Alumni Association Board of Directors

MEETING MINUTES
January 11, 2023
6:30 p.m.
Zoom/Telephonic

Present: Patricia Bisesto, Esq. ‘92; Aharon Diaz, Jr., Esq. ‘12; Stephen Forte, Esq. ’08; Michael Frankel, Esq. ’03; James Garvey III, Esq. ’80; Rebecca Gigliotti, Esq. ’18; Michael Gilberg, Esq. ’07; Lisa Gladwell, Esq. ’10; Jennifer Gray, Esq. ’06; Jasmine L. Hosein, Esq. ’12; Ashley Kersting, Esq. ’16; James Lenihan, Esq. ’91; Benjamin Lowenthal, Esq. ’14; Andrea Madrid, Esq. ’12; Joseph Martin, Esq. ’91 (Dir. Em.); Joseph Mazel, Esq. ’97; Mark Meeker, Esq. ’09; Gail Mulligan, Esq. ’09; Hon. Carole Levy ’83 (Dir. Em.); Diana Neves, Esq. ’16; Patrick J. Paul, Esq. ’16; Raymond Perez, Esq. ’00; Thomas Persico, Esq. ’18; Christopher Psihoules, Esq. ’12; Cassia Schaeffer, Esq. ’15; Leanne M. Shofi, Esq. ’94; Judson Siebert, Esq. ’85; Nicole Varisco, Esq. ’10

Excused: Michael Calandra, Jr., Esq. ’05; Jeremy Farrington, Esq. ’11; Hon. Sandra Forster ’79; Michael Goldstein, Esq. ’06; George Haddad, Esq. ’15; Michael Kremen, Esq., ’08; John Mulligan, Esq. ’88; Susan Mulliken, Esq. ’11; Andrew Teodorescu, Esq. ’13

Unexcused: Adele Lerman Janow, Esq. ’90; Sameera Ansari Kalra, Esq. ’09; Jacqueline Parker, Esq. ’95

Added attendees: Cathy Alexander, Assistant Dean for Admissions; Samantha Gordon, Executive Director, Alumni Relations and Association; Brian Kearney, Senior Director of Development; Philip Lupov, Program Manager, Alumni Relations

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

MEETING QUORUM: Quorum met at 6:31 p.m. with 20 Directors in attendance

I. Welcome and Introductory Remarks

   Lisa Gladwell

   • Caesar Lopez joined Board of Visitors, so no longer on this Board
   • Happy January birthdays: Nick, Ashley, Caesar, Mike

II. Board Membership

   Lisa Gladwell

   • Last Board meeting had 8 unexcused absences
   • Reminder of Board Attendance Policy:
     o 2 unexcused absences in academic year triggers conditional suspension letter, after which: attend next meeting to plead your case for being voted back on
     o 8 unexcused absences at our last Board meeting
     o Understood that life happens, but please let Leanne know in advance if you cannot make it
Meeting minutes

Leanne Shofi

- The November 17, 2022 minutes were approved by 17 Members on December 2, 2022, and are posted on the Alumni page of the Law School’s website
- Please review and approve in a timely manner, as some reported matters are time-sensitive

III. Admissions

Cathy Alexander

- 24 students enrolled in January class, a nice mix of great students
- Now focusing on Fall applications, down in volume which mirrors nationally, but up from 2-3 years ago
- Nice draw to part-time Flex program
- Focus is now on engagement of admitted students, so that they choose Pace
- April 15 is the deadline for students to choose, will ask Alumni to get engaged

IV. Advanced Health Law and Policy Certificate

Brian Kearney

- Jessica Bacher, Executive Director of Land Use Law Center, provided information for re-launch of Advanced Health Law & Policy Certificate for JD students, which is a growth opportunity
- 17 JD students have applied for the Certificate, there is a strong demand
- Health law classes are full
- Online Health Law and Policy Certificate has received approval from the State and ABA, launched in connection with Pace University Online
- Pandemic health and social issues have brought this to the forefront
- Burgeoning partnerships, including with White Plains Hospital
- Advisory Group formed to explore Health Law & Policy Institute
- Exploring coordination with undergraduate programs, such as Pace College of Health Professions
- Lisa asked what credits were required for the Certificate for JDs, and Brian responded he will find out

V. Sustainable Business Law Hub

Brian Kearney

- ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) has become very important for corporations and law firms – training attorneys to move into this space is a real growth opportunity
- Kickoff was held on September 21, 2022, and was well-attended by business, environmental and legal professionals (a conference was held last Summer as well) – great networking event
- Will serve as an incubator space, with a think tank
- Interested in establishing externships and internships
- Barbara Ballan has been named the inaugural LLM Sustainable Business Law Fellow of the Hub
- Hub would like to place students with ESG areas at banks, corporations, firms

