

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 6:30 P.M.

Present: Patricia Bisesto, Esq. '92, Jeremy Farrington, Esq. '11, Hon. Sandra Forster '79, Michael Frankel, Esq. '03, James Garvey III, Esq. '80, Michael Gilberg, Esq. '07, Jennifer Gray, Esq. '06, George Haddad, Esq. '15, Adele Lerman Janow, Esq. '90, Caesar Lopez, Esq. '12, Joseph Martin '91 (Dir. Em.), Joseph Mazel, Esq. '97, Mark Meeker, Esq. '09, Joseph Moravec, Esq. '17, Gail Mulligan, Esq. '09, Jacqueline Parker, Esq. '95, Nicholas Pasalides, Esq. '11, Raymond Perez, Esq. '00, Thomas Persico, Esq. '18, Christopher Psihoules, Esq. '12, Leanne Shofi, Esq. '94, Andrew Teodorescu, Esq. '13

Excused: Adam Ciffone, Esq. '11, Jonathan Engel, Esq. '09, James Lenihan, Esq. '91, Hon. Carole Levy '83 (Dir. Em.), Diana Neeves, Esq. '16

Unexcused: Michael Calandra Jr., Esq. '05, Lisa Gladwell, Esq. '10, Michael Goldstein, Esq. '06, Judson Siebert, Esq. '85

Added attendees: Arianne Andrusco, Mike Kremen, Esq. '08, Howard Schilsky, Esq. '18

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:33 p.m.

MEETING QUORUM: Quorum met by 6:33 p.m.: 22 Directors in attendance (including 1 Dir. Em.), 5 excused (including 1 Dir. Em), 4 unexcused.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS – Mark Meeker

- 7 new Directors welcomed
- Mike Calandra, Leanne Shofi and Gail Mulligan congratulated on their new roles
- Recapping first term accomplishments:
 - Enforced the attendance policy, improving Board participation
 - Required all Directors to serve on at least one committee
 - Minutes are now approved via email, streamlining the process and participation
 - Created a Director-funded Operating Budget for the Board
 - Revised the bylaws and added the office of Treasurer
 - Started selling P.L.A.N. event sponsorships, enhancing the Operating Budget

- Mark Meeker's goals for his second term as president:
 - Would like for the 5 standing committees to further develop and become more active between regular Board meetings
 - If a Committee Chair cannot make it to a Board meeting, s/he should assign the task of delivering the Committee report to another Committee member who will be attending
 - Work with the Treasurer and Fundraising Committee to find new and creative ways to use the Board's Operating Budget to serve Alumni
 - Would like to bring more new members onto the Board

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES - Mark Meeker

- The April 10, 2019 meeting minutes were approved via email on April 23, 2019, by 18 voting Directors and are posted on the PLS website for public viewing at <http://www.law.pace.edu/pace-law-alumni-association>

III. BOARD MEMBERSHIP – Mark Meeker

- Mark Meeker reminded all about the Board's attendance policy
- There were zero unexcused attendances at the previous two regular Board meetings
- If unexcused twice within one school year, Board membership is suspended

IV. DEAN UPDATE – Arianne Andrusco

- Dean Horace was not able to join the meeting so Arianne provided the Dean's update
- Pace Law is doing very well:
 - Admissions are strong, 11% increase in J.D. applications
 - Acceptance rate of 48% is more selective than in the past, helps with rankings
 - 1L class size of 234 is an increase, GPA and LSAT averages maintained
 - Named #1 Environmental Law School in nation
- 6 visiting scholars from a range of schools including Georgetown and Chapman
- Number of faculty continue to publish, including in the New York Times and Law Journal
- Improvements likely attributable in part to the new flexible program and aggressive advertising campaign

V. CAREER DEVELOPMENT UPDATE – Arianne Andrusco

- Arianne: recent panel with alumni speaking; October 23 evening compliance event
- Arianne: if you know about externships or jobs for new lawyers, please bring to Arianne's attention

VI. ALUMNI & DEVELOPMENT UPDATE – Arianne Andrusco

- Giving: 100% participation of Alumni Board last year
- Approximately \$368K raised for the school, relatively in line with other years, waiting on a few sources to come in
- Boston Alumni Event on September 11 was a success, about 25 attendees
- Last week, NY Attorney General Letitia "Tisch" James delivered the Dyson Distinguished Lecture to students on campus
- Upcoming events:
 - Thursday, September 26 – Gilbert and Sarah Kerlin Lecture on Environmental Law, 5:00
 - Wednesday, October 2 – Meet the Judges – On Campus, 5:30
 - Thursday, October 3 – Alumni Gathering in Albany

- Monday, October 7 - Women in Law Networking Event at Black, Marjeh & Sanford 5:30-8:30
- Friday, November 1 – All Class Reunion – Tudor Room 6:30-9:30
- Thursday, November 7 – P.L.A.N. Quarterly Networking Event, Ron Blacks in White Plains 6-9:00

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Nominating Committee** - Mike Frankel
 - Mark Meeker called a vote on the new Executive Board: Mark Meeker as President, Lisa Gladwell as Vice President, Leanne Shofi as Secretary and Jacqueline Parker as Treasurer were voted in unanimously
 - Anyone who knows of good candidates for the Board, please contact Mike Frankel
2. **Social Committee** - Jeremy Farrington
 - Hopes that everyone will make it to November 7 P.L.A.N. event
 - Aware that the Board has been working on sponsorships for P.L.A.N. events
3. **Judicial Committee** - Lisa Gladwell (absent)
 - Meet the Judges October 2 in Tudor Room, 5:30-7:00;
 - September 24 presumptive mediation program at Westchester County Courthouse
 - Mark will follow up with Lisa and send email to Board about volunteering for Meet the Judges event
 - Supreme Court Admission event – requested a date for the next event, last event was December 2018 and 11/12 positions were filled – interest has been low, Board may want to consider less frequent than annually
4. **Fundraising Committee** - Jacqueline Parker
 - Contribution per year is \$75 per Director on the Board
 - Payments can be made with the link that was provided by Arianne to the Board or checks may be made out to Pace University with “Law School Alumni Activity Fund” written in the Memo and sent to Arianne at the law school
 - P.L.A.N. events - working on a potential sponsor for November 7 - if a firm is interested in sponsoring a P.L.A.N. event: \$1,500 to sponsor one event, \$5,000 to sponsor four events, and advertising and a table at the event and the firm name on nametags at the event is included
 - Gail Mulligan suggested that it would be helpful for the Committee to discuss goals for fundraising, and Carole Levy had suggested funding an alumni scholarship; Mark Meeker made clear that the alumni money in the fund belongs to alumni and not the school
5. **Bylaws Committee** – Andrew Teodorescu
 - Bylaws were updated last January
 - Committee will do a review and look for areas of improvement

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- Alumni Website - Arianne:
 - Alumni website redesign is being handled by the Pace University IT, website will be more user-friendly, alumni tab at top is coming
 - If you have comments about the alumni portion of the website, let Arianne know
- Internet Connectivity – Mark Meeker – looking into what can be done to improve Internet connectivity at meetings
- Howard Schilsky: Renzulli Law Firm is looking to hire, if interested please reach out to Howard at hschilsky@renzullilaw.com

- Guests dismissed and Board entered into Closed Session.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn: Hon. Sandra Forster
- 2nd: Adele Lerman Janow
- Motion: passed unanimously
- Adjournment: 7:50 p.m.