Alumni Society Executive Board
Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2020

Board Members in Attendance: Eric Spieler D’84; Pam Alberto D’80; Judy Bendit DH’81; Hope Berman C’77, D’83; L. Bui D’18; Larry Chacker D’85; Scott Chanin D’83; Gail Speigel Cohen C’76, D’80; Keith Dunoff D’84; Lee Durst D’83; Alyssa Marlin Greenberger D’02; Wendy Halpern D’99, GD’02, GD’03; Sehe Han D’8; JV Kracke D’17; Daniel Kubikian D’01, GD’04, GD’05; Bernard Kurek D’73, WMP’03; Bret Lesavoy D’19; Rachel Levarek D’11; Ngozi Okoh D’12; Trevan Samp D’14; Josh Simpson D’16; Matt Sones D’12; Gary Wegman D’83; Michael Yasner C’79, D’83, GD’84, GD’86

Administration and Guests in Attendance: Mark Wolff, Morton Amsterdam Dean; Elizabeth Ketterlinus, Vice Dean, Institutional Advancement; Maren Gaughan, Associate Dean for Leadership Giving; Sarah Burton Flynn, Director, Strategic Development & Alumni Relations; Megan Connolly, Assistant Director of Events; Yarrow Randall, Development Assistant; Cindy Choi, President of the Student Executive Council; Steven Ryoo, President of the Class of 2020; Neel Shah, President of the Class of 2021; Kevin Franz, President of the Class of 2022; Eric Verdeyen, President of the Class of 2023

Meeting was called to order at 3:38 P.M.

I. Welcome and President’s Report- Dr. Eric Spieler
   a. Approving the last meeting’s minutes
      i. Poll – 100% approval

II. By-Laws Discussion and Vote – Mike Yasner, Scott Chanin, Josh Simpson
      i. Walked through the changes and rationale
         1. Any accredited program – allow for all alumni in the future and past programs.
         2. Alumni Relations Office is working to include all Honorary Alumni in meetings.
         3. Notice of meetings limit lowered – due to increased connectivity
         4. Changed wording to increase allowances for how meetings can happen (virtual, phone, etc.)
5. Increased quorum to 11 because we now have 30 board members.  
   – Maintain the same ratio.
6. Removed Secretary-Treasurer because there hasn’t been one in about 7 years. Allowed for a position to be added.
7. Awards committee- shorter time frame due to increased communication capabilities.
8. Added the Young Alumni Award of Merit and the Honorary Alumni Award of Merit descriptions.
   ii. Michael Yasner motion to approve the by-laws.
      1. Poll – 100% approval

III. Dean’s Message – Dean Mark Wolff
   a. March 13 was the last day of normal clinical operations for the School.
      i. Transitioned to emergency care only for patients of record.
      ii. Pennsylvania required very restrictive measures in order to continue operating. Dean Wolff and the other deans of the PA dental schools lobbied Harrisburg to allow emergency care to remove patients from already crowded emergency rooms.
   b. March 30, able to open again for non-aerosol producing procedures only. Continued with our robust teledentistry program. Determine how best to proceed with each case.
      i. 12-25 patients per day. 40-50 calls per day.
      ii. Patients of record only at this time.
      iii. 350-400 patients since the shut down
   c. Working on CODA.
      i. Clinical Competency exams – only 12 students were fully complete with their requirements.
         1. Need to make the case that a student examination on a non-clinical exam can be the same as a clinic competency.
         2. 2 faculty to one student oral examinations. Radiographs and health history involved in the examination.
         3. Objective Standardized Clinical Examinations – with this, 75% of the senior class will be able to finish their requirements in time for graduation in May.
      ii. Maintaining our standard of competency and education.
   d. Everyone has been amazing at working with all of these changes.
      i. A huge “Thank You” to many faculty members.
         1. Joan Gluch is keeping up with the required paperwork and changing paperwork associated with CODA.
         2. Najeed Saleh is working on maintaining our Clinical abilities and managing our volunteers.
         3. Uri Hangorsky is doing an amazing job working to support our students in this tumultuous time.
         4. Faizan Alawi has been incredibly flexible in managing student schedules and the academic rigor of the School.
      ii. Producing large amounts of Continuing Education and opening up our expertise to the entire dental community.
1. Chair’s Lecture Series
   e. This has been a great opportunity for him to interact with Deans across the country. Increased relationships with the dental community.
   f. We are losing about $6 Million in terms of emergency care, loss of income from clinics and increase in cost to provide care.
   g. We will have changed infection control procedures at the entire School
      i. Increase air exchange to 8 times an hour in order to limit spread of the virus.
      ii. Keep your mask on inside the building (everyone)
      iii. Tele-screen in advance of arriving at the school. 3 questions and a temperature check for everyone (including staff) at the door.
      iv. Increased sanitation and cleaning.
      v. Developing physical barriers between patients and staff.
   h. How are we going to find enough specialist cases for our residents? We’re in a recession and people may not elect to have procedures completed.
      i. Will likely rely more heavily on our community partnerships for basic student experiences.
   i. Recognize that PDM was able to deliver emergency care, full education to our students, leading the way for clinical exams, redesigning curriculum in the new world of COVID-19. We have been leaders in all of this. We are much better prepared than many other Schools.
   j. Judy Bendit – Will the Care Center for Persons with Disabilities continue as planned?
      i. The University is limiting spending for FY2021.
      ii. We are able to put out a bid for construction.
         1. PDM was able to argue that we have the money already.
         2. Hopefully yes, truthfully unknown.
   k. Pam Alberto – What is happening with ADEX?
      i. Other 2 PA schools already completed their exams. We were scheduled to have the exam the weekend after we closed.
         1. They do not know how it is going to proceed.
      ii. Our students have completed the Prosthodontics, Endodontics, and OSCE style treatment planning. They still have more to complete.
      iii. Argued to the PA State Secretary that these students should be board certified in PA. – Does not seem to have landed on receptive ears…
   l. Bret Lesavoy – Are you going to adjust tuition and fees?
      i. No extraordinary increase. The typical 2-3% increase.
   m. Pam Alberto – What about D4s and residencies?
      i. If a student graduates and haven’t finished a case, they will be enrolled in a Continuing education course.
      ii. We will do anything we can to support them – legally.
      iii. All of our recent graduates get 5 years of free Continuing Education.
      iv. Plan to have our students out in time. Military and most residencies are understanding of the circumstances.
   n. Daniel Kubikian – Do you know how/when practitioners will receive guidelines on treatment?
i. Guidance potentially will come out in the next few weeks.
ii. N95 masks are likely to be the recommendation – be careful of what you are purchasing.
  o. Lee Durst - Who will do triage when school opens?
     i. Phone – students and residents
     ii. In person – staff/faculty

