

Ball State University Alumni Association
Black Alumni Constituent Society
March 5, 2011

Members Present: Renee Akins, Phil Anderson, Mike Chisley, Fred Cox, Jarod Crowley, Dee Dee Gray, Teresa Jeter, Alivia Johnson, Pam Morris, Charles Payne, Charmaine Powell, Carl Radford, Tammy Robinson, Sue Taylor, Laura Waldron and Allen Williams. Guest: Patricia Lovett, Director, Multicultural Center.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by President Pam Morris.

Welcome and Introductions

The board of directors welcomed new members Jarod Crowley, Dee Dee Gray, Alivia Johnson and Tammy Butler Robinson.

Minutes

Minutes from the January 22, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved by a voice vote following a motion from Radford and second from T. Robinson.

Multicultural Center Update – Guest Patricia Lovett

Patricia Lovett, Director of the Ball State Multicultural Center, discussed her role at the Center, including how she is able to do lots of personal advising to students. She provided the board of directors with a brochure of Center [programs](#) and [services](#) available to students. The summer [Excel Program](#) was highlighted by Patricia for its 95% retention rate. The program is now part of the Excellence in Leadership program and students will receive course credit for their participation.

Lovett is evaluating Center programs, assessing needs and looking into the potential for a new location. She said that students believe it is important that the Center remain a “home away from home.” Some schools make their multicultural centers more like an art gallery, but students would like a more personal feel. The current facility has a capacity of 40-50 people at a time due to size and fire codes. With regards to programs, Lovett reported that the Welcome Back Picnic, held behind the Multicultural Center, was very successful in the fall. Thirty organizations had tables at the picnic and over 300 students attended. The Achievement Awards will be held in April and the Celebration of Excellence will be held on Friday, May 6.

Lovett reported that Greek life is growing on campus again with AKA and DST returning to campus. In regards to student life, the main student struggle is financial. Retention rates for minority students are 77-78%. This is comparable to the overall retention rate on campus.

The board asked how they might be able to help the Multicultural Center. Lovett said that there are volunteer opportunities – particularly in the spring – assisting with mock interviews, talking to students, volunteering to cover the \$50 fees for the Excel program, and attending the Celebration of Excellence on May 6 at 7:00 p.m. in Pruis Hall. Michael Blair, '97 will address the students. Over 200 attended the Celebration last year. There is a reception afterwards and an honor chord for Commencement is given to the students.

The Excel Mentor Program will be August 11-14 and the Welcome Back Picnic will be Friday, August 26.

Membership

Morris will have an orientation for new members of the board of directors. The goal is to meet with some senior members of the board and talk about historical perspective, Constitutional requirements (i.e., board members must make an annual gift in the calendar year), and goals. Morris reminded the board to make their annual gift if they had not done so. BACS Foundation accounts to support include: #408 Black Alumni Constituent Society (awards and programs), #461 Black Alumni Constituent Society Endowed Scholarship and #462 Black Alumni Constituent Society Book Scholarship. The AB Floyd Scholarships are #30223.

Cox and Chisley introduced discussion about vacancies on the board of directors and their desire to fill seats today. Morris said that it was left off of the meeting's agenda in order to confirm the intentions of those holding the seats in question. She does not want to add one seat here and another there. She would like to add both seats at the same time. Allen agreed. The board of directors will discuss vacancies at a future meeting.

Akins has created a brochure to publicize the society and its activities. She and Robinson volunteered supplies and to print the brochure in time for the reunion. The board was asked to review and submit any suggestions to Akins. A group photo for the front of the piece will be taken at the May 7 board of directors meeting.

Alumni Council

Chisley reported on the January 29, 2011 meeting of the Alumni Council. Minutes from the meeting are available [online](#). Terry Coleman is the president of the Alumni Council and Hollis Hughes is the new president of the Board of Trustees. Chisley discussed the budget issues facing the university and passed around a copy of the BSUAA's Annual Report and Alumni Involvement Index. The BSUAA affinity credit card contract is ending and the BSUAA is negotiating with other credit card companies. Chisley noted that on March 17, 55 BOLD Celebration Scholars will be recognized at the Indiana Statehouse. The BOLD campaign will conclude on June 30. The next Alumni Council meeting will be Saturday, April 30, 2011.

