

SLIS Alumni Board Meeting Minutes November 14, 2006

The meeting commenced in the Stone Room in Marist Hall at 6 p.m. In attendance: Jerome Offord, Jeff Prater, Kathy Kelly, Margaret Weatherford, Dean Marty Hale, Marion Gosney of the CUA Office of Alumni Relations and Kathy Ennis of the CUA Office of Development. Stephanie Salmon, Larry Roeder, Cristina Ramirez and Linda Hasman called in. Barrie Howard called in at 6 p.m., but left the call after waiting for a long period for the onsite attendees to join the call; there was some confusion about the start time of the meeting, and onsite attendees did not have a password for the teleconferencing equipment until Marion Gosney arrived. Jerome Offord noted that all meetings would commence at 6:30 p.m. from now on.

Marion Gosney spoke about roles and responsibilities of ideal alumni board members. She noted board members should be representative of alums from several decades in various fields with diversity of race, gender, etc.; that the SLIS alumni board is not a governing board, but a group of volunteers who help support priorities of SLIS and act as a sounding board for initiatives developed by the Dean's office; that the board is not a fundraising arm of the School (this is covered by an advisory board created by the Dean and the Development officer assigned to the School); that SLIS alumni board members should help the dean reach out to other SLIS alumni by getting contact info and career info, identifying alumni who could help students with internships and jobs, finding out from fellow alumni what they could do for the school and what their expectations of SLIS are now that they are alumni; identifying fellow alumni who would make good speakers; recommending CUA to contacts; promoting events planned by the School and attending events.

Gosney suggested that the SLIS Alumni Board not spend time on overhauling the Constitution and Bylaws at this time. Kathy Kelly noted that this would be a change of course, since it was agreed at a previous meeting that a small Bylaws Committee would work to revise the Constitution and Bylaws. Larry Roeder also suggested there is a need to work on the Bylaws, noting that organizations which don't achieve a workable set of bylaws (e.g. defining how decisions are taken, by vote or by consensus), will often have governance problems. Any incorporated entity in Washington, D.C. is also required to have bylaws. Larry lamented that the Constitution and Bylaws Committee has not met as scheduled and recommended that it do so.

Gosney also noted it is helpful to send out meeting agenda items at least 24 hours before the meeting, and to send out meeting minutes within a week after a meeting.

Kathy Ennis of the Office of Development explained that she works with SLIS to raise money for the school, and that she works in partnership with CUA's Office of Alumni Relations, but has a different role. She noted that the Schools on campus have Development Boards, and that the role of these boards is to fundraise. They look for major donors (\$2,500 or more annually) to be members and to introduce the Development Office to potential donors, either Alumni or Corporate.

Participants discussed the ALA June 21-26, 2007 meeting in DC as an opportunity to recapture and reclaim SLIS alumni, noting further discussion would be needed to plan whether to participate in a library schools' reunion at the event or to do a separate reunion for CUA SLIS alumni at a restaurant in town.

Participants noted that Stephanie Salmon will remain a Board member, but resigns at Outreach contact. Margaret Weatherford offered to assume the Outreach contact role. It was noted that this info should be changed by Stephanie's and Margaret's names on the Alumni Board webpage.

It was agreed that Jerome Offord would put together a draft vision statement to circulate to the Board; the vision statement would provide some information about the nature of the Board, and possibly serve as a document that could feed into a later revision of Bylaws, whenever that might be.

It was noted that the Board would need to come up with a date and a speaker for the Stone Lecture, to be held sometime in April 2007. Stephanie Salmon noted that Barrie had sent an email noting he would not be able to work on the Stone Lecture for the next week or so while he is tied up with a transition at his place of work.

Kathy Kelly reported on Events, discussing some matters related to the Oct. 14, 2006 SLIS 25th anniversary tea at the O Street Mansion. She noted that CUA Magazine would run a short news article on the tea in their Spring 07 issue, that she had lent a CD with images to Public Affairs in support of this, and that Stephanie was trying to obtain the statement read by Mathilde Rovelstadt upon receiving her award. Kathy noted that Stephanie could submit her receipt for the award plaque to the School for reimbursement. Stephanie noted that older alumni who attended the tea were very touched by the award, and she thinks the Board should continue providing awards on various occasions in the future. Marty Hale provided Kathy with color printouts of some images of photos taken at the Tea, for inclusion in the memory books.

It was decided that Board meetings should be held bimonthly instead of quarterly. Next meetings are scheduled for: **January 23, 2007, March 27, 2007, and May 22, 2007**. It was noted that elections can be held at the end of the academic year, and a new board could start in August 2007.

The holiday party details were discussed: it is scheduled for Dec. 7th, 4-8 p.m in the Information Commons in Marist Hall, and eggnog and cookies will be served. The event will be sponsored by the School and co-sponsored by the SLIS Alumni Assn.

Jerome Offord noted that a 2 day symposium on research library issues in Seattle in January 2007 may offer another opportunity to network with SLIS alumni.

Kathy noted she would send the Board the URL for CUA's Notable Alumni page, and Jerome Offord noted he would design a card to collect SLIS notable alumni names that

attendees of the upcoming SLIS holiday party could recommend. The Board plans to make a decision on whom to nominate for the CUA Alumni Achievement Award in January 2007.

There was some discussion of challenges related to the maintenance of the slisalum-l listserv. Marty noted Ja'nice Wisdom handles adding people to the list and referring their info to the Office of Alumni Relations. Other participants proposed that blogs and wikis might be employed in the future. There was some discussion of delays related to the need to deal with the university's CPIT office on web site matters. Marty noted Ja'nice Wisdom cannot be expected to post things for the Alumni Board promptly due to other priorities the School must often respond to first.

Marty Hale noted that there is a document on the accreditation issue going to the ALA Committee on Accreditation on December 1st, and that SLIS will meet with the Committee in Seattle in January.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.