

Notes from the Alumni Society Meeting
held
Tuesday, December 4, 2012
In the
President's Boardroom, Keva M. Bethel Building

In attendance: Veronica Duncanson, Marcus Laing, Wence Martin, Tomas McIntosh, John Mogk, Andrea Moultrie, Tamischa Richardson, Larissa Sawyer, Dario Terrelli

Apologies: Jana Stubbs

Absent: Troy Strachan

1. Call to Order:

The Chairman commenced the meeting at 6:30 p.m..

2. Review and Approval of Minutes From Previous Meeting:

Larissa noted that under the Alumni Reclamation section of the November minutes she was referred to as organizing a Homecoming Committee and it should be corrected to Jana. Minutes were approved as amended.

3. Chairman's Report:

Marcus offered his congratulations on a successful Mix & Mingle at the Colonial Hilton on November 16, 2012. He heard many positive comments from participants and interest in details for the next Mix & Mingle. He remarked on the importance of Directors attending as many events as possible.

4. College Council Report:

Marcus attended the College Council meeting on November 14, 2012. He presented his PowerPoint presentation on the goals and objectives of the 2012-2014 Alumni Society and was received with interest and compliments from The Council.

There was a review of construction items for the Oakes Field campus. Also discussed were the updates needed on the student union to make it a more usable space. Tamischa encouraged lobbying for alumni space in any renovations or construction. There was also a general discussion on future campus needs beyond the current list of projects. Marcus anticipates that after the next Council meeting he will be able to bring some specifics to the Board to discuss for alumni support. Wence commented it was important for the Alumni Society to also consider other projects like clean ups or painting as ways to support The College and provide opportunities for fellowship and engagement for alumni and encourage them to donate their time as well.

Marcus mentioned he has been appointed to the Chief Information Officer Search Committee and because of his background in architecture and construction will work with the Building & Properties Committee through various sub-committees.

5. Treasurer's Report:

No report due to Jana's absence.

6. Executive Officer Reports:

Deferred under Committee Reports.

7. Committee Reports:

Alumni Reclamation/Membership Committee:

Wence asked for follow up on the November discussion of The Alumni Society recognizing the passing of Dr. Kendal Stubbs noting the Board decided to possibly do a public recognition in lieu of flowers. Larissa said she had made some inquiries about an announcement in the papers but would not work out with the budget. There were general comments from many Directors about expressing condolences through Facebook, calling talk shows, through the Alumni Office, mailing cards and other forms of expression. Larissa, through the PR Committee, will prepare a suggested protocol for the Alumni Society to address the passing of alumni and friends of The College to present at the January meeting.

Wence mentioned he had 10 new names of persons interested in helping the Alumni Society. John reminded all Directors to send names of persons working on their committees and projects so they may be properly recognized in the database.

Public Relations & Marketing Committee:

Larissa and Veronica discussed an idea to promote the Alumni Society and The College by preparing historical blurbs about The College that could be shown on the T.V. community boards and other medias. John mentioned Communications is working on a similar project for the Bahamas and COB 40th anniversaries and they could perhaps be a resource.

Veronica discussed the Bahamas Marathon in January 2013. The Alumni Society Board has an opportunity to work with the COB Athletics Department to staff a water station at the marathon. It is a chance to do community service, receive media attention and promote the Alumni Society. She is also working with Cable Bahamas to have the station set up as one of the live shot areas on the marathon course. Veronica passed out volunteer sign-up sheets for the Directors. She is also exploring the possibility of working with a restaurant on the course to hold a breakfast event with the Alumni Society and promote it as a COB cheering section for race watchers.

Events Committee:

Andrea said she is looking to do two types of events in the spring, contact events and special events.

