



Geneva Alumni Council

Abridged Minutes of the Regular Meeting for Web

February 19, 2011

Attendance

Council Members:

Wendy Allman ('91), President
Ted Kay ('71), Past President
Barry Davis ('75), Vice President
Trudi Dunlap ('99), Secretary
Bruce Backensto ('69), *ex officio* Trustee representative
Melanie Katip, *ex officio* Alumni Relations Representative
Carolyn Mollenkopf ('62)
Tom Pyle ('09)
Gwen Ward ('11), *ex officio* GCSU representative
Janet Wise ('64)

Guests:

Ken Smith ('80), Geneva College President
Jeff Jones, Vice President for Institutional Advancement
Craig Waller ('98)
Lynn Dobi ('82)
Donna Vohar ('83)
Katie Rhodes ('07)

Absent with regrets:

Jeff Barnes (ADCP '01, MSOL '07)
Anne Harper ('81)
Jody Raeford (MSOL'07)

Note: The following is an abridged version of the minutes approved by the Council via e-mail in March 2011.

1. Welcome, introductions, and devotions

Wendy called the meeting to order, and the Council members and guests introduced themselves. Barry opened in prayer.

Guests joining the Council meeting were:

- Lynn Dobi ('82) from the Erie area
- Donna Vohar ('83), currently living in Economy, Beaver County
- Katie Rhodes ('07), currently living in Beaver Falls

The guests have been invited to the meeting as candidates to join the Council for the term beginning June 1, 2011. Each provided biographical information and spoke briefly about their interest in serving the College.

2. Overview of Council History

Wendy provided an overview of the Council's history and activities and described the Student-Alumni Connection program and gave anecdotes about the program's success.

3. Updates

A. President's Update

President Smith provided an update on the year to date. While the College's operational activities have been positive, there have been some issues on campus that have drawn concern, including the death of an assistant football coach and disappearance of a freshman student. Smith reported

that he and his leadership group are seeking to develop strategies for systems within the institution.

B. Institutional Advancement Update

Jeff Jones reported on fundraising and staffing for the Institutional Advancement area:

- Fundraising: so far, results are positive, and the College is on track with goals for this year.
- Staffing: several changes have taken place within the Institutional Advancement office, and several vacation positions are in the process of being filled, including the Director of Alumni Relations position. For this position, the search committee has narrowed the search to three candidates and hope to have someone in the position soon.
- Jeff requested that the Council provide input regarding the Alumni Prize. Nominations for the prize come from the faculty, and the prize will be awarded at commencement.

C. Alumni Relations Update

Melanie provided an update on alumni relations activities and a calendar of upcoming events. A discussion of Homecoming 2011 ensued, and Wendy requested that a representative from the events staff attend the next Council meeting.

D. Geneva College Student Union Update

Gwen provided an update that the GCSU continues to develop its stewardship initiatives, with emphasis on recycling, energy conservation, and reducing and eliminating waste.

Gwen also reported that the Class of 2011 is in the process of finalizing its senior gift to the College. The seniors are planning to provide a 6' tornado statue build by engineering students.

4. Geneva Tech

Craig Waller ('98), a patent and trademark attorney based in Pittsburgh, formed Geneva Tech, a LinkedIn group that highlights the success stories of technology-focused alumni, most of whom are in the Pittsburgh area. The group currently has 60 members and held its first in-person event in late 2010.

Craig reported that Geneva Tech is organized by alumni for alumni and provides engagement for its members from outside the Geneva institutional structure. He is looking to develop a more formal committee structure within the group and would like to develop quarterly meetings and activities, but would like to keep the group independent of the College.

5. Committee Updates

- **Networking Committee:** Jody was absent and no report was provided.
- **Advancement Committee:** Carolyn reported that she will be holding a teleconference soon to discuss recognition levels for donors.
- **Nominating Committee:** Wendy reported that the Life G will be awarded to J. Paul McCracken ('51).

6. Distinguished Service Award

Wendy reported that the DSA will now be awarded at Homecoming 2011 and that nominations are encouraged from "reunion years" more than ten years out from graduation (e.g., 2001, 1996, 1991, 1986, etc.). The deadline for the 2011 DSA nominations is May 31.

Wendy asked the group to suggest ways in which the award nominations could be publicized. The

group suggested:

- Targeted e-mails
- Inclusion in monthly e-mailed newsletter
- Inclusion in future Geneva magazines (for 2012 awards and beyond)
- Class officer contacts

7 Excusing of guests

Wendy excused Lynn, Donna, and Katie from the meeting with the thanks of the Council.

9. Open Forum

Historical Marker: Barry asked if the College could re-visit the idea of requesting a historical marker for the campus. He also asked if the College would re-visit recognizing the life and service of Joseph Thompson (1901), veteran and winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Founders' Day: The Alumni Council may need to provide a representative to speak as part of the Founders' Day activities. Wendy and Trudi volunteered to assist if needed.

10. Adjournment

Wendy adjourned the meeting.