Alumni Executive Committee Meeting – April 9, 2019

Present: Thayer Miller, President; Robert Geraci, 1st Vice President; Gary Lipp, 2nd Vice President; John Bartow, Secretary-Treasurer; Gail Romano, and Norman Roth.

Also Attending: Debbie Caviness and Nichole Dougherty.

T. Miller called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. in 217 Bray Hall. J. Bartow moved that the minutes from the March 7, 2019 meeting of the Executive Committee be accepted. G. Lipp seconded, B. Geraci abstained as he had to leave the March meeting early, all others approved.

President’s Comments: T. Miller reported that the Class of 1951 Scholarship Committee completed their selections on Saturday, April 6th. They selected one sophomore; Brandy Shukatis, three juniors; Lexi Chipules, Donella Monk, and Rosemary Adrat; and two seniors; Emily Saraiva and Sarah Liddell. She also shared some thank you notes from last year’s recipients. She reported that she had participated in the Board Retreat via conference call, noting that it was a successful work session. T. Miller announced that the Ranger School Alumni Association (RSAA) still does not have a signed contract with SUNY and that the Association has been contacted to potentially assist in the process of bringing the RSAA into compliance. T. Miller noted that the RSAA is separate 501C3 and has been in existence since 1928. The College has requested a meeting with the RSAA and will most likely be requesting the assistance of the ESF Alumni Association and/or the Alumni Office to support the RSAA as they work to becoming compliant with SUNY as well as the current nonprofit laws.

Treasurer’s Report: J. Bartow reviewed the third quarter budget reporting that in comparison to last year at this time, expenses are up significantly and income is down, he noted that dues payers and life memberships have been steadily decreasing over the past several years and that a restructuring of dues was discussed by the strategic planning committee. J. Bartow and D. Caviness noted that in comparison to the budget, the income and expenses are on target and is expected to balance out by the end of the fiscal year B. Geraci moved to approve the treasurer’s report. N. Roth seconded, all approved.

Alumni Director Comments: D. Caviness reported that she attended a meeting regarding the Marshall Hall renovation and that all occupants are expected to be relocated by May of 2020. OCC and the former Levy School are possibilities for swing space during the renovation. The budget for the renovation is $35 million and will be a complete renovation of the entire building; the only things that will definitely remain are the spiral staircase and the interior of the main entrance. They will be keeping the stained glass window currently located in Nifkin Lounge and the furniture that the Alumni Association
helped to fund will be used elsewhere on campus. It was noted that Marshall Hall currently holds 1/3 of the classrooms on campus and the renovated Marshall Hall will be the home of the Department of Landscape Architecture, Department of Environmental Studies, and the College’s general education classes. D. Caviness reported that there is $36,250 available in this year’s Alumni Association earnings and expendables account and presented two requests for funding; Paul Hai has requested funding for the Dirty Life Panel (see attached for description and budget information). D. Caviness noted that live streaming the presentation and subsequent panel would provide a way to include/engage alumni in ESF earth week events. G. Romano motioned to fund up to $400 for live streaming of the Dirty Life Project Presentation and panel. G. Lipp seconded, all approved. The ESF Athletics Hall of Fame has requested funding for the production of an ESF Hall of Fame video for the next three years. The proposal was discussed at the ESF alumni board retreat and was not selected as one of the projects to fund. D. Caviness requested that the Executive Committee consider an amended request for funding for $3,000 which would cover the cost for the video production for the first year. She noted that the Athletics Hall of Fame will likely provide a nice partnership for homecoming and help bring young alumni back to campus. B. Geraci motioned to fund one year of the ESF Athletics Hall of Fame video for approximately $3,000. G. Lipp seconded, G. Romano questioned if there was any concern regarding funding a project that was not selected during the retreat, it was discussed that the projects selected during the retreat were to be funded during the 2019-2020 fiscal year. All approved funding for one year of the ESF Athletics Hall of Fame video (approximately $3,000).

Old Business:

A. Outstanding Service Award: D. Caviness announced that there were two nominations for the outstanding service award; Thayer Miller and Kevin Reynolds. It was noted that the Alumni Association President is usually honored after completion of their service. The Committee reviewed the nomination information for Kevin Reynolds (see attached). G. Romano motioned to honor Kevin Reynolds with the ESF Alumni Association Outstanding Service Award. G. Lipp seconded, all approved.

B. Board Retreat Report: D. Caviness reviewed the board retreat results noting that the assigned allocations were very rough estimates and that associated costs would be further investigated and then presented to the Finance Committee. She also commented that she met with the Moon Library Director, Matt Smith, and that currently Moon does not have a need for additional portable charging stations as they had just received several. She also reported that the Alumni Office has met with two companies regarding the development of an Alumni App with one quoting approximately $10,000/year and the other $6,500/year.
New Business:

A. Audit Committee Report: N. Roth reported that the Audit Committee met and reviewed three audit proposals; he reminded the Committee that the Association has to switch auditors every five years. The Audit Committee found that each of the proposals was similar and they selected Cuomo, Winters & Schmidt as they were the low bid. N. Roth commented that it is important to have a different company conducting the Alumni Association and the College Foundation’s audits.

B. Strategic Planning Report: J. Bartow reported that the Strategic Planning Committee met earlier in the day to review the 2019-2020 yearly action plan, he noted that this is the 4th year of the 5 year strategic plan and that no major changes were made. There were some recommended actions in which no progress was made that were removed and social media actions have been added to several of the goals. He also noted that the Strategic Planning Committee discussed a restructuring of the alumni dues that will include recurring and installment payments, removing the free years for new alumni and a flat rate for lifetime memberships. The 2019-2020 yearly action plan will be emailed to the Executive Committee to review before the May meeting.

C. Alumni Memorial Scholarship Update: G. Romano reported for the Alumni Memorial Scholarship Committee noting that there was a small group of sophomores, none of whom were particularly outstanding but that the juniors, seniors and graduated students contained some remarkable applicants. The Committee discussed the rubric and weight of some parts of the application. D. Caviness reported that the recipients have been notified and the Alumni Office has heard back from several regarding their attendance at the CNY Dinner.

D. Graduates of Distinction: D. Caviness reported that the Alumni Office has not received any new nominations for the 2019 Graduates of Distinction Awards. She noted that the selection committee would like to give two of the 2018 nominees the Lifetime and Notable Achievement awards for 2019. The Alumni Office will continue to solicit for nominations and will need to select a recipient for the Incipiens Quercu category.

E. Other Items from the Committee: B. Geraci thanked the Alumni Association for the plant that was sent for the memorial service for his mother.

F. Next Meeting: May 8 @ 12pm (Before Champagne Toast) J. Bartow & G. Lipp will not be available to attend.

Adjournment: J. Bartow moved to adjourn the meeting. G. Romano seconded, all approved. Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.