

PACE UNIVERSITY

Elisabeth Haub School of Law

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 Neeves, 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:
 - 2 unexcused absences in academic year triggers conditional suspension letter, after which: attend next meeting to plead your case for being voted back on
 - 8 unexcused absences at our last Board meeting
 - 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
 - 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
 - Alumni encouraged to attend events, as inclusiveness is such an important goal
 - 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
 - Mark emailed the Board regarding upcoming University events
 - 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
 - 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
 - Jim Garvey has been serving this Board with distinction since shortly after his graduation from Pace Law School in 1980
 - 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

Executive Committee

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