

**Radford University College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences (CHBS)
Alumni Advisory Board Meeting
February 21, 2020**

Minutes

CHBS Alumni Advisory Board (Board) Members and University Representatives Present: Mike Ashley, Sherrie Austin, Jake Crocker, Jim Egbert (Chair), Sherry Fisher (Secretary), Dr. Kim Gainer (Associate Dean, CHBS), Elizabeth Hooper, Will Iandolo, Kathy Johnson, Scott Light, Curtis Martin (Vice-Chair), Zach McCoy, Jonna McGraw, Russell Pompa, Ed Reams, John Shehan, Dr. Matthew Smith (Interim Dean, CHBS), Lisa Throckmorton, Dr. Carter Turner (Associate Director of Advancement), Denise White

Guests Present: Dr. Jeff Aspelmeier, Chair, Psychology Department, and Chair, CHBS Dean Search Committee

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the October 25, 2019, CHBS Alumni Advisory Board meeting were approved.

University Reports:

- **Update on Advancement:** Dr. Turner stated that the University is in the silent phase of a \$100 million capital campaign. The public phase of the campaign is scheduled to kick-off April 18, 2020 at a gala at the Hotel Roanoke. The Office of Advancement expects to have pledges of approximately 60% of the goal by April 18, 2020. Dr. Turner stated that there are five pillars to the campaign: (1) access and opportunity for scholarships, (2) student success and engagement, (3) academic excellence and research, including student research opportunities, (4) athletics (\$10 million for improvements to the Dedmon Center), and (5) emerging needs (*e.g.*, funds for the University to respond to new initiatives, speakers on campus, etc.). Another component of the campaign is to encourage alumni and supporters of the University to include the University in their wills and/or estate plans. If anyone is interested in hosting an event in their homes for 15-20 people to encourage and discuss giving, please let Dr. Turner know. He will work with President Hemphill and Deans from the University's colleges to schedule their attendance. Alternatively, if anyone is interested in attending such an event, let Dr. Turner know and he will let you know if such an event is scheduled in your area.
- **CHBS Donor/Scholarship Wall:** Dr. Turner stated that Interim Dean Smith had the idea to acknowledge and honor the donors of CHBS scholarships. Interim Dean Smith informed the Board that University Relations has produced an initial design capitalizing on the beehive in the University's seal. The medium would be wood and silver to match the CHBS building interior and each "comb" would contain the name of the scholarship.

Ms. Johnson suggested including the year the scholarship was established. Interim Dean Smith stated that there are 32 endowed scholarships in CHBS, and a visible acknowledgement of them would not only honor the donors, it would inform students who may not be aware of them all. Plans are to place the acknowledgment on a currently blank wall around the corner from the Dean's Conference Room in the CHBS building. A dedication ceremony will occur during Homecoming 2020.

- **Update on Dean Search:** Interim Dean Smith excused himself from the meeting while Dr. Jeff Aspelmeier, Chair, Psychology Department, and Chair, CHBS Dean Search Committee, reported on the search for a permanent dean. Dr. Aspelmeier stated that the Search Committee met with eight semi-finalists in Charlotte, North Carolina. Three finalists were interviewed on-campus in February 2020. The finalists met with department chairs, the search committee, Interim Provost Joseph Scartelli, President Hemphill, and made presentations to faculty. Interim Dean Smith was among the three finalists. Dr. Aspelmeier stated that the President and Provost will make the final decision. The timing for that decision is unknown. When asked if the finalist shared a "connective issue," Dr. Aspelmeier stated that they each discussed increasing connections to alumni, scholarships for students, and faculty collaborations.

- **Report by Interim Dean Smith on CHBS:**

Army Reserve Training Corps: Radford University senior cadet Jordan Chittick, Army ROTC, is ranked the ninth best cadet in the United States by the U.S. Army Cadet Command. The rankings are comprised of a number of factors including GPA, physical fitness, and leadership.

English: Dr. Jamie McDaniel, Assistant Professor of English, has a contract to write a book on disabilities and how they make their way into film.

Foreign Languages and Literatures: Dr. I-Ping Fu, Associate Professor of Chinese, and The Chinese Club, organized a celebration of the Chinese New Year in February 2020. The event was open to those through-out the New River Valley.

Faculty Retirements/Departures/Vacancies: To increase flexibility in allocating resources, the University offered early retirement at the end of the academic year to qualifying faculty members. Four CHBS faculty members chose to accept the offer: Dr. Mary Ferrari, Department of History; Dr. Carolyn Mathews, Department of English; and Drs. Isaac Van Patten and Jack Call, both in the Department of Criminal Justice.

