

# **Alumni Advisory Board Spring Meeting Minutes Saturday, March 25, 2023**

- I. Welcome – Kedar Murthy
- II. Roll Call – Holly Kowalski
  - a. AAB - Allison Bowman-Rogers, Gary Bullock, Jason Carlyle, Mike Chaney, Steve Decker, Kameron Eisenhour, Greg Gotwald, Nellie Hohne, Melva Holt, Jason Karlen, Alyssa Lobo, John McClain, Kenny McCleary, Kedar Murthy, Alexa Myers, Kelly Noel, Kali Nordquist, Craig Pohlman, Dan Price, Nyle Riegle, Amanda Stapleton, Dieter Shultz; Absent: Matthew Iwema, Victoria Zheng  
ARBOT – Paul Palmer; Absent, Chris Inman, Robert Stone
- III. Review Agenda and Approval of Minutes – Kedar Murthy
  - a. Motion to approve minutes, Kelly Noel; seconded by Dan Price, motion carried.
- IV. ARBOT Report –

e.

more of a basic question. Then, a much more difficult question was given to the bot that required much more thought and we did not expect much of an answer. However, the bot replied with a very detailed equation and an answer. If this detailed answer/equation was submitted by a student, it would raise red flags. However, after calculating the equation that the bot supplied, the answer was wrong. That was unanticipated. ChatGPT does display some characteristics of giving a detailed and confident answer that may not be correct.

- c. The second exercise given to ChatGPT was to simulate a design around activity. The bot was asked to design a stroller with a platform that a toddler could stand on behind a seated child in the stroller and would not infringe on existing patents-asking the bot to do a patent search. The bot found the right patents, which is remarkable.
- d. Another example is the bot was asked for ideas for a strategic plan, particularly titles. This was something that the steering committee had just gone through for

going to display some weaknesses in what we do, and we are going to have to figure out how to respond to that.

- j. Rose is an academic organization and in response to this we formed a committee to look at what are the issues. What are the issues that need to be addressed both near term and long term and who are the appropriate bodies to deal with those issues. For example, the academic integrity issue will be sent to Rules and Discipline Committee and Department Heads, and some student government will be brought in along with Student Affairs.

VI. Break for Brunch with Award Winners

VII. Staff Reports – Steve Brady and Charlie Ricker

- a. Steve Brady reported on Pi Day. Every year we set our goals a little higher than the year before. This year we hit our goal and surpassed it. We do not want to set our goals so high that when one \$50,000 gift does not come in again, we are not hitting our goal. This is a challenge. When we started our day of giving, I did not want to spend a lot of time and energy in training our donors to give on one day. I want to incentivize our new donors and inspire additional gifts. Giving Day is targeted more to individualized projects. This year was cybersecurity, electric vehicles and an athletics program. We are trying to get people engaged in the activity of giving much more than our usual donors.
- b. Innovation Grove is definitely one of our fundraising priorities. The Lilly Endowment has released their College and Communities Initiative, which amounts to \$300 million going to thirty-five different colleges and universities around the state of Indiana. There are two phases; Phase I has to be applied to by Friday for a \$250 thousand dollar planning grant. Phase II is a competitive grant, up to \$25 million from Lilly. This is the first time that Lilly has done something where they are expecting a match. The \$25 million has to be matched by 70% external funding sources. This means that we are looking for an \$86-90 million dollar gift for total project costs. How can Rose impact the Terre Haute community? Our first thought is that Innovation Grove will drive motivation, entrepreneurship, new jobs, and many other ideas. We are discussing this with faculty and staff to get their ideas and with community leaders to get their ideas. Although September seems a long way off to come up with ideas, build it out and come up with that additional money that needs to come in, it is going to take some time.
- c. Residence halls is also something from a fundraising perspective, is really focused on right now. That is \$30-37 million. If we had another one hundred beds this fall, they would probably be filled, assuming we hit our enrollment targets. There are upper classm, money

- e. Charlie Ricker stated that Alumni Relations continues to rebound after covid into our in-person events. The Alumni Networks around the country are starting to host events again. Kerrie James-Hunter is working with that program to make it more active. Last year there was a push for network leaders to host Chauncey events and many network coordinators got invested in that idea and doing more of a celebration theme. We will try that again this fall and see how well it does.
- f. Alumni Relations is continuing with the Lego kits. The White Chapel Lego kits are officially here and will go on sale in the next couple of weeks.
- g. Jared Ell is not here. Jared chose to leave our office in January and took a position back working with small business entrepreneurs, which is really his passion area. He was offered a grant funded position through the State of Indiana.
- h. We are also looking at expanding our virtual engagement in different ways. We continue to do the Rose Talks program, which was successful throughout Covid, and we are looking at ways to revamp that program to make it a little more engaging for our attendees. We are also looking at different ways to use Remo, which is our platform for Rose Talks to engage in more industry focused events.
- i. There is an EV event coming up that an alumni wanted to host and pay for. This is an electric vehicle test ride event. This donor thinks there are a lot of people who have never ridden in an electric vehicle and do not know what an electric vehicle really feels like.

