

Notes from the Alumni Society Annual General Meeting
held
Tuesday, September 25, 2012
In the
President's Office, KMB- Boardroom

In attendance were:

1. Welcome:

The meeting commenced at 6:36 p.m. with opening comments by Chairman, Troy Strachan followed by brief remarks from President Boze.

2. 2011-2012 Chairman's Report: Distributed

The Chairman reflected on his past term and the boards' major accomplishments. They participated in 9 initiatives with the primary goal being networking.

These included: An Evening of Christmas Music, The Wine Lounge Mix & Mingle, The College of The Bahamas Stress Reliever, College of Bahamas Career Fair, Mix & Mingle at The British Colonial Hilton – Bullion Bar, COB/CFA Bahamian Economic Discussion Panel, Alumni Society Leadership Award, Bowling Mix & Mingle and the Alumni Society Golf Skills Tournament.

His major highlight was being able to preside as Acting Chairman at the 2012 Commencement Exercise. He provided encouraging words and helpful insights to those that would be elected for the new board citing one of the greatest challenges will be to inspire alumni to go beyond their monetary contributions and to come back and show support by participating in events. One of the most important issues that is currently faced is the transition of COB to University. The Chairman remarked that on paper we would be considered a University however, the College would like to have the systems, proper resources, infrastructure in place before we change the name from COB to UOB. He stressed that it is critical for alumni participation at this juncture as we seek University status; the alumni voice needs to be heard and the body ought to make decisions that make sense and that would benefit the College and the wider community. He offered his thanks to the executive team and best wishes to the new board.

Question raised: What are the criteria that has been met in preparation for University

Ans. President noted that there is not just one definition for what is a University. However, there are several items that are associated with becoming a University. The most predominant ones include: a) having Graduate Programmes (which is College does not) (b) Historical difference – University is made up of Schools and Colleges which we already have. She further noted that in a previous exercise done to determine what the University should look like v.s. a College it was highlighted that there should be an increase in the amount of Doctoral degrees amongst the faculty and also an increase in the number of faculty members that are Bahamians. There are things still left to be done. These include: Improving the infrastructure, having faculty produce more research output, and increasing the number of Ph.D.'s we are making good progress. The majority of our students are baccalaureate students – 80% and our first Masters cohort to graduate in December.

This is our one chance to reinvent ourselves. If we are going to change the legislation under which we were created we only have this one chance to do it. We are using this opportunity to change things that would usually have been difficult. First report by the University Transition Team is December. There are 4 working groups: 1) Legislation, 2) Character & Core Values, 3) Academic Plan, & 4) Research. University is to be attained by 2014.

3. 2011-2012 Treasurer's Report:

We started off with \$603.60 last year. All year we didn't have any movement in cash but the Golf Tournament brought in some funds.

The Chairman noted that the Golf Tournament was held to raise funds for the purchase of workstations in the science lab on the main campus. It cost about \$800.00 for a workstation. To outfit one lab with workstations would cost about \$22,000.

Mr. John Bain noted that he can contribute \$800.00 for one workstation. He suggested that instead of having a golf tournament each year that a number of individuals be asked to donate the \$800.00 or at least \$400.00 towards the purchase of one workstation.

Other ideas to get the alumni together is painting the COB dorms

4. Overview of Alumni Relations at The College of The Bahamas

- Encourage the group to read the solicitation letters sent and to accept our telephone calls.
- Reaching out to alumni requires the dept. to have good data
- He highlighted the mechanisms used for outreach to alums: Alumni Spotlight Monthly Newsletter, Facebook, Emails, The College's Weekly Bulletin, Cable 12, Bahamas Weekly Newsletter, the alumni website at my.cob.edu.bs – he encouraged persons to use the website particularly to update their info and to keep in touch
- We are constantly looking for content to go into our various publications. This will encourage other alumni to submit their information to build engagement with the alumni – being able to inform them what the needs are and how they can play a role in meeting those needs.
- We extended our reach into the community by being present at the International Cultural Fest, Wine & Art Festival, the Holiday Concert and the Donor Reception.
- Our data is the most important thing that we work with. Alumni can help us by inviting their fellow alumni and friends to reach out to us and supply their information so we can keep in touch with them through our magazine and email communications. They can submit their info. Online, email us or give us a call at the office.
- There are several grouping that we work with: Alumni (our primary group), non-grads, friends, parents and faculty & staff.
- Annual Fund – our main fundraising arm and more of the day-to-day fundraising. This is separate from the Development side which deals with the larger donations. Participation is the most important number we can tell people. We are at 3% participation rate and

increasing. Donor numbers increase from 220 to 243. The funds are used for various items. He stressed the importance of alumni participation through giving, attendance at meetings, emailing ideas and suggestions etc. and look forward to much more this year.

