UNIAA Virtual Fall Board
Meeting
October 16, 2020

Board Members Present Virtually: Debora Blume, Courtney Chabot-Dreyer (only in 1st session), Drew Conrad, Victoria Crouse, Rachel Greene, Eric Hackman, Jerry Harris, Michele Haupt, Steve Jackson, Jason Lau, Kevin Mote, Joe Murphy, Beth Primrose, Kevin Saville, Taylor Shipley, Coree Smith, Kay Smith, Therese Stevens, Dustin Toale

Staff Members Present: Christy Danielsen, Ryan England, Amy Mohr, Leslie Prideaux, Amy Tagtow

Presentation by President Nook, Provost Wohlpart, Jennifer Waldron--University updates
Cassie Mathes and Jess Betts - Branding updates

Fall meeting was called to order at 10:52 a.m. by UNIAA Board Chair, Kevin Mote.

Spring 2020 Meeting Minutes:
Leslie Prideaux asked if there were any questions or corrections to the April 2020 meeting minutes.

Drew Conrad motioned to approve the minutes from the April 2020 meeting. Michele Haupt seconded. Unanimous approval.

August/September Financial Review:
Ryan England presented the financials. He noted that we have only spent around $4,000. Leslie Prideaux noted we are doing quite well with engagement, even though we are not spending money. Leslie stated that our efforts have leveraged virtual engagement, thus creating cheaper options of engaging with our alumni. Drew Conrad asked if we were only taking a draw this fiscal year if we have to? Leslie Prideaux answered that we would like to have it sit in there as long as possible. Ryan reported that the audit is just about finished.

Kevin Mote asked for a motion to approve the financials. Beth Primrose made a motion. Michele Haupt seconded. Unanimous approval.

ByLaws Revisions:
Kevin Mote presented the By-Law Amendments revisions of Article II, Section 2 and Article X, Section 1. Leslie Prideaux summarized the revisions to note that the board can now meet virtually, as well as, in person, if the situation presents itself. Also, if the dissolution were to take place, the funds from the alumni association would be for alumni programming only under the UNI Foundation. Leslie Prideaux ensured that if we were to go the direction of the merge, we would still maintain our separate identity as an alumni association.

Drew Conrad put forth a motion to approve the changes. Coree Smith seconded. Unanimous approval.
Staff Report:
Leslie Prideaux gave a brief summary of her role since our last meeting. Leslie is amping up our social media presence due to the Tuesday Talk and Five Question Friday videos that are coming out each week. She reported we have been hearing a lot of great feedback from alumni who are enjoying the content. Leslie Prideaux is also working on the new magazine and is planning for it to hit mailboxes in February 2021.

Amy Mohr provided that the upside of COVID-19 in her work has been that she is able to really take a deeper dive into the metrics. Amy Mohr has been focused on data collection and data surveys for experiential data of volunteerism and communication.

Christy Danielsen reported that since we are not able to hold in-person events this year, our team has pivoted to online and virtual events. Christy Danielsen has hosted TC’s tailgate, which had great pre-registration participants. However, a couple of days prior to the event, the derecho came through Iowa and really took a hit on Iowa and our registrants due to power and internet outages. The attendance was down from the numbers previously expected, but we still showed a great turnout. Christy Danielsen reported we were able to send out a recording on the event to those who were unable to attend. Christy Danielsen is also working on the GBPAC backstage tour, which should be a great event where the executive director will give a tour of the facilities and answer questions submitted by our registrants. Christy Danielsen is also working on an insurance project for the alumni association, plus online trivia questions for our alumni on our social media platforms. The Phoenix Club launch is postponed until either next Fall or January 2022.

Leslie Prideaux announced Amy Tagtow was promoted and her new role is now Clerk IV and will serve as the CATS Advisor. Amy Tagtow gave an update on the CATS. Amy Tagtow reported that the main focus of the organization this semester was to focus on connecting with alumni. The CATS will host a few virtual events to include the UNI student body with an alumni speaker to lead discussions on topics including human resources, real estate and graduate school. The CATS will also be paired up with an alum who best fits their major to network and ask questions during our alumni connection night that will take place a handful of times over the semester via Zoom. The CATS added 9 new members to the organization this semester. Amy Tagtow reported the CATS are trying to amp up the Traditions Challenge and will partner with University Relations to promote Traditions Thursdays to their social media. Beth Primrose asked if the mentorship program was still taking place? Amy Tagtow responded that yes, it is still taking place and that they should be hearing from their mentees soon. A mentor/mentee virtual night may also be in the works to take place over the winter break.

Drew Conrad asked a question regarding the spring homecoming and if it was still taking place? Leslie Prideaux responded that April 10, 2021 is penciled in and that she has been working with student life, among other offices at UNI to plan.
Kevin Mote asked how are the students coping on campus? Rachel Greene, our student representative reported that students are coping as best as they can, but they are dealing with college life in a whole new way as before.

**Merge Discussion:**

Kevin Mote reported that the primary motivation of a potential merge is cost savings. Leslie Prideaux reported that our organization is under the Advancement umbrella. This change is a legal change for the board. This will help us financially, with efficiencies, with 990’s, audits, and bookkeeping. Leslie and the ad hoc committee met earlier this week to discuss the options of the merge. There are 3 ways of the potential merge that the board could go and we just need to make sure we choose the right path for our needs. We will want an alumni board member on the foundation board as a representative and there would be a memorandum of understanding.

Debora Blume posed a question about what if Jim Jermier leaves the UNI Foundation? If so, will we be putting ourselves in a bad situation? Leslie responded we will make sure to have this written into our memorandum of understanding (MOU) and contracts. Leslie Prideaux reiterated that Jim Jermier is supportive of this merger and wants to ensure that the UNIAA is the driver of this and that we are comfortable with the plans. Kevin Mote made a comment that we are at the mercy of the foundation right now and that we will need to have some sort of dictation saying we want to remain our autonomy. Drew Conrad also commented that having the MOU will help strengthen our voice. Kay Smith asked will we have to have any approval for events and expenses? Leslie Prideaux answered with an example that the stewardship team puts together events and then the management team goes over the expenses and then figures out how to disperse the funds and which investments make the most sense. Coree Smith asked if there would be separate legal counsel than that of the UNI Foundation side? Leslie Prideaux reported they have been working with Kyle Fogt and he will acquire colleagues about the best path forward. Coree Smith shared from her legal expertise that a MOU is not always rock solid, so we will need to make sure we have legal counsel with a lot of legal experience and knowledge to present and prepare our documents. Debora Blume asked if we get into this and then decide it is not working, can we get out? Coree Smith responded that there is always a way to get out of it, we just need to be clear in the legal counsel. Leslie Prideaux said to expect to discuss this process further in December for our executive committee call.

**Wrap Up:**

Kevin Mote made a note about the Pawprint challenge. Allyson Rafanello will join our December executive call and will discuss the student emergency fund. Kevin Mote wondered how is the panther pantry messaged out to students? Leslie Prideaux commented that Connie Hansen manages the project and gets the word out via social media, newsletter, etc.

Leslie Prideaux wondered the date for the next board meeting and whether we’ll be able to meet in-person or virtual again? If homecoming is indeed April 10, 2021, is there a preference holding the meeting on homecoming weekend, Friday or Saturday? A poll will be sent out with the minutes.
Drew Conrad made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Beth Primrose seconded. Unanimous approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.