Minority Student Scholarships

Morris, Akins, Cox, Radford, Chisley and Robinson will serve on the book scholarship committee and review applications. Applications are due April 15 and applicants will be notified by May 1. There was discussion on how to weigh the criteria and Morris said she will create a rubric that will provide documentation of how decisions are made. T. Robinson and Chisley agreed that a rubric brings objectivity to the process. Chisley asked that the rubric be presented to the board at the May 7 meeting.

Morris is working on a fundraising strategy for the scholarship with Chip Jagers, University Development and will report on their progress at the next meeting. Cox requested that donation information be available at the reunion. Morris said there will be pledge cards.

August 5-7, 2011 Reunion

Awards

Jeter, awards committee chair, submitted Arthur Lax, Liz O'Dell and Robert Jackson for the Outstanding Black Alumni Award. She submitted Derrick Jamerson, Joyce Jamerson, Christina

Phillips and Nathan Boyd for the Award of Achievement. Cox moved to accept the nominations, Chisley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by voice vote.

Publicity

The publicity committee (Cox, Gray, Johnson, Anderson, and Almeca Jones) met on February 22. Cox reported that the committee established a goal of contacting more than 500 alumni about the reunion. Cox said that the committee and the BSUAA were finalizing a letter to previous award recipients to encourage their attendance. He would like to reach out to the Greeks also. Gray added that they will start with Indianapolis and work through ministries and other organizations to reach alumni. Johnson noted that there will be a focus on reaching younger alumni through Facebook. She is working on a subcommittee with other young alumni who will help spread the word. She currently has 3-4 alumni who will help.

In terms of a keynote speaker, Anderson will look at past Award of Achievement recipients and identify a potential speaker. There was also discussion on dropping the keynote speaker in the interest of time due to the announcement of scholarship recipients and allowing each of the Outstanding Award winners to speak for a couple of minutes.

The committee encouraged members of the board to go to regional meetings in their community to promote the “party with a purpose,” the scholarship and the board of directors.

Menu/Entertainment

Powell suggested that Friday evening’s reception have a retro theme – music, dress, etc. After much discussion, the board decided on the “Soul Train” theme. Saturday evening’s theme will focus on the Ball State colors of the attire – red, white, and black. They would like to award a gift for the best dressed.

On Saturday morning, the board would like to have two sessions from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. One on a current topic and the second with alumni who have reached out to their community or helped internationally. There was discussion about a picnic lunch, beginning at 11:00 a.m. The board would like this to be a tailgate format outside. A concern was raised that this was tried before and the humid weather had many not wanting to go outside. It was decided that there could be some food inside and some tables outside. Greeks (and other student groups) would be invited back for the lunch. Games such as volleyball, flag football and bingo would be provided. Lunch would be served at noon and a campus bus tour would follow.

There was discussion on holding a silent auction to raise funds for the scholarship. Winners of the silent auction could be announced at lunch or dinner. The board would hand out the items, alumni would not come to the podium due to time.

The board reversed their decision on using an iPod to provide music on Saturday evening and go back to the DJ. It was noted that the use of a DJ would increase costs but the publicity committee thinks the DJ can provide a more interactive, fun event. Dee Dee will contact a Ball State student DJ and determine his availability for the reunion. Others look into DJ potentials as well.

Program

Chisley and Crowley will serve as co-masters of ceremony on Friday evening. Williams will take care of the hospitality room at the hotel but would like to mentor someone to take over this role.

Next meeting

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m. **The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in the Ball State University Alumni Center.** A group photo will be taken for the website and society's brochure.

**Please note that this date is Ball State University Commencement. Traffic may be heavy at times as the main ceremony begins at 10:00 a.m. on campus. Please plan accordingly.*