

**Kenyon College Alumni Council Meeting
February 26-27, 2016**

Present: Susan Berger '85, Susie Bloom Hudgins '89 P'18, Jim Carr '62 P'91, Conor Dugan '15, Nancy Ellis '72, Nadine Fabish '86, Frankie Gourrier Jr. '08, Becky Hoyt '99, Jack Killen '71, Christian Martinez-Canchola '12, Chris Mitchell '91, Beko Reblitz-Richardson '00, Win Sheffield Jr. '77, Rick Spinner '63, Cindy Sternberg Thomas '84, Julie Miller Vick '73 P'12 H'97

Absent: Melzetta Moody '05, Colette Pichon Battle '97

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

Guests: Andie Asimes '13, Donna Bertolet Poseidon '75, Kate Coker '08, Gay Garth Legg '73 P'05 '09, Meaghan Pachay '13, Hugh Resnick '91, Sarah Schiller '14, Owen Smith '05

Friday, February 26

1. President Chris Mitchell called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Welcome and introductions followed. Meeting agenda highlights:
 - Joint Session with KFEC
 - Student Panel
 - Symposium with President Decatur, Sarah Kahrl and Scott Layson
 - Capital Projects on Campus with Mark Kohlman
 - Nominations for Alumni Awards
 - Senior Class Alumni Welcome Dinner
 - Strengthening Regional Associations
 - Preparations for May meeting
2. Win Sheffield moved that the fall meeting minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Conor Dugan and approved unanimously by the Council.
3. Office of Alumni and Parent Engagement updates
 - Third Cuba trip in March
 - Upcoming Learning in the Company of Friends Events
 - April 5, San Francisco, Siobhan Fennessey
 - April 21, Boston, Jeff Bowman
 - April 26, Columbus, Sherryl Hemkin
 - Post 50th Reunion April 13 - 15
 - Reunion Weekend welcoming back 1s and 6s, Peeps, and Kokosingers 50th Reunion
 - K80s Same as it Ever Was 2 in June
 - Summer Seminar

- Switchboard is doing great – best launch they’ve seen
4. Presentation by Mitchell on Council priorities, plans and structure. Discussion followed.
- Committee structure proposed to dovetail more to the strategic plan of the College
 - Executive Committee
 - Set agenda
 - Oversee Council nominations and trustee selection processes
 - Liaison to KFEC
 - Provide annual report
 - Regional Activity Committee
 - Strengthening Regional Associations
 - Support specific projects (e.g. Middle Path Day) to foster sense of connection across Kenyon community
 - Exploring other community-building engagement strategies targeting alums who are part of other networks, or may not be near a regional association. Assist in preparing Winter Weekend agenda
 - Provide annual report to Executive Committee
 - Targeted Focus Committee
 - Ongoing projects to support work of the CDO in its career-development and exploration efforts for students and alumni (e.g. Kenyon Works, etc.)
 - New: Building bridges between alums, faculty, students, and other stakeholders in helping students find high-impact experiences
 - Provide annual report to Executive Committee
 - Communications Committee
 - Developing ways that alumni leaders can help amplify, listen, and provide feedback to improve communications with alumni community
 - Helping alumni community better understand and appreciate role and function of Alumni Council
 - Developing better ways for soliciting nominations – e.g. for awards, appointments, etc.
 - Provide annual report to Executive Committee
5. Joint Session with KFEC

Kristin Meister and Chris Mitchell lead discussion about the missions and alignment between the two groups. Shawn Dailey and Scott Baker announced that Alumni Council, Kenyon Fund Executive Committee and Reunion Planning will all be held during the same weekend in 2016, so that the groups can work together more effectively.

Alumni leaders believe it is important to receive news of College developments in advance of the news going to the alumni community as a whole; current practice of 1-2 hours is not

sufficient. Group discussion followed on solutions to improve the ways that alumni volunteer leaders are informed so they may become more effective advocates for the College.

Council broke for lunch with KFEC and alumni volunteers.

President Decatur presented A Look Inside: A Kenyon Symposium for all volunteers.

Sarah Kahrl gave a brief presentation on the Kenyon Institute.

Scott Layson provided an update on Career Development

Mark Kohlman presented the Kenyon Campus Master Plan.

The meeting reconvened at 3:00 p.m.

6. Alumni Council held an Executive Session

7. Awards Nominations

Mitchell explained voting procedure and opened the floor for discussion.

