

**Radford University College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences (CHBS)
Alumni Advisory Board Meeting
October 25, 2019**

Minutes

CHBS Alumni Advisory Board (Board) Members and University Representatives Present: Mike Ashley, Sherrie Austin, Rob Barrett, Jeff Coshland, Jake Crocker (Chair), Pattie DeLoatche, Jim Egbert, Sherry Fisher, Dr. Kim Gainer, Curtis Martin, Matt McGrady, Jonna McGraw, Russell Pompa, John Rainbolt, John Shehan, Dr. Matt Smith (Interim Dean), Lisa Throckmorton, Dr. Carter Turner (Associate Director for University Advancement), Denise White

Guests Present: Political Science students Gabriel Bennett, Emily Jenkins, Hayley Nunez; Political Science professor Dr. Tay Keong Tan

Call to Order: Chair Crocker called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the February 22, 2019, CHBS Alumni Advisory Board meeting were approved.

Guests' Presentation: Political Science students Gabriel Bennett, Emily Jenkins, and Hayley Nunez, accompanied by their advisor, Dr. Tay Keong Tan, gave a presentation on the Anti-Poverty Toolkit (the Toolkit) they developed. The Toolkit is an online resource of materials and research available to fight poverty around the world. In October 2019, the students received an award for the Toolkit from the United Nations during a meeting in Oslo, Sweden. After the presentation, the Board discussed mechanisms for funding such projects in the future, including The Hive, Radford University's crowdsourcing platform administered by the Office of University Advancement.

Committee Reports:

- **Awards Committee:** Rob Barrett reported that two CHBS alumni awards would be presented that afternoon: the Outstanding Alumni Award to Dave Mattingly (class of 1986), the Outstanding Posthumous Alumni Award to Virginia State Police Trooper Lucas Dowell (class of 2013). The Board discussed the importance of making the awards more prominent. Ideas for further consideration included installing plaques and/or posters throughout the CHBS building with the names and photographs of past winners. There was also discussion about the Awards Committee beginning the process of soliciting nominations earlier in the year and coordinating with the Office of University Advancement and the Office of Alumni Relations to secure nominations. The Outstanding Alumni Awards were discussed further during New Business.
- **Board Membership:** The Board considered the applications of three new Board members: Scott Light, Zachary McCoy, and Ed Reams. The nominations were voted on as a group and approved for membership. A motion was made and seconded to extend the membership of current Board members Mike Ashley and John Rainbolt. The motion passed.
- **Career Preparation Committee:** No report.

- **Fund Raising Committee:** No report.
- **Prelaw Committee:** Curtis Martin reported that the Prelaw Committee has been actively involved with the Radford University Prelaw Society and in communication with Dr. Allyson Yankel, co-advisor of the Prelaw Society.

New Business:

- **Election of New Officers:** The Board elected officers for next year: Chair, Jim Egbert; Vice-chair, Curtis Martin; and Secretary, Sherry Fisher. The three were nominated and won by acclamation.
- **Report by Dr. Carter Turner, Associate Director for University Advancement:** The next campus building to be renovated is Porterfield Hall.

Radford University, in collaboration with the Radford University Foundation and the City of Radford, has announced plans to build a hotel at the intersection of Tyler Avenue and Calhoun Street on land owned by the Radford University Foundation. The hotel will include a conference center and a rooftop restaurant.

Radford University has also announced a public-private partnership to develop a project along the New River and rebrand the University as a riverfront university. The development will include a boardwalk, an amphitheater, a restaurant, a zip-line, and access to the river for experiential learning and outdoor recreation.

In April 2020, the University will publicly announce its third capital campaign. CHBS' expected contribution to the capital campaign is \$5.8 million.

Alumni interested in hosting a dinner party with President Hemphill as part of the capital campaign should let Dr. Carter know of their interest.

- **Report by Interim Dean Matt Smith on the Departments within CHBS:**

Army Reserve Training Corps: The university is renegotiating its Army ROTC contract with the U.S. Department of Defense.

Criminal Justice: The Center for Police Practice, Policy and Research has been awarded over \$400,000 in grants in its first year.

English: Dr. Amy Rubens, Associate Professor of English and the University's first Presidential Fellow, has been asked to stay for a second semester. The Health Humanities minor that she has developed is a positive for CHBS.

Foreign Languages and Literatures: The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures has enriched CHBS through festivals and programs that it sponsors and through the impact of students who return from studying abroad.

History: Dr. Matthew Oyos, Professor of History, traveled to New York City to accept the Theodore Roosevelt Book Prize, the premier prize in Roosevelt studies.

Interdisciplinary Studies: Dr. Dan Woods of the English Department has become the new director of Interdisciplinary Studies in the Liberal Arts.

Philosophy and Religious Studies: Dr. Steven Fesmire has joined the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies.

Political Science: The Political Science Department is sponsoring Constitution Week on campus. Political Science students developed the Anti-Poverty Toolkit which won an award from the United Nations.

Psychology: Dr. Valerie Leake, Professor of Psychology, secured a grant for Radford University's Counseling Psychology (Psy.D.) program from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) totaling \$940,178 to train Psy.D. students for three years in the prevention and treatment of substance abuse and opioid addiction. As part of the grant, up to six doctoral students will receive a stipend of \$25,000 each year.

Communication: The School of Communication hosted a state-wide conference in March that showcased its facilities.

Sociology: The Department of Sociology was awarded its first Carole Seyfrit Award for Excellence in Research which allowed a student to travel to coal fields and engage in ethnographic research.

Women's and Gender Studies: The Women's and Gender Studies program started a food pantry in association with the CHBS Writing Center.

Miscellaneous: Work continues on general education reform, with the launch of the new program planned for Fall 2021.

The search for a permanent CHBS dean has begun.

- **Discussion regarding Outstanding Alumni Awards:** The Board returned to the topic of the Outstanding Alumni Awards. A motion was introduced that the call for nominations for the CHBS Outstanding Alumni Awards be distributed by the Office of Alumni Affairs to alumni, faculty, and retired faculty and that the Awards Committee vet the nominations with the assistance of the Office of Alumni Affairs. There was some discussion as to how the nominations should be submitted. It was agreed that a PDF form be used for now but that ultimately an e-form should be created that can be filled in and submitted on-line.
- **Board Committee Memberships:** The membership of the Board Committees for next year is as follows:

Awards Committee: Mike Ashley, Rob Barrett, Russell Pompa, Denise White, and Rob Barrett. It was suggested that Board member Kathy Johnson be invited to join.

Board Membership Committee: Jake Crocker, Jim Egbert, and Curtis Martin

Career Preparation Committee: Matt McGrady, Russell Pompa, and John Shehan

Fundraising Committee: Pattie DeLoatche, Jonna McGraw, Jeff MacKinnon, Russell Pompa, John Rainbolt, and John Shehan

Prelaw Committee: Rob Barrett and Curtis Martin

Next Meeting: The Radford University Volunteer Summit will be held Saturday, February 22, 2020. The next Board meeting will be held the day before, Friday, February 21, 2020. Details to follow.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.