

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 6:00 P.M.

- Present:** Patricia Bisesto, Esq. '92, Michael Calandra Jr., Esq. '05, Adam Ciffone, Esq. '11, Jonathan Engel, Esq. '09, Hon. Sandra Forster '79, Michael Frankel, Esq. '03, James Garvey III, Esq. '80, Michael Gilberg '07, Lisa Gladwell, Esq. '10, Jennifer Gray, Esq. '06, Mary Clare Haskins, Esq. '08, Adele Lerman Janow, Esq. '90, Hon. Carole Levy '83, Caesar Lopez, Esq. '12, Joseph Mazel, Esq. '97, Mark Meeker, Esq. '10, Christopher Psihoules, Esq. '12, Joseph Ruhl, Esq. '90, Anthony Teodorescu, Esq. '13
- Excused:** Michael Goldstein, Esq. '06, David Haimi, Esq. '12, Joseph Martin, Esq. '91, Raymond Perez, Esq. '00, Judson Siebert, Esq. '85
- Not excused:** Christina Kozachek, Esq. '15, Michael LaMagna, Esq. '07, James Lenihan, Esq. '91, Dawn Warren, Esq. '01
- Added attendees:** Sarah Cinquemani, '18, Yanira Amadeo, Arianne Andrusco

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:37 p.m.

MEETING QUORUM: Quorum met by 7:00 p.m. 19 Directors in attendance, 5 excused, 4 not excused

I. WELCOMING REMARKS

Mark Meeker provided brief introductory remarks and welcomed the Board.

- He congratulated Jonathan Engel on joining Sobel and Sobel.
- January 25th was a “Cocktails and CLE” at Jackson Lewis.
- Mark noted that the Alumni Board Contact List has been updated, and the website should be current for the active Board.
- Attendance:
 - Following the November 29 Board meeting, 5 Directors already had 2 unexcused absences in the 2017-18 school year. In keeping with Section 5.04 of the by-laws, “the President shall provide such Director with written notice that such Director has been conditionally removed from office due to failure to attend regular meetings of the Board.”
 - Each of the 5 Directors received a phone call and then a letter via certified mail
 - Lucia Chiochio and John Sarcone resigned from the board;
 - Joe Ruhl was in attendance and the Board voted to reinstate his membership; and
 - Christina Kozachek and Dawn Warren were not in attendance, so the Board tabled the issue of their Board membership until the end of the meeting, in case they joined.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The November 29th meeting minutes were approved via email on January 19th by 18 voting Directors and have been posted on the PLS website for public viewing at <http://www.law.pace.edu/pace-law-alumni-association>.

III. ALUMNI DATABASE

Alumni Board leadership had drafted and circulated a resolution regarding the database after the November 29th meeting. This resolution was tabled until after a presentation by Arianne Andrusco, PLS Director of Development. Before investing a great deal of time and resources in creating a new database, Arianne wanted to demonstrate the functionality of the current database, and get feedback on what was missing/needed improvement.

Arianne's demonstration of the current online directory included:

- Secure log-in for alumni. All alumni can log in with the alumni I.D. which is printed on mailings from the University, or available by contacting Pace staff via phone or online.
- Access to all of Pace University's 147k alumni.
- Basic records of name, school, graduation year, and shielded contact information are available for all of Pace's alumni, unless they have specifically opted out or Pace doesn't have their information.
- Ability to drill down specifically to law school alumni. There are a variety of filters in place, allowing alumni to search only among law graduates.
- Granular ability to search for alumni. Filters also allow users to look for alumni by any combination of name, class year, state, field (i.e. family law / construction law).

Arianne noted that basic information is available for all alumni who have not opted out, the database would be far more usable and helpful if alumni updated that information to include information such as field of law and the like. Since Pace doesn't have that information coded uniformly in the alumni database, that problem would persist with any new database program. Arianne suggested we could undertake a marketing effort to inform alumni about the database, and ask them to update their information.

Mark Meeker noted that while the database seemed user friendly, he was concerned that the new website design made it hard to find content relevant to alumni. Yanira Amadeo and Arianne Andrusco agreed to carry these comments back to Elizabeth Rapuano, who is in charge of communications and website design.

Lisa Gladwell noted it would be better if there were a discrete field with pre-populated fill-ins for law area, to lessen the likelihood of typos from alumni. Arianne noted she wasn't sure if that was possible, but would look into it.

