database that is kept by foundation should be able provide the resources. He commented that foundation would keep lists of graduating classes to those planning reunions could reach out. Dr. Jones commented that all of this was true, but he would like to see some of the ownership of these things come back to the lab schools, instead of foundation. Dr. Jones see that UHSAA has a personal connection, which foundation does not. Ryan commented that we need the data we have collected over the years. Dr. Jones commented he has asked for this data and keeps getting told no. Ryan asked how UHSAA could be better than foundation, w/o the database. Dr. Jones encouraged us to continue to try to re-build our database due to the policy change.
- Steve asked if foundation would continue to make our contacts for us? Dr. Jones stated he thinks this is something foundation should be doing. Kathy stated that ISU Foundation has offered to address class reunion correspondence if stamped, enveloped letters are delivered to the ISU mailing office at the Nelson Smith Building. This would require a set up time of a minimum of two weeks. Emails can also be targeted to a specific class, but it must be scheduled (at least two

weeks ahead of time). Any Pioneer alum who has designated their information as “not to be contacted” will not receive any mailed or email correspondence.

- Darcy commented-do we want to have to explain the policy change (and potentially the lack of foundation support) when individuals say they have already provided their information? Dr. Jones commented that priorities are big donors and follow the tuition money.
- Ryan suggested that only 1 or 2 consultants with foundation would really be needed to move this vision forward.
- Kathy commented regarding scholarship-the ISU alumni organization only recently started their own scholarship fund in the last 10 years. We have never been an organization that desired to do fundraising. Are current scholarships being used? Dr. Jones stated there are currently three scholarships that are set apart and those funds are exhausted. The recommendation would be to only offer one scholarship. Currently, there are no scholarships that are being awarded from alumni.
- Ryan stated he believes there are scholarships out there being funded by alumni.
- Ryan commented that he is interpreting this as UHSAA would become a mini foundation for just UHS.
- Darcy asked if we would be able to obtain financial information in an easier manner? Dr. Jones commented yes. She asked if foundation would put any restrictions on how we spend our funds. Dr. Jones commented that we can spend our funds any way we see fit. Dr. Jones believes the lab schools need to do a better job of communicating how money is spent.
- Kathy commented that we have tried liaison type work and some career networking work, and it has not succeeded. However, that does not mean this should not be tried again.

New Business:

- Board restructure & development
- Constitution update
- Research into establishing a 501 3-C
- UHSAA President visits seniors at brunch in May

Miscellaneous:

- Kathy-follow up w/Boosters regarding reimbursement from Homecoming. Boosters had 64 meals.
- Dr. Jones-do the lab schools have any current scholarships that are being given?
- The Homecoming date has been changed. New date is TBD.

- Steve volunteered to draft an email that could go out around giving Tuesday that would encourage alumni to give to the UHSAA. Steve will have the draft done sometime on Wednesday. Kathy will contact Stacey tomorrow to see if an email can be sent just before Giving Tuesday. She is not sure there is enough time to get an email out before Giving Tuesday.
- Wishing everyone a very happy holiday season!!

Next Meeting:

- Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 7:00 PM