

Bluefield College Alumni Council
Meeting Minutes
Saturday, July 10th 2010
The Wood Grill in Charlottesville, Virginia

Present: Sarah Fawley, Mike Harris, Malvin Carroll, Fran Louthan, Dan Agee, Shirley Meador, Amanda Grose, Sharon Knick, Carlene Woolwine, Don Kidd, Ruth Blankenship, Betty Carroll, and Joshua Cline

Welcome and Prayer: Joshua Cline opened by thanking everyone for coming out. Dan Agee began the gathering with prayer.

College Update: Ruth Blankenship provided an update on the progress thus far on the reinstatement of football, and the Rural Healthcare Education Program (RHEP). An update was given on the status of Pocahontas High School and the agreement there of the College becoming the tenet of the building. On the same subject of building an update of East River Hall was given as well as an announcement about plans to begin looking into the construction of a new residence hall to sit in between the Science Center and Rish Hall. The top floors would open up to VanDyke Circle, while the bottom floors would empty out into the parking lot in front of Alumni Hall. This is due to projections about future enrollment numbers with the oncoming of football. It was also announced that due to a great enrollment project this year, all four residence halls (Cruise, Rish, East River, and Alumni Hall) will be open this fall for students. Alumni Hall has seen many improvements this summer, such as new paint, carpet, bathroom tile, and a thorough cleaning. This has been possible through the generosity of alumnus LeRoy Williams from Mechanicsville, Virginia putting work crews together. A report on end of the 2009-2010 fiscal year was given. It was announced for the first time both the Board of Trustees and the Alumni Association Board of Directors gave 100%. It was also announced that alumni giving was up this year as well. We increased from approximately 745 donors to 911 donors. It was stated that this increase had not been seen in a long time. This giving is making scholarship funds available for students. Joshua Cline gave an update on the College's website. The website will be receiving a makeover this fall. A website committee has been formed on campus to implement these updates. Soon alumni will be able to register for events online, visit an online bookstore, and be more interactive with the College.

The Business Meeting was then called to order by President Dan Agee.

Approval of Minutes: It was announced that the minutes were now online from previous meetings on the Alumni Association Board of Directors webpage at www.bluefield.edu/alumniassociationbod and could be read there. They were also distributed with the "reminder of meeting" letter mailed. The minutes were approved.

Old Business: The by-laws were brought up for discussion, as was directed by the last meeting. Each section was taken and revised to make changes. The changes are listed as follows, and a new copy of changes made has been made available of the Association's Board of Directors web page:

Article I and II were left unchanged.

Article III:

The definition of an alumnus/a now reads, "Any person enrolled as student completing an academic year in any Bluefield College program, being a time of nine months, may become a member of The Association." The second paragraph was dropped.

Article IV:

Alumni Council should read Alumni Association Board of Directors

Article V:

First sentence will now read "The Board of Directors shall consist of up to twenty-five active Association members serving for three years." In the second paragraph the third sentence now reads, "The Board should meet no less than three times a year."

The Board then jumped to Section IV: The Executive Board of Article V in the third paragraph terms were set at two years, and the rest of the paragraph was omitted.

Section V: Duties of the Executive Board had many changes. The Vice President will now be understood to be the President-Elect. Should the Vice-President not wish to serve elections will be held at the last meeting of the year. The Vice President will also form a nominating committee to bring to the floor nominations for vacant offices at the appropriate times.

The Board then moved to Article VI. It was agreed that the committee on chapters would be chaired by a board member, not the Vice-President. On the Homecoming committee the clarification of Town of Bluefield was made to Town of Bluefield, Virginia and City of Bluefield, West Virginia. The duties of the Homecoming committee was to also give an update in July as to progress and ideas for Homecoming, and a full report to be given at the August meeting.

Homecoming was the next topic brought up for discussion. Joshua Cline showed the group a mock up of the brochure, and informed the Board that a final schedule would be confirmed soon. Dan directed Joshua to bring a report at the August meeting.

New Business:

New board members were mentioned at during the welcome by Joshua Cline. Mike Harris was in attendance. Mike is a pharmacist residing in Bluefield and is a 1997 graduate. Mike is a member of the Founders League, and has been instrumental in helping promote the Rural Healthcare program. Sarah Wheeler was unable to attend, but has also agreed to join the Alumni Association Board. Sarah graduated from the degree-completion program in 1993. Sarah worked at the Engineering School at Virginia Tech, and is a member of First Baptist in Blacksburg. She brings many years of leadership experience and expertise with her to the Board.

SWEAT DAYS were discussed by Joshua Cline. Alumni SWEAT DAYS will be days of community service. This fall's days will mark the first set of SWEAT DAYS. They will be

August 16 and 17, during faculty and staff work days. The project will be the landscaping of the front steps leading to Lansdell Hall. All alumni will be encouraged to attend.

Chapter creation was brought up for discussion by Dan Agee. He challenged everyone to talk to two alumni that haven't had contact with Bluefield College. Joshua Cline gave a report on his work with alumni in the areas of Charlotte, Bluefield, and Atlanta, Georgia to create chapters. He stated that the first step to take in bringing individuals back into contact with the College through the Office of Alumni Relations was to connect friend groups together again to get them excited about the College. He projected within a few years having stable chapters again.

There was discussion about joining committees. Mike Harris volunteered to head up the Chapter Creation committee of the Board, and Amanda Grose volunteered to serve on the Homecoming committee. Packets were handed out to Board members asking them to collect three gifts for the live auction for scholarships during Homecoming this year.

The next meeting time was set for August 21 at 10:00 a.m. in Charlottesville. The location is to be announced soon, once a suitable meeting location is found.

Malvin Carroll motioned for an adjournment, Sarah Fawley seconded the motion, all approved. The meeting was adjourned, and Board members were encouraged to head to Bobby '58 and Joyce '58 Gentry's home for the Charlottesville Area Alumni Gathering.

Minutes Taken by: Ruth Blankenship
Submitted by: Joshua Cline