

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018, at 6:00 P.M.

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

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

MEETING QUORUM: Quorum met by 7:05 p.m. 16 Directors in attendance, 8 excused, 2 not excused.

I. WELCOMING REMARKS

- Mark Meeker provided brief introductory remarks and welcomed the Board.
- He congratulated Mary Clare Haskins on her pregnancy and wished Mike Frankel a happy birthday.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The January 30th meeting minutes were approved via email on March 28th by 17 voting Directors and have been posted on the PLS website for public viewing at <http://www.law.pace.edu/pace-law-alumni-association>.

III. BOARD ATTENDANCE

- Following the January 30 Board meeting, Michael LaMagna had accumulated his 2nd unexcused absence 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." Michael received a phone call and then a letter via certified mail from the President, but he did not respond.

- Michael was not in attendance, so the Board tabled the issue of his Board membership until the end of the meeting, in case he joined at some point during the meeting.

IV. SECRETARY

- Adam Ciffone is stepping down as Secretary due to time constraints caused by his job, but he is remaining on the Board.
- A quorum had not yet been reached, so a vote for a new Secretary was tabled until the Nominations Committee portion of the meeting.

V. DEAN DAVID YASSKY STEPPING DOWN

- Elizabeth Rapuano explained that Dean Yassky will be serving out the remainder of the school year, going on a 1-year sabbatical, and then joining the faculty as a tenured professor. After the current school year, Dean of Academics, Horace Anderson, will serve as Acting Dean of the Law School. The University plans to conduct a nationwide search for a new dean.

VI. ALUMNI DATABASE

- Arianne Andrusco asked for feedback on Directors' experience with the directory. She suggested that we do an advertising push for the Alumni Database over the summer, featuring 2 to 3 emails, as well as marketing on the P.L.A.N. Facebook group, LinkedIn and EHSOL Facebook page.
- All Directors are encouraged to update their online profile within the alumni database via the following link: <https://law.pace.edu/alumni-update-form>.

VII. DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS UPDATE

- Arianne Andrusco reported that fundraising is going well this year. She noted that the Leadership Awards Dinner was quite successful, with 180 attendees. Between straight sponsorships, ticket sales and donations and gifts resulting from the event, we raised \$167,350, which was about \$35,000 more than last year, and the best result in five years.
- She noted that we are currently at about 80% of the board having made a gift. Arianne will be reaching out to those who have not yet made a gift, and we are hoping to hit 100% participation from our Alumni Board, as it sends a powerful message to alumni and the school.
- Alumni events: We have had several successful events planned this year, and several more are scheduled.
 - Previous events include: Three P.L.A.N. alumni networking events, a successful class reunion, multiple on-campus speaker events, and an alumni breakfast for the new Pace University President.
 - Upcoming events include a series of free Pace University "Marvin on the Move" alumni events, starting with an event at the White Plains Ritz on April 24th, a fourth P.L.A.N. event on May 10th, and a graduation social event on April 26th from 7 – 10 p.m. on the quad.

VIII. CAREER DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

- Jill Backer reported to the Board that the Class of 2017 was 92% employed at the 10-month mark with 85% of the class in "golden number jobs" (those that are bar-required, long-term positions). This places Pace behind only Columbia and NYU's employment stats in the metro NYC area and 4th behind also Cardozo on the golden number. For the third year in a row we are well placed, beating out all of our cohort schools in the region.
- Jill also suggested that the Board consider doing a mock interview program for our students readying for on-campus interviews (OCI). The program would be an evening in late June and

perhaps again in the fall for other students. The June program would need to have some alumni from big firms. Jill would provide space and administer the program.

IX. OPERATING BUDGET PROPOSAL

- Mark Meeker proposed the idea of creating an Alumni Board operating budget, to be funded by contributions from Directors. The suggested amount was \$25 per semester, understanding that there are three semesters per year: fall, spring and summer. Having an operating budget would eliminate the need to “pass the hat” every time an activity requires money.
- Sandra Forster expressed her support for the idea and emphasized that this should be a separate account controlled by the Board, not the University.
- Arianne is working with the University to have such an account created that would allow for online contributions, and she is also investigating whether contributions would be tax deductible.
- Mike Frankel suggested that the contributions should be voluntary, but it would also be made clear to members and prospective members that Directors are expected to contribute. Contributions, just as attendance, would be something that the Nominations Committee looks at when considering whether to recommend a Director for a new term.
- Mark Meeker moved that the Board adopt the following wording: “It is expected that Directors will make a voluntary contribution of at least \$25 per semesters for each of the three semesters per school year.” Sandra Forster seconded the motion.
- Motion passed.

X. COMMITTEE UPDATES

1. Nominating Committee:

- Mike Frankel reported that Leanne Shofi (class of 1994) and Joe Moravec (class of 2017) are being recommended by the nominating committee to become Directors next year.
- In addition, the terms of James Garvey, Carole Levy, Adele Janow and Joe Mazel are expiring this year and they will be nominated to renew their three-year Board terms.
- This year the Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association will take place at the May 10 P.L.A.N. event and all alumni can vote on the new and current Directors via email or at the Annual Meeting. All Directors are encouraged to vote and to inform their colleagues or fellow alumni to also vote.
- The Nominating Committee hopes to expand the list of new Directors for next year when there may be more openings on the Board. Any Directors who are interested in joining the Nominating Committee to vet next year’s candidates are welcome to join.
- Mike Frankel also nominated Joseph Martin to become the first Director Emeritus. Motion passed.
- Given that no one has expressed interest in taking over for Adam Ciffone as Board Secretary the issue was tabled until the next regular Board meeting.

2. Social Committee: Jennifer Gray reported that the Social Committee has two upcoming events:

- Thursday, April 26, 7-10 p.m. Graduation Celebration. The Alumni Board is sponsoring the Dippin’ Dots food truck at the Graduation Celebration which will be held outdoors. Directors are invited to attend and congratulate the graduating students; and
- Thursday, May 3, 8:30-10 a.m., Coffee and Donuts. Join fellow Directors outside the law school cafeteria to serve coffee and donuts to the students as they go to their first exams. Jennifer added that contributions to cover the cost of coffee and donuts are welcome.

- Jennifer also reported that for next year the Social Committee is interested in organizing a fall happy hour for students and alumni, as well as starting a mentorship program.
- 3. **Judicial Committee:** Lisa Gladwell reported the Judicial Committee has not convened since the last Board meeting. The Supreme Court Admission is scheduled for Tuesday, December 4, 2018.
- 4. **Fundraising Committee:** Carole Levy did not attend.
- 5. **By-laws Committee:** Mike Calandra did not attend.

XI. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

- SBA President, Sarah Cinquemani, explained that her term as SBA president is coming to an end since she will be graduating in May and she thanked the Board for having her at its meetings. The alumni are invited to two upcoming graduation-related events: 3L Celebration on Thursday, April 26, from 7-10 p.m. on the courtyard on campus. \$5/person for drinks and food from two food trucks. Thank you to the Board for sponsoring the Dippin' Dots food truck. They are also having an event just for 3Ls on Friday, May 11, from 7-10 p.m. at Mansion on Broadway, \$20 for 3Ls and \$45 for guests. Alumni are welcome to attend, and Sarah will find out this week from Dean D'Agostino how alumni can purchase tickets.
- 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 removal of Directors: Michael LaMagna did not attend this meeting, so his conditional removal has become final.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn: Sandra Forster
- 2nd: Lisa Gladwell
- Motion: Passed unanimously
- Adjournment: 7:37 pm