#### VIII. New Business

- a. Awards Committee – Jason Karlen
  - i. Page 22 lists the award winners. Once again, it was a diverse group of people with vastly different experiences. Our first Volunteer Alumni Award winner was selected, Steve Gillman. The award ceremony follows this meeting at 3 p.m. in Hatfield Hall. Dan Price will be emceeding for the last time.
  - ii. At the last meeting there was a discussion about the Sawmill Society and awards. We met with the Sawmill Society, which was a very brief meeting, but they decided they will give their own award.
  - iii. There are three members that will be leaving the Awards Committee, so if anyone is interested in joining or changing committees, please let Jason or Nellie know.
- b. Board Membership Committee, AAB Nominations – Nellie Hohne
  - i. There are seven vacancies coming up, so the committee was in charge of interviewing and selecting candidates. Thank you to the committee for getting the interviews done quickly. Candidates recommended exhibit a passion for Rose and a desire to help the AAB and they cover many different career paths (engineering, math teacher, architecture, interior design, SpaceX, insurance and IT). Recommendations are:
    - 1960 – R. Neil Irwin (CE '63)
    - 1970 – Bill Schott (MA '74)
    - 1980- Floyd Yager (ME '89)
    - 1990 – Amy Cary (ChE '98)
    - 2000 – Jeffery Smiley (CE '08) & Casey Schroepel (ChE '04)

2010 – Andrew Novotny (ME '20)

Motion made to accept slate by Kelly Noel, seconded by Greg Gotwald.

ii. Vice President Nomination and Vote – Kedar Murthy

1. Dieter Schultz complimented the board for all their work over the years on the AAB Constitution and by-laws. As membership changes, the by-laws have enabled the board to remain disciplined and structured without limiting its ability to adapt. Second, the AAB and respective committees have forged strong relationships with Alumni Relations, Career Services, Enrollment and individual faculty. Lastly, the AAB has the opportunity for strategic alignment to best consider the committees that serve the institution. A lot has changed in the world over the last 3-4 years, and this has changed the landscape for student recruitment, campus engagement, how alumni are engaged and with that, the AAB should always be leading what strategic initiatives can help the school as well as fostering them. With that, there is an opportunity for the AAB to help with the Strategic Plan in Tier 1 and Tier II to be sure we are running parallel with that 10-year plan.
2. Amanda Stapleton stated that she and Dieter have similar viewpoints. We are co-chairs on the student recruitment committee and have had the opportunity to grow and foster the relationship with Dr. Bear. From that observation, there is even more relationship building that we can continue to expand. When joining the AAB in 2020, most of the revisions and changes to the By-Laws were already in place. That infrastructure is there and echoes the comments around the foundation. Because we have a captive audience here, all of us have devoted our time, money, effort, focus and energy toward being a part of this board. There is more that we can give, there is more we can do, there is untapped potential sitting within the walls of this room and I would like to see how we can do more. I want to understand how we as a board can be adding more value, not just back to the institution but also to the communities. Thinking about how we worked on student recruitment – how can we continue to align and support the goals so that we are viewed as the top engineering school in the country and our alumni base is a huge starting point for that.

Dieter and Amanda left the room, discussion took place. Dieter and Amanda returned, and voting took place electronically. Charlie tallied votes and announced/congratulated Amanda Stapleton as incoming Vice President.

iii. ARBOT Recommendation – Kelly Noel

1. There were potentially five candidates but one of them opted out. Four candidates were interviewed and after those discussions, my

recommendation for the ARBOT position is Dan Price. Mike Chaney made motion to approve, Kedar Murthy seconded.

- IX. Committee Breakout Sessions
  - a. Board Nominating – Nellie Hohne
    - i. We have approved our slate of new members. There are three people who have decided to leave the Alumni Advisory Board: Steven Schmitz, Victoria Zheng, and Allison Bowman-Rogers. Thank you for your service. Those positions will be filled in the next membership cycle.
  - b. Awards Committee – Jason Karlen
    - i. Mike Chaney will be taking over as the Chairperson.
  - c. Career Services – John McClain
    - i. Gary Bullock will be taking over as the Chairperson for Career Services. Will continue effort of working with Career Services on communicating with companies but also looking into how we can work with fortune 500 companies but also individual companies.
  - d. Student Recruitment – Dieter Schultz and Amanda Stapleton
    - i. First round of notecards went out, thank you to everyone for participating. The second wave will be coming out in mid-April following the same process as the first round.
    - ii. Due to process changes, the AAB will not be participating in the Noblitt Scholars program. Dr. Bear will get back to us on how effective the changes were and what they were, and the committee will hopefully have a report back when we meet next.
    - iii. We are trying to figure out how we can help reinvigorate alumni to support alumni relations to help support institute initiatives.
- X. Thank you and Farewells – Kedar Murthy
  - a. Thank you to the following for your service to the AAB.
    - i. Nyle Riegle, Dan Price, John McClain, Jason Karlen, Alyssa Lobo, Greg Gotwald, and Paul Palmer-ARBOT member.
  - b. Officer
    - i. Kelly Noel is wrapping up her term as Past President and is continuing her work on the Board of Trustees. Kedar Murthy wraps up his term of President and moves to Past President. Nellie Hohne will move from the Vice-President position to President.
- XI. Adjournment – Kedar Murthy
  - a. Meeting adjourned.