She met with committee members on November 27th. They set the date for the next Mix & Mingle for February 21, 2013 and discussed a number of possible locations; Compass Point, Montague Gardens, poop Deck, Beach Club, Choices, Marely Resort. Things like cost and parking will need to be taken into consideration for the final selection. Visiting alumna Antoinette Seymour mentioned the President's House is also an option for certain events. Andrea is interested in collecting corporate sponsors and raffle prizes to help make the events bigger and better. Andrea and her committee will present final details for the Mix & Mingle at the January meeting.

The idea of an open mic style event was presented as a free event bringing alumni together to discuss whatever topics are on their mind. They could be hosted in a wide variety of venues and organized with little to no cost. The Committee debated an open or more formal moderated format and opted for the first. Directors commented it was like restarting the old tradition of the Speaking Tree and could perhaps be done on campus at one of the gazebos or the bandshell.

The Chairman noted that we need to finalize the event calendar, print it and bring it to each meeting and again urged the Board for the need to prepare a calendar with all Alumni Society and COB events to help in Board planning and to know other important events for Board members to attend.

Fundraising Committee:

Tamischa commented we need to find a project for the Alumni Society to adopt and support. Marcus indicated the Needs List and project details from the College Council will help the Board move forward on that. She also reported on shirts/uniforms for the Board. Working with Uniform Experts they will do the logo for free with the purchase of the shirt. Was decided polo was better than the tshirt and Tamischa will look at colours that match the logo and go with the college's colours.

Family Island Committee:

Veronica is interested in sending holiday cards and John noted the Alumni Office can help with that. She will work on setting the event calendar for Grand Bahama after the new year. One possible event is the Unity Walk on February 23, 2013. She is looking to visit Grand Bahama soon and build a committee to work with her there.

Hall of Fame:

The committee met November 30th and have tentatively set the date for June 2013. It should be an upscale, possibly black tie, event at the Sheraton or Hilton. It was suggested ticket and bar sales will pay for the event. The Hall of Fame would comprise three finalists with the award recipient announced the night of the event. This would help with ticket sales. Other awards could also be given out. Was suggested elections could be done on Facebook. Wence brought up the question of how can the Alumni Society work with the recipient and what can we do to bring back past recipients. Regarding the HOF plaque, it was noted the plaque was moved from the PAC during renovations to the Portia Smith Building. The Board questioned if it can be returned to the PAC or what other prominent location could it be permanently hung. Veronica will attempt to get information from the Council Office regarding the decision to use the PAC and provide to Dario. More specifics on HOF will be provided at the January Board meeting.

8. New Business:

Tamischa asked all Board members to send her their shirt size.

Question was raised on how the Alumni Society might be represented on the University Transition Secretariat. It was noted that alumni are serving on several committees of the UTS. John mentioned he has asked more than once for the names of alumni participants and a list of UTS events but has not received anything.

John mentioned the Career Fair is March 7, 2013 and asked how the Alumni Society would like to participate. It was noted last year there was an alumni table and the Alumni Office helped recruit employers and job seekers. Wence agreed to contact Norma Turnquest to discuss options for this year.

Regarding plans for a 2013 golf outing, Marcus indicated there may be an option to work with Alpha Phi Alpha to provide a larger opportunity for COB alumni while saving the Alumni Society the time and expense of organizing a new event.

9. Other Business:

Dario brought up the idea that he could host a Christmas gathering for the Board on December 18th.

Veronica mentioned there is a live remote for Marathon Bahamas at the Harbour Bay Sport Centre on December 7th from 4-6pm and encouraged Directors to attend and talk about Alumni Society participation.

The UTS is starting a walking programme every Thursday evening on the Oakes Field campus to promote the University of The Bahamas. This could be an opportunity for the Alumni Society to partner with UTS as a fundraiser or self-promotion.

Marcus reminded all officers to be prepared with specific details on all their projects to present at the January meeting.

10. Confirmation of Next Meeting:

Confirmed for January 8, 2013. Board of Directors meeting at 6:00pm and Alumni Society meeting at 6:30pm in the President's Boardroom, Keva M. Bethel Building.

11. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.