

**Radford University College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences (CHBS)  
Alumni Advisory Board Meeting  
October 16, 2020**

**Minutes**

**CHBS Alumni Advisory Board (Board) Members and University Representatives Present via Zoom:** Mike Ashley, Sherrie Austin, Robert Barrett, Jake Crocker, Pattie DeLoatche, Jim Egbert (Chair), Sherry Fisher (Secretary), Dr. Kim Gainer (Associate Dean, CHBS), Will Iandolo, Kathy Johnson, Scott Light, Jeff MacKinnon, Curtis Martin (Vice Chair), Zach McCoy, Jonna McGraw, Cynthia Price, Ed Reams, John Shehan, Dr. Matthew Smith (Dean, CHBS), Paula Squires, Lisa Throckmorton, Dr. Carter Turner (Associate Director of Advancement), Denise White

**Call to Order:** Chair Egbert called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. The meeting was held entirely on the Zoom videoconference platform.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the February 21, 2020, CHBS Alumni Advisory Board meeting were approved by a voice vote of ayes.

**University Reports:**

- **CHBS Donor/Scholarship Wall:** Dr. Turner reported on the CHBS Donor/Scholarship Wall. The donor wall was to have been revealed Homecoming weekend, October 16-18, 2020; however due to COVID-19, the event will be rescheduled. Dr. Turner also discussed the creation of a scholarship for the children of University employees. The outreach to faculty for donations to the scholarship has been rescheduled to 2021 due to the economic impact of COVID-19.
- **Update on Advancement:** Dr. Turner stated that the University's capital campaign, the public phase of which had been scheduled to kick-off April 18, 2020, has been postponed. The Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020 saw \$7.4 million raised in private support from 3,303 individual donors, including 980 first-time donors. The University is optimistic about the Fiscal Year that began July 1, 2020. Over \$4 million has been raised as of October 16, 2020.
- **University Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs:** Dean Smith stated that Dr. Carolyn "Lyn" Ringer Lepre began as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs on July 1, 2020. Though scheduled to meet with the Board, Dr. Lepre was unable to attend due to an overlapping commitment with President Hemphill.

## Report by Dean Smith:

- **Modification of Space within the CHBS Building:** Dean Smith drew the Board members' attention to the space in the CHBS building from which he was speaking. It had been a study area, but it is now being used for socially distanced classroom instruction.
- **CHBS Alumni Award Winners:** Dean Smith stated that a live ceremony will not be held this year to recognize the 2020 CHBS Alumni Award winners: Karl Altou (Class of 1983), 2020 Outstanding Alumni Award, and Gale Waldron (Class of 1969), 2020 Outstanding Posthumous Alumni Award. The awards will be sent to Mr. Altou and to Ms. Waldron's family, respectively. The current plan is to honor them in a public ceremony during Homecoming 2021 along with that year's winners.
- **CHBS Advisory Board Questionnaire:** Dean Smith thanked Board members who completed and returned the Advisory Board Interest Questionnaire that he e-mailed to Board members in September 2020. The completed questionnaire will help the Dean's office identify ways to connect Board members to CHBS. These connections may include speaking in relevant classes about career pathways and options, finding opportunities to provide career counseling, building mentorship relationships, facilitating internship opportunities, and participating in career fairs. Dean Smith is reaching out to faculty to pair with respondents.
- **Funding for Student Travel:** Dean Smith informed the Board about the Student Travel and Research Support (STARS) initiative to raise funds for student travel to present projects and findings at state, regional, national and international conferences.
- **Review of University Programs:** Dean Smith stated that because of state budget cuts, the University is examining programs that may be eliminated, including programs within CHBS.
- **Enrollment:** Dean Smith stated that the University has had conversations for a few years regarding the impending enrollment "cliff" related to demographics. Enrollment is down approximately 150 students from normal levels. When asked about COVID-19's impact on enrollment, Dean Smith stated that approximately 350 students chose to take classes completely on-line in the fall semester. He said that has actually helped with social distancing of those students attending class in-person.
- **University Response to COVID-19:** Dean Smith stated that because the University was among the first schools to begin the fall semester, it received out-sized media attention. Students who tested positive for COVID-19 were isolated, cared for, and un-isolated as soon as possible.

## Committee Reports:

- **Awards Committee:**<sup>1</sup> Ms. Johnson commented on the need to increase the number of nominations. It was suggested that current and emeritus faculty be contacted for names of alumni to be considered for nomination.