Mark Meeker motioned to table the current resolution regarding the database. It was decided that Directors will go on the directory to try it out and update their information in advance of the next meeting, and then continue this discussion at the next meeting.

IV. DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS UPDATE – Yanira Amadeo

- **Fundraising:** Yanira reported that fundraising is going well this year, with an increase of 40% in dollars raised and 9% in the number of donors as compared to this time last year.

Some of the initiatives that have contributed to these higher numbers are:

- **Investor Rights Clinic 20th Anniversary** – 34 alumni made gifts totaling \$7,825 to the clinic.
 - **Alumni Scholars Initiative** – Seven alumni have made commitments totaling \$275,000 to create endowed scholarships for two top applicants.
 - **Robotti Challenge** – Pace University Trustee Bob Robotti has agreed to match current use scholarship funds ranging from \$2,500 - \$10,000 this year, allowing donors to create 1-year, named scholarships with twice the impact. We have already had several of these created by Law School alumni, and are hopeful that we will be able to take further advantage of this great opportunity.
- **Alumni events:** We have had several successful events planned this year, and several more are scheduled:

Past Events:

- The NYSBA Alumni Reception organized by PLAN in NYC was a great success, and had more than 50 attendees
- The Stephen J. Friedman Reading Room in the Gerber Glass Library was recently dedicated in honor of President and Dean Emeritus Stephen J. Friedman. The ceremony was attended by approximately 50 alumni, faculty and friends.

Upcoming Events:

- Haub Medal for Environmental Diplomacy: Ambassador Reinhard Krapp of German Mission to the U.N. is the 2017 recipient and the event will be held on Feb. 14, 2018.
- Law Leadership Awards Dinner – March 8, 2018.
- Symposium on Public Corruption after McDonnell – will be held on March 9, 2018, at the Judicial Institute at the Law School.
- Dedication of the new Ruderman Law Review Space will be held in the Gerber Glass Library on March 22, 2018.
- Next P.L.A.N. event is on Thursday, May 10, 6:00-9:00 on the Brazen Fox back patio.

V. COMMITTEE UPDATES

1. **By-laws Committee:** Mike Calandra reported that he had no update at this time.
2. **Nominating Committee:** Mike Frankel reported that three alumni have expressed interest regarding becoming Board members next year. Each of the alumni have been contacted and the committee will make a recommendation at the next Board meeting regarding which individuals to nominate to the Board. Prior to the next Board meeting, Mike will also contact the Board members whose terms are expiring. The alumni will vote on approving the new and existing Board members at the annual meeting to be held at the P.L.A.N. event on May 10.

3. **Social Committee:** Jennifer Gray reported that the committee has spoken with Dean of Students Angie D'Agostino, who suggested a "Preston Pub" event with graduating students. The Committee has further touched base with the Alumni and Development Office to see if funding can be found to sponsor such an event (update: The Alumni and Development Office can sponsor \$500 toward sponsoring this event).
4. **Fundraising Committee:** Carole Levy discussed the Annual Pace Law Leadership Awards, and that there was a feeling it was an important fundraiser for the school, but out of reach for some alumni. Yanira mentioned that she could see if there could be a special rate for the alumni board, based on their great service to the school. Suggestion was made that the Fundraising Committee go in with the Social Committee for some issues of funding.
5. **Judicial Committee:** Lisa Gladwell reported that the Judicial Committee met via conference call on January 16th. Joe Mazel reviewed the Supreme Court Admission Process. Joe has been handling this for four years and has established a good working relationship with the Supreme Court Office of Admissions. The Judicial Committee chose to submit a small group (12 or less) of applicants because the admissions are held on argument days. Joe reported we have been "slotted" for Tuesday, December 4th, 2018. It is suggested we distribute a "Save the Date" announcement shortly to the alumni (which was provided to Yanira) and inform the Development Office, as they help to coordinate the activities in D.C. for the applicants. The Judicial committee also would like to explore getting involved with "Meet the Judges" event at Pace, which is held in October.

VI. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

- The next Alumni Board meeting is April 4, 2018
 - We will be planning for the 2018-19 school year, so Committee Chairs should come prepared with key dates
- Next P.L.A.N. event is Thursday, May 10, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. on the Brazen Fox back patio.
- Last call regarding conditional removals: Christina Kozachek and Dawn Warren did not attend this meeting, so their conditional removal has become final. The Board now has 26 Directors.

Motion to adjourn: Mark Meeker

2nd: Lisa Gladwell

Motion: Passes unanimously

ADJOURNMENT: 7:48 pm