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 Neeyes, 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 Teodosescu, 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 Teodosescu

- 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**

- 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**

- Approved via email on November 15, 2021 by 19 Directors
- Posted to the PLS website: 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**

- 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**

- 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
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
  o 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)
  ▪ 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
  o Planned for in-person March 10, 2022, 6:00-8:00, at Westchester Country Club
  o Honoring 3 alumni: Mayo Barlett ’92, Brian Hermann ’91, John Lettera ’99
  o Ways to get involved: Board of Visitors, Alumni Association, Mentoring (please reach out to Lori if you’d like to mentor)

• CLE Programs
  o Engaged thousands through our alumni programming
  o Monthly complimentary CLEs continue
  o 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 interest  
     - 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  
   o 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  
   o Database needs to be more practical in terms of practice areas, etc.  
   o 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.