Ms. Squires asked whether nominating an alumnus for the CHBS Alumni Award precluded that person from being nominated from the University-wide outstanding alumni award or vice versa. Dr. Turner said that he would look into that.

- **Board Membership Committee:**<sup>2</sup> Mr. Martin stated that the Board currently has 25 members. The Board's Constitution allows "a maximum of fifty voting members." Article II, Section 1. Six members' terms expired June 30, 2020: Jake Crocker, Jim Egbert, Will Iandolo, Curtis Martin, Matt McGrady, and Russell Pompa. Messrs. Crocker, Egbert, Iandolo, Martin, and Pompa expressed their willingness to remain on the Board. Mr. McGrady was not present and has not communicated his desire one way or the other. Ms. Price moved to renew to the terms of Messrs. Crocker, Egbert, Iandolo, Martin, and Pompa. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote of ayes.
- **Career Preparation Committee:**<sup>3</sup> Mr. Shehan reported that he has communicated with Dr. Shawn Smith, Department of Criminal Justice, regarding a new course on cybercrime and the real-world applications and opportunities available to students interested in a career in cybercrime-related fields. Mr. Shehan stated that he has participated in multiple lectures with students via Zoom to discuss career opportunities.
- **Pre-law Committee:**<sup>4</sup> Vice Chair Martin reported that with the departure of Dr. Luke William Hunt, Dr. Allyson Yankle, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, is now the Pre-law Advisor. Administration of the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) has been suspended as the administering body is examining how to move from paper to on-line. LSAT prep for University students is on hold in light of COVID-19.

In September 2020, Dr. Yankle e-mailed a survey to Board members and other University alumni soliciting responses from alumni that have either gone to law school or are in a law-related or law-adjacent field. Vice Chair Martin stated that next semester, Dr. Yankle is planning to hold two virtual meetings via Zoom, including to meet with alumni who have law degrees but are not necessarily practicing attorneys. Ms. McGraw, who has a law degree but is not currently working as an attorney, stated that she would like to participate.

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<sup>1</sup> Awards Committee members were Mike Ashley, Rob Barrett, Kathy Johnson (Chair), Russell Pompa, and Denise White.

<sup>2</sup> Board Membership Committee members were Jake Crocker, Jim Egbert, and Curtis Martin.

<sup>3</sup> Career Preparation Committee members were Matt McGrady, Russell Pompa, and John Shehan.

<sup>4</sup> Pre-law Committee members were Rob Barrett and Curtis Martin.

- **Fund Raising Committee:**<sup>5</sup> Ms. DeLoatche expressed the Committee's enthusiasm for the CHBS Donor/Scholarship Wall. She also encouraged Board members to consider donating to the CHBS scholarship fund. Ms. DeLoatche suggested that faculty be invited to speak to the Board so that members gain a better understanding of where money is needed (i.e. the annual trip to Washington, D.C. through the Political Science Department).

#### **New Business:**

- **Mentorship Program:** Mr. McCoy informed the Board of his involvement in a University mentorship program that pairs freshmen who have not declared a major with University graduates. He suggested that a similar mentorship program be created within CHBS. Messrs. MacKinnon and Shehan expressed a desire to participate.
- **Election of Officers:** Mr. Egbert, Chair, stated that he was willing to continue as chair. Mr. Martin, Vice Chair, stated that he would like to focus more on the Pre-law Committee and therefore, he would not run for re-election. Ms. Fisher, Secretary, stated that she was willing to continue as Secretary unless there was another candidate. Mr. Light expressed a desire to run for Vice Chair. Mr. McCoy expressed a desire to run for Secretary. Mr. Egbert was re-elected Chair by acclamation. He abstained from that vote. Mr. Light was elected Vice Chair by a voice vote of ayes. Mr. Martin abstained from that vote. Mr. McCoy was elected Secretary by a voice vote of ayes. Ms. Fisher abstained from that vote.
- **CHBS' Future:** Mr. Iandolo stated that at a future Board meeting, he would like for there to be discussion on what CHBS may look like in the future, for example five years out, and what the Board should do to prepare for that. Dean Smith suggested that the next Board meeting be a combined business meeting and workshop.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m. Board members then entered Zoom break-out rooms for each Committee to discuss next steps.

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<sup>5</sup> Fund Raising Committee members were Pattie DeLoatche, Jonna McGraw, Jeff MacKinnon, Russell Pompa, John Rainbolt, and John Shehan.