

PACE UNIVERSITY

Elisabeth Haub School of Law

Alumni Association Board of Directors

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

6:15 p.m. networking, 6:30 p.m. meeting start

Zoom video conference

- Present:** Patricia Bisesto, Esq. '92; Michael Calandra, Jr., Esq. '05; Aharon Diaz, Jr., Esq. '12; Jeremy Farrington, Esq. '11; Hon. Sandra Forster '79; Stephen Forte, Esq. '08; Michael Frankel, Esq. '03; James Garvey III, Esq. '80; Michael Gilberg, Esq. '07; Lisa Gladwell, Esq. '10; Jennifer Gray, Esq. '06; George Haddad, Esq. '15; Sameera Ansari Kalra, Esq. '09; Michael Kremen, Esq. '08; James Lenihan, Esq. '91; Caesar Lopez, Esq. '12; Benjamin Lowenthal, Esq. '14; Joseph Martin, Esq. '91 (Dir. Em.); Joseph Mazel, Esq. '97; Mark Meeker, Esq. '09; Gail Mulligan, Esq. '09; John Mulligan, Esq. '88; Susan Mulliken, Esq. '11; Diana Neeves, Esq. '16; Jacqueline Parker, Esq. '95; Patrick J. Paul, Esq. '16; Raymond Perez, Esq. '00; Thomas Persico, Esq. '18; Leanne M. Shofi, Esq. '94; Christopher Psihoules, Esq. '12; Andrew Teodorescu, Esq. '13
- Excused:** Michael Goldstein, Esq. '06; Jasmine L. Hosein, Esq. '12; Hon. Carole Levy '83 (Dir. Em.); Andrea Madrid, Esq. '12; Judson Siebert, Esq. '85
- Unexcused:** Rebecca Gigliotti, Esq. '18; Adele Lerman Janow, Esq. '90; Nicholas Pasalides, Esq. '11
- Added attendees:** Angela D'Agostino, Dean of Students; Samantha Gordon, Director of Alumni Relations; Craig Hyland, Associate VP of Development; Kapila Juthani, Assistant Dean Career/Professional Development; Lori Kanner, Development Officer; Natalie Pagano, Director of Student Services/Campus Affairs; Madison Shaff, SBA President

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:31 p.m.

MEETING QUORUM: Quorum met at 6:31 p.m. with 19 Directors in attendance (Zoom/Telephonic)

I. Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Andrew Teodorescu

- Happy birthday to:
 - Nick Pasalides, Jan. 12
 - Caesar Lopez, Jan. 25
 - Mike Kremen, Jan. 27
- Excel spreadsheet that was distributed to all of you has pages for:
 - 2021-22 School Year Attendance
 - Contact info – birthdays added (still need Pat B. & John M.)
 - Committees
 - The contribution tracker

II. Board Membership

Lisa Gladwell

- Reminder of the Board's attendance policy:
 - 2 unexcused absences in a school year triggers a conditional suspension letter, then
 - Attend the next meeting and plead your case to get voted back on

III. November 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Leanne Shofi

- Approved via email on November 15, 2021 by 19 Directors
- Posted to the PLS web site: <https://law.pace.edu/alumni/alumni-association>
- A limitation on the number of excused absences should be considered as an amendment to the By-Laws, with medical leaves of absence considered, to avoid issues with Quorum and encourage active participation

IV. Career Development

Kapila Juthani

- Employment market is strong
- 85% of the Class of 2021 is employed, which is comparable to/slightly higher than the last pre-pandemic class; hope that even more of the Class of 2021 will be employed by March 15, which is the deadline for reporting
- Summer internship placements are also going well, with a large number of students interning with AmLaw 100 Firms this summer (nearly 4 times greater than previous years); these internship placements present a terrific opportunity to make a good impression and pave the way for future employment
- Please contact Dean Juthani if your Firm is interested in hiring
- Chris Psihoules: Norton Rose is seeking to hire approximately 40 new attorneys, and the Department of Energy is hiring as well; it would be helpful to create a list of current students interested in certain practice areas, to create a pipeline
- There is no specific way to contact Pace regarding open positions, and Dean Juthani is happy to be a direct contact