IV. Development Report & Activities – Maren Gaughan and Sarah Flynn
   a. As soon as the clinics closed and we moved remote, Development suspended all active and passive solicitation.
   b. Continuing Education picked up
   c. Clinical Emergency Fund is now up to donate to our current needs and any future needs.
      i. Used for PPE and technology updates…
   d. We will begin our year-end solicitation with a softer message.
   e. Pledge payment reminders will start up again in the next few weeks. – Giving everyone information about our needs while also acknowledging the difficult circumstances everyone is facing.

V. Old Business – Maren Gaughan
   a. Alumni profile section of the website is a continuing project that we are actively working on.
   b. A virtual Alumni Weekend and Commencement, nothing concrete as of yet.
   c. Alumni Survey is a valuable resource for CODA and the Alumni Relations office. Please complete it.
   d. You can make a 5 second video for Senior Farewell – due by April 24.

VI. New Business – Eric Spieler
   a. Student dinners – virtual
      i. Zoom meetings. Answer questions and connect with graduating students.
      ii. Lee- Assign all students to board members check in on them as well.
   b. Licensure by Credentials
      i. Get involved in pressuring our states to approve licensure by credentials.
      ii. Work with other alumni boards – other schools.
   c. Scott Chanin - Share sources of PPE and other information in the “new normal” with alumni.

VII. Student Reports
   a. Kevin Franz, Class of 2022 President
      i. An abrupt transition for everyone. Received the closure announcement while they were on spring break.
      ii. Difficult to get back to Philadelphia or wherever they needed to be.
      iii. Now settled in and have been remote for 5 weeks. Spread out across the United States.
      iv. Margaret Yang and Student Affairs started an outreach initiative. Each class was split up between representatives to check in on every classmate.
         1. Some students have been directly affected by COVID-19.
      v. Curriculum has sped up, because they are not able to do clinical activities and increase availability when we return.
vi. Combining exams for different classes. Two or three exams at a time, which is stressful. Helps to integrate the material together.

b. Eric Verdeyen, Class of 2023 President
   i. Similar modifications to schedule. Block schedule previously, so the exams being together isn’t a huge change.
   ii. By the end of this year, they will finish two of the D2 classes.
   iii. As of right now, they still get a summer – many are hoping to do research.
   iv. Spirits are pretty high. Had a Class Happy Hour over Bluejeans. Social Chair put together t-shirts to raise funds and baby photo guessing game.
   v. Looking forward to getting back into the lab.

c. Steven Ryoo, Class of 2020 President and Cindy Choi, Student Exec Council
   i. Graduation requirements
      1. The school has been quick to adapt and allow for clinic hours.
      2. Able to do CCE hours virtually. Competencies judged through case history, prep options and provisionals. Not the best, but a solution.
      3. About 30 students who still need to complete work to qualify as graduates of Penn Dental. Dean and School have been very transparent.
   ii. Part of a class leader Facebook group across the US.
      1. Penn is making changes before waiting to hear from CODA.
   iii. Online lectures – students are actively participating. Taking advantage of virtual learning opportunities.
   iv. Licensure
      1. Encouraging writing congress and state boards for virtual licensure.
      2. State board needs to accept typo-dont exams.
      3. Increased advocacy.
   v. School is providing regalia and custom Penn Dental diploma frames as a celebration of their hard work.
      1. Trying to find a way to celebrate in person when it is appropriate.
   vi. The University has been trying to be aware of mental health. Giving people more support virtually.

d. Neel Shah, Class of 2021 President
   i. Waiting to get back to clinical education.
   ii. School has been very transparent about increased protocol on clinical experiences
   iii. Case presentations, and OSCE-type experiences to make up for clinical experience.

VIII. Scott Chanin motion to adjourn 5:33PM. Seconded Michael Yasner.