VI. Development Update

Samantha Gordon

- Setter Connect Platform – Alumni mentoring platform (alumni to student as well as alumni to alumni)
  - Has been in existence for 6 years, but more focused on undergrads – relaunch expands it to the Law School
  - Alumni aren’t really finding opportunities to connect by attending events
Think about this as LinkedIn, but specifically for Pace
Enhances leadership and communication skills, will motivate and give back to other students and alumni
Can connect with people based on your interest – can join via LinkedIn, answer questions that will assist with connecting – can also join at 222.pace.edu/mentoring – also visit Setter Connect page on the website
Students can seek out alumni, but alumni cannot see students unless they seek us out
Hoping that mentorships can be long-term
Personal information is not shared, and in-person meeting is not encouraged until the relationship is well-established – better to get to know one another through the platform
Alumni-to-Alumni – you can search within all the alumni, see where they work, message and create connections, and can create groups based on shared interests
Job board – you can post positions that are available, and search alumni that have worked at the company even in different roles
Will be putting podcasts on, and will be robust and continue to build
With last graduating class, 161,000 living alumni
Lisa asked if this is in addition to the law school’s in-person mentoring program, and she asked if that program is still in existence – Brian said that he would look into that
Phone calls and video calls can be done on the platform as well

VII. Committee Reports
1. Nominating Committee
   Michael Frankel
   3 action items: this is our third meeting of the year, by the fourth meeting 3 slates of nominees are needed for voting (New Members, Returning Members, Executive Committee)
   Reach out to Michael if you have any recommendations or questions
   At least 10 Members’ terms are expiring, Michael will let you know and ask if you are interested in returning
   If anyone is interested in President role, please let Michael know; otherwise Michael will reach out
   Next PLAN event is May 17 will serve as annual meeting, by then alumni at large need to vote on the 3 slates (need 20 days’ notice)

2. Social Committee
   Mark Meeker (obo Jeremy Farrington)
   Next PLAN Event is Thursday January 19, 2023 at Copper John’s in Manhattan at 6pm
   In conjunction with NYSBA meeting
   Please continue to spread the word and encourage your friends to attend as well
   Dean Anderson plans to attend
   There will be free appetizers and the school will be buying attendees a free drink
   School is asking for RSVPs for the event, link is: https://fal.cn/3uC4r
   Final PLAN event of academic calendar will be May 17, 2023 in White Plains
   Exact location will be nailed down soon so that save the dates can go out
   Emphasis will be on including newly-graduated alumni
   Looking forward to a fun event with new faces
3. Judicial Committee
   Joseph Mazel
   • SCOTUS swearing-in set for March 27, 2023 (received 15 applicants, could only submit 12)
   • Will work with School on events relating to March 27 swearing-in

4. Fundraising Committee
   Gail Mulligan
   • Spoke with Samantha to get an updated spreadsheet of Member Contributions, but Gail does not have one yet
   • Activity Fund balance is $12,160, thank you to Members for annual contributions
   • Appears that we only received 4 contributions from Board Members this year
   • Samantha stated that the University cannot provide names and how much has been donated to the Board – Mark stated that such a policy is unacceptable
   • $75 contributions from Members of the Board to the Fund are encouraged
   • Reminder emails will be sent to Board Members by the Development Office
   • Concerns were expressed that earmarked donations might not be channeled to the Fund

5. By-laws Committee
   Mark Meeker
   • Deadline to send suggested changes to Mark Meeker is March 1
   • By-Laws Committee will meet between March 1 and the Board’s final regular meeting of the year (April 12)
   • At the April 12 meeting, Committee will present any proposed changes for Board approval

VIII. Special Committee Reports
   Leanne Shofi (obo George Haddad), Mark Meeker, Patricia Bisesto
   • Planning a DEI spring event for April/May
   • Patricia Bisesto noted that the Diversity & Inclusion Committee has worked very hard
     o Fantastic event was held with Judge Kathie Davidson, Mayo Bartlett, Kirsten Brown, and it was so important to hear one another’s stories - students were very engaged
     o Alumni encouraged to attend events, as inclusiveness is such an important goal
     o Flyer was sent to the Board – reminder emails sent one week before events would be appreciated
   • DEI CLE on February 13, 2023 - if interested, please contact Lori Kanner or George Haddad
   • Pace University Alumni Association liaison is Mark Meeker
     o Mark emailed the Board regarding upcoming University events
     o Mark’s role is to share University events with the Board

IX. New Business
   Mark Meeker
   • Mark will be in touch about Committee placements
   • Patricia Bisesto asked if the recent low Bar passage rate could be addressed again - Brian noted that Jill Gross addressed in-depth at the last meeting, but Brian will speak with Dean Anderson tomorrow so he can address the next steps to mitigate – Board agreed that an update at the next meeting would be appreciated
   • Director Emeritus
     o According to our by-laws, “a Director Emeritus” may be nominated and elected at any meeting of the Board, and election shall be by a majority of the members present
     o Jim Garvey has been serving this Board with distinction since shortly after his graduation from Pace Law School in 1980
     o During that time, he has been, without question, one of the law school’s biggest supporters in a variety of ways
When Mark became involved in alumni activities, Jim was one of the first people to reach out and his consistent support since that time has meant a great deal.

- Mark made a Motion to nominate James Garvey to become Director Emeritus, which was seconded by Lisa Gladwell.
- By unanimous vote, James Garvey was voted Director Emeritus.

X. **Adjournment**

- Motion: James Garvey
- Second: Patricia Bisesto
- Time: 7:49 pm