V. Dean's Update

Angie D'Agostino

- Incoming Fall Class size was 270, the largest class in the history of the law school
 - Classes were in-person in the Fall, with Covid vaccinations required, and Covid boosters will be required to return in the Spring
- Introduction of Natalie Pagano, '19, Director of Student and Campus Affairs
 - Natalie was an outstanding student and has hit the ground running in her new position
 - Students benefit tremendously by having a recent graduate in Natalie's role
 - There are over 800 current students in the law school, and the Department of Student Affairs is run by Angie and Natalie
 - Natalie is the point person for all campus operations and Covid protocols
- Many Fall Semester exams were remote due to Covid
- Madison Shaff, SBA President, has been helpful with student outreach
- The food pantry initiative has been a success, an alumna anonymously donates, it is open 24/7
- Have been collecting gently-used suits for interviews, but now would like to create a suit stipend, collecting funds for the purchases of new suits
- The Barristers' Ball is returning, booked for March 25 in New Rochelle, capped at 275 attendees due to Covid
- Wellness Updates

- Lori wrote and received a grant for the Eight Pillars of Wellness, will roll out programs throughout the semester
- Natalie wrote a request for a full-time mental health counselor at the law school to be available for students
- Secured funds from the University for bar-swipe entrances to create a more secure campus
- Requested a Capital Funding for creation of a wellness center
- A Capital Request has been made to renovate the old Ratskeller into a Student Center
- Environmental House is being renovated for University office space
- Dannat Hall was approximately 80% full in the Fall, even during Covid
- Partnered with NYS Board of Law Examiners, Pace Law has been asked to host the Bar Exam in February and again in July
- Bar Grants: Alumni donate money to help students get through the Bar Exam, Danielle Kocal is looking to raise funds again for the Bar Pass Initiative (Board donated \$500 from its Activity Fund); goal is to meet the student where they are, to help the student pass the Bar
- Natalie Pagano is teaching the advanced analytical skills portion of the Bar Exam

VI. Development & Alumni Relations

Lori Kanner

- Introduction of Craig Hyland, University's Associate VP of Development
 - Craig has replaced Arianne Andrusco
 - Central Development of Alumni Relations works across the schools, with 17 staff members
 - Fundraising: Current Campaign is the "Meeting the Moment" Campaign, since 2015
 - Law School has been part of the Campaign but not built out as a priority until now
 - Feasibility Studies: performed at the beginning and middle of the Campaign
 - a. Overall Feasibility Study: Societal issues are being met by various programs within the University, thought has been given to cement Pace as a leader in certain key areas
 - i. \$168M can be raised in the next 5-7 years, for a \$300M total goal for the Campaign
 - ii. Hopes to raise \$20M from the law school over the next 5-7 years
 - iii. First phase focused on undergraduate campuses, \$94M raised
 - iv. After the University's new President came in, 6 Comprehensive Campaign Pillars were created:
 1. Scholarship & Internship – Creating Opportunity for Advancement
 2. Pace Performing Arts (PPA) – Creating Opportunity for Students in the Arts - new building, new scholarships
 3. School of Law – Elevating Diversity & Creating Equity in the Legal Community
 4. Building for our Students – Creating technologically-advanced student spaces – renovated NYC, new building built at 15 Beekman
 5. Unrestricted support: Dean's Fund, President's Fund
 6. Programs, Centers, Oasis
 - b. The Haub Law Campaign Committee is assisting with the drive
 - c. Law School Feasibility Study: goal of \$2.8M from Women's Justice Center, and seeking 12 people to gift \$2M each