- Comment - Partner with the BFSB to get a listing of the students that have passed through COB. John noted that we have partner with organizations for information

5. Departing Comments from Directors:

Wence Martin – This is your College and we need you. We want to reach out to every island on which the College is located on and to get them involved and to help the students at COB whether it be by painting the dorms, donating funds toward the purchase of workstations for the science labs, helping the transition team move into the University of The Bahamas. He hopes everyone has the same vision for making the College the best place in the entire Bahamas and Caribbean.

Chairman Troy – Noted that although he will no longer be Chairman, he still remains a member of the Board of Directors by becoming the immediate Past Chairman. He reemphasized passionately his plea that one should not nominate unless they are able to participate fully as a member of the executive body. If you are not going to be able to give 100%, participate in the meetings and attending of events then vote but don't nominate. One of the resolutions put forth is to remove a Director. This is important when t

6. Nomination and Election of Board of Directors:

Voting process – There are 7 seats needing to be filled. Nominations will be taken from the floor and the voting to be done via secret ballots. A requirement for voting and nominating is that you should have a degree or certificate from the College.

What is the Board of Directors (BOD) – The BOD supports the initiatives of the society for that year. You may be asked to work on one of several committees with the aim of accomplishing set goals for the year.

a) Nominations of Candidates:

Andrea Moultrie '06 AA-History
Larissa Sawyer '06 AA-Journalism
Jana Stubbs '11 BBA-Marketing
Veronica Duncanson '78 AA-Journalism
Tamisha Richardson '95 AA-Accounting
Marcus Laing '98 AA-Architecture Technology
Christine Greene '82 AA –General Studies
Kevon Lightbourne '10 Diploma in Education
Tanya McFall '02 BBA-Marketing
Dario Terrelli '

A motion to close the nominations was moved by Dencil Rolle and seconded by John Bain.

b) Candidates Comments:

Each candidate provided a brief background on themselves including year of graduation, degree attained, profession and why they are interested in becoming a board member. A few gave credit to COB for where they are today and if elected what they intend to do.

The Chairman reminded persons that if they are not voted today as a director that they can still volunteer to serve on other committees.

c) Voting of Candidates:

On a single ballot paper listed with seven lines, each line representing one person they wish to vote for was circulated to each person in the room. A box went around collecting the ballots.

d) Announcements of Voting Results:

The following persons were elected to the Board of Directors:

Andrea Moultrie '06 AA-History

Larissa Sawyer '06 AA-Journalism

Jana Stubbs '11 BBA-Marketing

Veronica Duncanson '78 AA-Journalism

Tamischa Richardson '95 AA-Accounting

Marcus Laing '98 AA-Architecture Technology

Dario Terrelli '98

John asked the newly appointed persons to remain behind after the meeting for a brief session to collect their contact information and to set a date for the next meeting.

The Chairman also extended his congratulations to the newly elected Directors.

7. Discussion and Vote on Amendments to The COB Alumni Society Charter

a) List of proposals:

- i) Resolution for the removal of a Director - Chairman Troy along with the previous Directors wanted to include this mechanism for a non-performing Director (who does not attend meetings etc.)
- ii) Resolution for the term of an executive position to be increased from 1 year to 2 years.

A motion was made by Wence to approve the mechanism for the removal of a Director, be accepted as presented. This was seconded by Dario Terrelli

1- Amended – include “or convicted of any criminal offence by any court of competent jurisdiction” after the word ‘bankrupt’ and delete the remaining words.

2 – Accepted as presented

3 – Accepted as presented

4 – Amended – include “general” after the word “successive”; include “vote of the majority (50% +1) of the” before the word “Directors”; include “that are present at the next general meeting”

5 – Remove

6 – Accepted as presented, add the word “or” at the end

7 – Amended – include “A vote of no confidence by at least 8 Directors”

A motion for the proposal to be accepted as amended was moved by Marcus and seconded by the Chairman.

Vote in favor for the removal of the Director was carried by the majority of persons (19 persons).

A resolution for the term of the executive position to be aligned with the Directors position thereby increasing it from 1 year to 2 years:

The Chairman noted that at present a member on the Executive team can only serve a term of one year but still remain on the board as a Director for an additional year. He noted that for continuity purposes, it would be best to align the terms for both the Directors and Executive Directors post.

Motion to extend the executive position from 1 year to 2 years was moved by Veronica and seconded by Marcus.

Vote: 10 in favor, 8 oppose, motion carried in favor of.

8. Any Other Matters:

John thanked the outgoing board and welcomed the new board. He also asked that the new board members remain behind for a few minutes.

9. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Veronica and seconded by Andrea. The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.