

**Kenyon College Alumni Council Meeting  
September 12-13, 2014**

**Present:** Susan Berger '85, Michael Boyd '88 P'16, Nancy Ellis '72, Nadine Fabish '86, Larry Friedberg '84, Frankie Gourrier Jr. '08, Becky Hoyt '99, Jack Killen '71, David Lilly '94, Michael Marting Jr. '14, Chris Mitchell '91, Libby Panhorst '13, Larae Schraeder '97, Richard Spinner '63, Cindy Sternberg Thomas '84, Julie Miller Vick '73 P'12 H'97

**Absent:** Coco Pichon Battle '97, Rebecca Yarbrough '09, Chris Van Nostrand '02

**Staff:** Scott R. Baker '94, Alex Compton, Heidi McCrory, and Jessica Stricker

**Guests:** Dave Gury '60 P'89

**Friday, September 12**

1. President Susan Berger called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Introductions followed. Berger extended a welcome to all members and reviewed expectations of Alumni Council members. Berger provided an overview of the meeting agenda:
  - A discussion with President Decatur
  - Lunch with Alumni Leaders of Tomorrow (ALOT) students
  - Nomination of Alumni Council and Alumni Trustees
  - Alumni Council photo
  - Kenyon Works Discussion
  - Discussion on Regional Associations
  - Review of action plan for February meeting
2. Libby Panhorst moved that the spring meeting minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Larae Schraeder and approved unanimously by the Council.
3. Office of Alumni and Parent Program updates.
  - Welcomed Heidi McCrory, as Vice President for College Relations, and Jen Gerken, as an Administrative Assistant, to College Relations
  - Alex Compton promoted to Associate Director of Alumni and Parent Programs
  - Mark Ellis is now Director of Public Affairs
  - Upcoming Weekends:
    - Class Agent Weekend, September 19-20, 2014
    - BSU 45th Anniversary, September 25 – 28, 2014
    - DKE 150th Anniversary of Original Lodge, October 3-5, 2014
    - Family Weekend (PAC), October 17-19, 2014
    - Post 50th Reunion ('46, '47, '48 & '56, '57, '58), April 15-17, 2015
    - Reunion Weekend (0s & 5s and Chamber Singers), May 22-24, 2015

- Compton updated Council on the Learning in the Company of Friends schedule and travel program. The brochure for the Greek Odyssey cruise (September 26 – October 5, 2015) is being mailed out in September.
  - Scott Baker gave campus updates:
    - dedication of the new Rothenberg Hillel House, Cox Health Center
    - Gund Gallery Feast exhibit
    - KCN is now on Symplicity system
    - Alumni homepage redesign and alumni directory update
    - Kenyon is now on Snapchat
    - Third year of birthday video
4. Presentation by President Sean Decatur on the Kenyon 2020 Plan
- Goals:
    - Articulate clear priorities that shape decision-making in coming years
    - Plan/prioritize for next major capital projects
    - Develop a model for planning tuition rates, financial aid strategies and enrollment targets
  - Overview of the process:
    - Data collection (through Summer 2014)
    - Research and distillation (through Fall 2014)
    - Final review (early 2015)
  - Essential values:
    - rigorous liberal arts education
    - friendship and community, value of diversity
    - sense of place
    - education in and out of the classroom
  - Challenges and opportunities:
    - cost/finances
    - bridging liberal arts to success after Kenyon
    - integration of curricular, co-curricular
    - changing technology and its impact on Kenyon
  - Alumni Council's role:
    - engagement; building enthusiasm for 2020 initiatives
    - bridging the Kenyon experience to life beyond the hill
    - Kenyon Works and the Kenyon Career Network – leveraging alumni volunteers to strengthen network of career activities
5. Discussion followed on faculty and students' attitudes on career development and experiential learning and ways to foster connections between faculty and alumni.

*Council broke for lunch and reconvened the meeting at 1:15 p.m.*

6. Mark Ellis joined the meeting to discuss the Alumni Council nomination process and revisions to the Council Bylaws and Constitution. The proposed changes were presented to the group, and Council engaged in a spirited discussion.

Chris Mitchell moved that *the Constitution and Bylaws of the Kenyon College Alumni Council be amended*, Panhorst seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

Ellis and David Lilly highlighted key points in the communications plan developed to support the change:

- Letter to the Board of Trustees
- draft announcement
- FAQ page
- email address for incoming questions
- social media
- Kenyon News Digest
- online forum

7. Alumni Trustee /Alumni Council nominations:

Berger gave an overview of the selection process for Alumni Trustee and Alumni Council. Nominations were solicited from alumni, Council members and the College Relations staff. The Executive Committee of the Council reviewed all nominations and narrowed down the list for consideration by Council. A brief bio of each nominee was prepared and sent to Council for their consideration prior to the meeting.

Alumni Trustee: Four candidates to be selected

Alumni Council: Six candidates to be selected

Each member voted on the candidates presented.

8. Discussion followed on Middle Path communications.

*Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.*

### **Saturday, September 13**

9. Berger called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

10. Kenyon Works Discussion: What can we start to achieve with current resources?

- Reach out to class agents and ask “who are 6-8 people the CDO should know about?”
  - no outreach at this point; just getting a list identified
  - name, title, who would be best to connect them to CDO
  - make the alumni/CDO database more robust and accurate

- narratives about positive experiences with the CDO
- promote internships and hiring of Kenyon students and grads
- What can young alums do to be helpful?
  - house students
  - be coaches and mentors to students and other young alums – etiquette, encouragement
  - offer perspective on what is needed/wanted by students

#### 11. Regional Associations:

Berger asked Council members to reach out to Regional Association Presidents and encourage them to attend the February meeting and think on how regional volunteers can support the Kenyon Works effort.

- Middle Path Day –Service projects in different communities: Sunday, April 26 on campus.
  - good social media opportunities
  - family friendly events
  - aim for April 25 & 26 and May 2 & 3, 2015
  - mention days in outreach calls to Regional Presidents
  - Compton can send an introductory email
- Compton asked Council members to attend regional programming and encourage others to do so.

#### 12. Baker gave updates on campus building projects:

- Public Affairs moving to Sparrow House
- Alumni and Parent Programs moving to Public Affairs' old space
- Renovations in Gund Commons – trying to consolidate all of Student Affairs
- Middle Path reconstruction continues

#### 13. Overview and Suggestions for February meeting:

- Invite faculty member who's an alum to speak
- Senior dinner/networking reception
- Awards nominations process – give thought to nominating folks
- Lunch with student panel
- Time with Decatur and senior staff
- Presentation of how to create a regional steering committee
- Time with Scott Layson
- Report from Admissions
- Philander Chase Corporation update
- Discussion with faculty member or Provost regarding Kenyon Works

*Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.*