Award nominations voted and recorded.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Saturday, February 27

8. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

9. Reports from Regional Associations:

- Florida
 - Spinner and Alistair Flynn '14 are regional leaders
 - One event planned for March 16 featuring Adam Smith '87
 - Planning summer event for parents and new students, fall opera event, winter event similar to March event, and Middle Path Day if they can get it organized
 - Challenges include folks being spread out, not as many older alumni as one would think
- Indianapolis
 - Successful Middle Path Day last year at YMCA; may do that again this year
 - Challenges include Indianapolis being geographically spread out
 - Would like to send regional survey
- New York City
 - Informal committee, Ramelle Brown '13 is the main leader
 - Plan to do three career panels this summer
 - Recent events include Philander's Phling, singing group performances at Madame X, wine tasting event, LCF with Kate Hedeem

- Chicago
 - Relatively new regional association
 - Recent events include successful March Madness event, Middle Path Day with Big Shoulders school cleanup (will likely work with them again), rooftop happy hour in August, Cubs game, LCF with Jeff Bowman
 - Hoping to do career development seminar over spring break
 - Unsuccessful Chicago Phling, still learning what people want
 - Challenge is figuring out what type of draw an event will have
 - Gauging interest is a struggle
- Washington, D.C.
 - Owen Smith '05 is new regional president
 - 24 events last year
 - Steering committee is well-oiled group, they meet monthly
 - Committee members take ownership of individual events
 - Geography of age is a challenge, trying events in different neighborhoods
 - Upcoming events include industry specific informal dinners, combination happy hour with Oberlin
 - Advice for getting professors on board for events: informally let them know you're there, work with administrative assistants, work in conjunction with conference opportunities
- Baltimore
 - Successful Purple Friday event, hosted Chamber Singers, March Madness event resulted in the start of an area scholarship
 - Upcoming brewery event
 - Challenge is reaching people with children
- Philadelphia
 - Successful theater event, Middle Path was at public school
 - MPD this year will be at a homeless shelter
 - Upcoming event at Phillies game, summer sendoff happy hour
- Columbus
 - Prior events include Ohio 5 happy hour at a brewery last summer, happy hour at a taco restaurant with free chips and salsa
 - Trying to get committee formed, incorporate sports games, free concerts, other events that already exist
- Richmond
 - Had brewery event in the fall (±50 ppl including parents)
 - Would like to do something incorporating students
- Boston
 - Kate Coker '08 taking over June 1
 - Recent events include Kokosingers in concert at alum's house and January happy hour at waterfront restaurant, Trade
 - Upcoming college sponsored happy hour March 15, Middle Path Day at Cradles to Crayons May 7, LCF in April
 - Work on getting steering committee together

- Atlanta
 - Summer Sendoff is most successful event
 - Always experimenting with location
 - Well-attended Decatur in Decatur event
 - Middle Path Day will be with Fiesta de Libros, same as last year
- Cleveland
 - Steering committee meets once or twice a year
 - 12-15 events this year including book club, networking reception and panel discussion

10. Committee breakout sessions

Regional Activity, Targeted Focus, and Communications committees met briefly.

- Regional Activity
 - Established schedule for quarterly conference calls
 - Developing google docs to share best practices
 - All regions are invited to participate
- Targeted Focus
 - Work on consolidating Kenyon LinkedIn sites
 - Help connect faculty to CDO
 - Need in-depth knowledge of college databases
 - Support international and low-income students find alumni mentors
- Communications

The Communications Committee will develop best practices for sharing information with the alumni body. Initial recommendations include:

 - More personalized delivery of information; emails from individuals, Skype groups, phone calls
 - Create a dashboard for Alumni Council - "just the facts" and update it every 4-6 weeks
 - Develop Scott's Hot Sheet - "Baker's Dozen," with interesting, newsy stories from the College
 - Provide concise talking points to alumni volunteers so that they can better share and/or amplify messages

11. Review of senior dinner:

- Need better beer and wine
- Would like 2 sentence bio for alums instead of just their major
- 50 seniors/15 alumni no-shows
- Allow Council and KFEC to have input on student invitation. Try something quirky out of a bio to grab attention.
- Pub forum not a great way for them to write things down/network

12. May agenda items:

- Admissions presentation
- New metrics for engagement tracking
- Switchboard review
- Committee reports
- Alumni Trustee process – have subcommittee draft
- Start Thursday evening and wrap up Friday prior to Edwards memorial. Alumni Council nominations discussion on Friday.
- Presentation from athletics, art gallery, library

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.