Dr. Tanya Buhler Corbin, Chair, Department of Political Science, left the University and joined the faculty at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida. Dr. Corbin's research is focused on disaster management, and she will create a new department of security and emergency services at Embry-Riddle.

The Department of Criminal Justice is searching for a new Chair after the unexpected death of Dr. Steve Tibbets in September 2019.

Committee Reports:

- **Awards Committee:**¹ The Board first discussed whether the CHBS Alumni Award Nomination Form should be revised. The consensus was that there should be two forms -- one for the Alumni Award Nomination and one for the Posthumous Alumni Award Nomination -- as the posthumous nomination form does not need to ask for contact information for the nominee. The Awards Committee agreed to create two forms.

Dr. Turner stated that once the nomination forms are finalized, the Office of Alumni Relations will post them on a University website and email alumni a call for nominations. Interim Dean Smith stated that the nomination forms will also be placed on the CHBS social media page.

Chair Egbert questioned whether the “consistent records of engagement and support for CHBS” criteria precluded younger alumni who may be more involved with their careers and family at that stage of life. Ms. Johnson stated that when the criteria were developed, it was not the intention to exclude younger alumni. Rather, the intent was for a winner to be involved in the University in any number of ways (*e.g.*, offering internships to students, attending University events, etc.).

Mr. Pompa observed that there was possibly some confusion because the CHBS Alumni Award procedures document lists “consistent records of engagement and support for CHBS and/or RU in general” as a criteria for nomination, yet, later the form reads that the nominee need only meet one of the three criteria above.” Mr. Ashley moved to remove the language from the first paragraph. The motion was simultaneously seconded by Ms. Johnson, Mr. Pompa, and Ms. McGraw. The motion passed by a voice vote of ayes.

There was discussion on the need to solicit more nominations. Interim Dean Smith stated one way would be to reach out to CHBS faculty for recommendations.

- **Fund Raising Committee:**² Nothing to report.
- **Career Preparation Committee:**³ 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

¹ Awards Committee members are Mike Ashley, Rob Barrett, Kathy Johnson (Chair), Russell Pompa, and Denise White.

² Fund Raising Committee members are Pattie DeLoatche, Jonna McGraw, Jeff MacKinnon, Russell Pompa, John Rainbolt, and John Shehan.

³ Career Preparation Committee members are Matt McGrady, Russell Pompa, and John Shehan.

interested in a career in cybercrime-related fields. Mr. Shehan stated that he plans to visit the University in April to meet with students and discuss career opportunities.

- **Prelaw Committee:**⁴ Vice-Chair Martin reported that he has been in contact with Dr. Luke William Hunt, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and Prelaw Advisor, to inform students about the law school application process and Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) prep courses. Eligible students have the opportunity to apply for a \$1,000 award which may be used to pay for a LSAT prep course. There are also plans for legal practitioners to come to campus and speak with students about careers for lawyers.

New Business:

- **Removal of Board Members:** Chair Egbert passed the meeting to Vice-Chair Martin while Mr. Egbert brought up the topic of the removal of Board members.

Article II, Section 3, of the CHBS Board Constitution reads, in part, as follows:
“Expectations of membership on the board include but are not limited to a request for participation (real or virtual) in at least one Advisory Board meeting per year”

Mr. Egbert said that the following Board members have not met that requirement: Matt Donlon, Christopher Flor, Skye Heasley, Emily Hite, Elizabeth Hooper, Laura McPherson, and Paula Squires. Mr. Egbert stated that he had e-mailed the members multiple times to remind them of the requirement and to inquire as to whether they wished to remain on the Board, and he had not heard back from them. There was discussion that Ms. Squires is involved in University activities in the Richmond area and that her lack of involvement with Board activities may be the result of outdated contact information by the Board.

Mr. Pompa moved to remove from the Board Matt Donlon, Christopher Flor, Skye Heasley, Emily Hite, Elizabeth Hooper, and Laura McPherson. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried by a voice vote of ayes.

Chair Egbert resumed chairmanship of the meeting.

- **Discussion regarding CHBS Alumni Awards:** The Board returned to the topic of the CHBS Alumni Awards. There was a consensus that the nominations be received by April 1, 2020.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

⁴ Prelaw Committee members are Rob Barrett and Curtis Martin.