

Bluefield College Alumni Council
Meeting Minutes
Saturday, August 21, 2010
First Baptist Church of Charlottesville in Charlottesville, Virginia

Present: David Armbrister, Sarah Wheeler, Sarah Fawley, Fran Louthan, Dan Agee, Shirley Meador, Sharon Knick, Marcialyn Ellis-Miller, and Joshua Cline

Welcome and Prayer: The meeting opened up with conversations about ideas for the College. Ideas were discussed about the importance of alumni and student news being published in papers across the state. Discussion continued to the success of our athletics department being a great recruiting tool for the alumni board, and how alumni need to hear these great things. Joshua Cline would take these concerns back to the College, and share them with Sports Information Director Kayla Myers and Public Relations Director Chris Shoemaker. An introduction of Sarah Wheeler as a new member of the Bluefield College Alumni Association Board of Directors was formally made. Sarah is a graduate of the Degree Completion Program, now called the inSPIRE program, and has worked at Virginia Tech. She is a member of First Baptist in Blacksburg, and an active member in their church leadership. Sarah's introduction moved the discussion to the importance of recognizing the need to integrate non-traditional students more into the Alumni Association. Joshua Cline shared that he had a conversation with Larry Sinsabaugh, Vice-President of the inSPIRE program, where Larry opened up that he would love to see more involvement from the Alumni Association, and would do whatever he could to help see these two groups mingle.

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" email. The motion to accept the minutes was made by Shirley Meador and seconded by Marcialyn Ellis-Miller. The minutes were approved.

College Update: Joshua provided the following update from the College:

Friday, August 20 there was a joint faculty and staff meeting held at the College. At this meeting each vice president gave an update from their department. Academic Affairs, which includes enrollment management, was the office that everyone was waiting to hear from because it lets us know how we will do being a tuition driven school. Traditional numbers this year are well reported. Currently there are no male beds left on campus. Professor Mickey Pellio volunteered her garage apartment for additional male students that may attend. However, on the inSPIRE side of enrollment we are missing nearly forty students that were forecasted. Joshua asked the Alumni Board to send word to the Admissions Office if they hear of anyone remotely interested in beginning a program. Because of this once final enrollment numbers are available, fundraising goals will be adjusted. This amount is what the College seeks to raise through alumni, friends, churches, charitable groups, and foundations. It was stated that it would be another tight financial year for the College as we build a stronger financial model.

At this point discussion took place of seeing what the Office of Alumni Relations budget was to help provide funds for events, mailings, etc. Joshua Cline agreed to present his budget at the next Board of Directors meeting to begin the conversation. A question of alumni dues being reinstated then was brought to the floor. After discussion it was agreed that board members would take the next year and first see how productive current progress is. Board members will also investigate how other colleges and universities are dealing with tighter budgets, and what methods have solved their problems.

Old Business:

Homecoming was brought to the floor for discussion next. A schedule of events was presented for the Board to comb through. There were a few additions and corrections made. They can be found on the attached schedule document. It was also suggested that at the Cruise-In we have a donation jar for either the Alumni Association or the Annual Fund. It was decided that the alumni board would wear their red polo shirts, to be ordered, on Friday and Saturday. Each member would be present at a different event as a point of contact for any alumni or visitor that may need help. Board members should notify Joshua Cline of their shirt sizes so that shirts may be ordered promptly.

New Business:

New business discussed at the beginning of the meeting was the need for the Alumni Association to help open doors for the Admissions counselors. Marcialyn Ellis-Miller brought up the hidden market in homeschool networks. It was discussed that each member brings names forward for the Admissions Office to explore in the homeschooling network throughout Virginia. School names brought to the floor include: Westminster Academy in Richmond, Virginia; Northcross Academy in Roanoke; Roanoke Catholic in Roanoke; and Gateway Academy in Blacksburg. Joshua Cline agreed to bring the issue forward to Mark Hipes, Director for Traditional Admissions.

Shirley Meador made mention of the difficulty in reserving a room for Homecoming at the Comfort Inn. Joshua Cline agreed to check on it once back in Bluefield.

The next meeting time was set for 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning of Homecoming, October 16 in the Student Activities Center in Shott Hall. This is the left wing of the building if you are facing it.

David Armbrister motioned for an adjournment, Sharon Knick seconded the motion, all approved. The meeting was adjourned with prayer by David Armbrister, and Board members were encouraged join in at the Roanoke/Salem Alumni Gathering at the Salem Red Sox game.

Minutes taken and submitted by: Joshua Cline