- d. Interviewed 120 individuals in the Feasibility Study to come up with the goals for the Campaign, Dean Anderson assisted with honing the goals
 - e. July 2021 started counting for the Campaign, did not count gifts that went to the Law School, raised over \$2M, optimistic will hit \$20M over 5-7 years
- Introduction of Samantha Gordon, University's Executive Director, Alumni Relations and Association
 - Over 68,000 alumni were contacted in connection with a survey
 - Learned that alumni would like to be more involved, and would like to volunteer but do not have the tools
 - Created several committees to shape the University Alumni Association
 - Mission statement: to build community amongst alumni
 - There are approximately 158,000 living alumni
 - Measurable outcomes: how measure success?
 - a. Increased participation (Pace has a low engagement score compared to its peers, now at 4%, hoping that will grow)
 - b. Increased response to University Campaigns
 - c. Increased satisfaction noted in alumni surveys (response was 2.75%, would like for that to grow)
 - d. Establish effective affinity groups, for meaningful volunteer opportunities
 - Association launched September 23, 2021 and is accountable to the University's Board of Trustees and led a Leadership Council
 - a. Sabrina Griffin '92 MBA is the Leadership Council Chair
 - b. Kelly Herbert '06 is the Leadership Council Vice Chair
 - c. 10 active committees, Haub Law does not yet have a committee but is encouraged to become involved
 - d. 123 active volunteers
 - e. Goals: Leadership, Engagement, Fundraising, Growth
 - f. Graduates Of Last Decade (GOLD) are graduates in the last 10 years, pivotal years for becoming involved as alumni
 - g. Will consider allowing law students to be involved as student ambassadors
 - h. Lubin's Alumni Board was rolled into the Association
 - i. Hoping to have Athletics become involved
 - j. Vision of building community, increasing affinity, creating a culture of volunteerism, meaningful engagement, and giving alumni a voice in their alumni experience
- Law Leadership Awards Dinner Lori Kanner
 - Planned for in-person March 10, 2022, 6:00-8:00, at Westchester Country Club
 - Honoring 3 alumni: Mayo Barlett '92, Brian Hermann '91, John Lettera '99
 - Ways to get involved: Board of Visitors, Alumni Association, Mentoring (please reach out to Lori if you'd like to mentor)
- CLE Programs Lori Kanner
 - Engaged thousands through our alumni programming
 - Monthly complimentary CLEs continue
 - If you'd like to share your expertise in a CLE or class, please let Lori know

VII. Committee Reports

1. Nominating Committee Mike Frankel
 - Update and timeline for nominees for the 2022-23 school year
 - Still in process of reaching out to individuals who have expressed interested
 - If anyone has a suggested candidate, please let Mike know
 - Slate will be emailed to the Board before the next meeting
 - 7 Board Members with expiring terms: please let Mike know your intention to remain on the Board before the next Board Meeting
 - Alumni at large will vote at annual meeting on returning Board Members and Slate of Nominees, usually a P.L.A.N. Meeting in May or June
 - Question for Mark regarding By-Laws: level of involvement is considered for Board Members interested in renewing terms, might a more formalized process be considered and amended into the By-Laws?

2. Social Committee Jeremy Farrington
 - P.L.A.N. Quarterly Networking Event #41 will be scheduled for end of February/beginning of March, notice of the date will be sent, it will be in-person, perhaps in White Plains (interest in Zoom meetings has waned)

3. Judicial Committee Mike Kremen
 - Working on Fall Meet the Judges event, hoping it will be in-person, more details will be provided at the April meeting
 - SCOTUS admissions and swearing-in ceremony: Joe Mazel update: October Term dates were opened in January, he secured Monday, March 27, 2023 (argument day) for a maximum of 12 people

4. Fundraising Committee Gail Mulligan
 - Board member contributions – \$8,175 balance in the Alumni Fund (\$500 to be transferred to Bar Pass Initiative)
 - If you have not made your annual Board contribution, \$100 contribution to the Board Fund is encouraged
 - If you know any potential sponsors of a P.L.A.N. event or CLE, please let Gail know
 - Gail secured a \$750 sponsorship for the next in-person P.L.A.N. event in White Plains

5. By-laws Committee Mark Meeker
 - Sent email with proposed changes to the Committee, a few Members have weighed in
 - In terms of formalizing for a vote, plan is to have a Committee Zoom meeting before the April meeting, so Board can vote in April with a full membership vote thereafter
 - If you have thoughts on changes to By-Laws, please send to Mark by February 1
 - Discussion of potential change to member absence policy

VIII. Special Committees

1. Committee for Student Engagement Mike Kremen
 - Considering moving into Mentorship, will discuss with Andrew

2. Diversity and Inclusion Committee George Haddad
 - April 28 - Alumni DEI Panel Event planned at the law school, if you'd like to be involved let George know

3. Alumni Database Committee

Jim Lenihan

- Jim will contact Dean Anderson for more input, because although the database is consolidated it does not allow searches to find alumni in a certain area in a certain region
- Database needs to be more practical in terms of practice areas, etc.
- Craig Hyland offered to speak with Jim offline to discuss capability and improvement of the database; Lori offered to set up a Zoom call to facilitate

IX. New Business

- Next Board meeting is Wednesday, April 13, 2022
- Open discussion: Mike Frankel noted that a Quorum will be needed to vote on April 13, so please let us know if you can't make it and use best efforts to make the meeting – understood that it is a school vacation week, but if too many cannot make the meeting we will reschedule

X. Adjournment

Executive Committee

- Motion: Patricia Bisesto
- Second: John Mulligan
- Time: 7:56 p.m.