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Radford University

College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences

CHBS Advisory Board

Spring 2023 Meeting Minutes

February 3rd, 3:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order for Fall Board Meeting:**

Board Chair Scott Light called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

1. **Roll Call:**

Secretary John Shehan called the roll

Present in person or remotely were (24): Sherrie Austin, Jim Bove, Jane Elizabeth, Will Iandolo, Jonna McGraw, Russell Pompa, Cynthia Price, John Shehan, Paula Squires, Lisa Throckmorton, Scott Light, Ed Reams, Jake Crocker, Rob Barrett, Holly Stein, Karen Wheeler, Dante Washington, Mike Ashley, Pattie DeLoatche, Zack McCoy, Jim McGuire, Kay Dunkley, James Bienlien, Jim Egbert

Apologies (8): Denise White, Jeff MacKinnon, Ivan Thirion, Kate Dobbins, Jeff Coshland, Chris King, Curtis Martin, John Rainbolt.

1. **Approval of Fall 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Board Chair Scott Light made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Fall 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

1. **University Reports:**

Update on the College (Dr. Matthew J. Smith, Dean)

Dean Smith opened this session by introducing Dr. Tay Keong Tan, Director of International Studies and Leadership Studies at RU. Dr. Tay Keong Tan provided an overview of the Wicked Festival, also now described as the Wicked Initiative. More than 300 students, consisting of 97 teams participated in fall of 2022. Topics involved relevant issues typically covered by media outlets, such as gun violence, drugs, and refugees. Dr. Tan introduced freshman Rose Guillaume, who provided insights into her experience with the Wicked festival and an overview of her winning topic: “A World with Serial Pandemics”.

Past judging was conducted by faculty. In the future, four teams of judges (best presentation, best research, best solution, and best video after the fact) are envisioned. The teams of judges will consist of one faculty member, one student and one alum. The next event will take place on April 13th, in the evening.

**Action item**: If any advisory board members would like to participate in the judging, please let Dean Smith know as soon as possible.

Dean Smith then introduced Dr. Paige Tan, Professor in the Department of Political Science. Dr. Paige Tan introduced the STARS program and two students: Regan Baugher and Yajuwamungu Bora, both of which participated in the Model United Nations in Atlanta, Georgia in November of 2022. Mr. Baugher provided insights into the UN event, where students negotiated with other students while representing other countries and viewpoints. Their topics for debate focused on solving global issues, such as protecting natural resources and solving supply chain issues.

Mr. Bora highlighted how important it was to have support from the advisory board and emphasized the costs of participating. He also highlighted how the experience helped expand his problem solving and public speaking skills.

Dean Smith shared the STARS program has had 222 donors and raised more than $29,000.

**Update on Advancement (Dr. Matthew J. Smith, Dean)**

Dean Smith provided an update on financial gift giving among the advisory board, which increased from 68.7% in 2021 to 75% in 2022. A discussion ensued on how to sustain programs like Wicked and STARS with longer term financial visioning. For example, an endowment that could support those programs indefinitely. Dean Smith challenged the advisory board to consider the creation of an endowment.

**Action Item**: If any Advisory Board members are interested in exploring an endowment for STARS and/or Wicked, connect with Dean Smith or Carter Turner.

1. **Committee Reports**

*Awards Committee (Mike Ashley, Chair)*

Mr. Ashley encouraged advisory board members to utilize the awards committee to a higher degree and highlighted past award winners have largely skewed towards journalism. In early April, the awards committee will be circulating a potential list of nominees for recognition at homecoming.

*Board Membership Committee (Jim Egbert, Chair)*

Mr. Egbert highlighted five (5) committee members have terms expiring in June. He has been in contact with these individuals about interest for renewal. If you have any nominations for new members, please send recommendations to the membership committee.

*Fundraising (Jeff MacKinnon, Chair)*

No Report

*Career Preparation (Russell Pompa, Chair)*

Mr. Pompa highlighted the excellent luncheon coordinated by Dean Smith between advisory board members and faculty on February 3rd, prior to the advisory board meeting. He also highlighted the importance of interaction between the advisory board and students.

Dean Smith reminded advisory board members to contact your faculty connection. There are 110 faculty in the college and only 30 Advisory Board members.

A discussion ensued around opportunities with student ambassadors and possibly creating a “career speed dating” event with students/advisory board members.

*Prelaw (Curtis Martin)*

No Report

1. **Old Business**

Board Chair Scott Light raised the topic of committee structure(s). The executive committee, along with Dean Smith have been in discussions, evaluation, and exploration of the various committees. The possibility of combining the prelaw committee into the law society was discussed as well as potentially creating smaller, more focused subcommittees within Career Prep. The Awards Committee was highlighted as the most well-defined committees as well as a need to better define other existing committees.

1. **New Business**

Members inquired about 2023 Homecoming, with an interest in staffing a tent to represent the Advisory Board/CHBS. It is possible if members can reliably staff that event (2-3 people) the entire time. The event lasts 3 hours.

**Action Item:** Let Dean Smith or Mike Ashley know if you are interested.

A discussion ensured around Advisory Board membership and the current the size of the board. The advisory board is currently around 30 individuals and could be as large as 50. However, 30 advisory board members may not be actively participating.

**Action item:** A report will be generated regarding individual advisory board member attendance to identify consecutive non-participation.

**Adjournment:** Board Chair Scott Light made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:53 pm. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.