Alumni Society Executive Board
Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2020

Board Members in Attendance: Eric Spieler D’84; Pam Alberto D’80; Hope Berman C’77, D’83; Larry Chacker D’85; Scott Chanin D’83; Keith Dunoff D’84; Andrew Fraser, D’16; Alyssa Marlin Greenberger D’02; Maria Perno Goldie, DH’71; Steve Howarth, D’16; Dan Kubikian D’01, GD’04, GD’05; Rachel Levarek D’11; Shabnam Sedaghat, D’06; Josh Simpson, D’16; Ben Truong, D’19; Gary Wegman D’83; Bob Weiner, C’72, D’79

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; Lindsay Murphy, Assistant Director of Annual Giving; Yarrow Randall, Development Assistant; Kristen Leong, President of the Student Executive Council; 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 6:35 P.M.

I. Welcome and President’s Report - Dr. Eric Spieler
   a. Dean’s Message – Dr. Mark Wolff
      i. The whole school performed really well during COVID-19 – performing better than peer dental schools (higher patient care capacity) and compared to schools across the University.
         1. We were the first school at Penn to have online learning during the shutdown.
      ii. Continued to expand our research enterprise. 5 active studies related to COVID-19.
iii. Hundreds of hours of free Continuing Education programs available to anyone during COVID-19.

iv. Changed curriculum.
   1. Added 6 new faculty to the Department of Restorative Dentistry.

b. Student Reports
i. Neel Shah, Class of 2021 President.
   1. School opened up as quickly as possible. One of the few Dental Schools open to this capacity.
   2. Getting ready to apply for residencies.
   3. Felt supported by faculty and staff at the School
   4. Curriculum changes have been an adjustment.

ii. Kristen Leong, Executive Student Council
   1. New students are excited to start
   2. Virtual events put on by younger classes is inspiring – trying to promote community and Penn Pride.
   3. Class officer elections are coming up at the end of the month.
   4. Club Fair coming up on October 2 – Website being created.
   5. D3 and D4 students are scheduling patient care. Very excited to rotate through the community sites. Spectrum is the class favorite.
   6. Morale boosting give-aways – ear-savers, reusable cloth face masks, washable scrub caps (upcoming)
   7. Social justice efforts within the students. – Black Lives Matter pins

iii. Kevin Franz, Class of 2022 president
   1. Finished spring semester virtually and returned to Philadelphia in July.
   2. Excited for more hands-on and less lecture.
   3. New clinical format (expanded hours and new faculty) as well as return from quarantine made the transition a little complicated.
   4. Learning patient management.
   5. Finished pre-clinical lab exercises (complete dentures and Endo) during the summer to make up for missed courses due to quarantine
   6. Doing remote lecture-based learning in the AM.

iv. Eric Verdeyen, Class of 2023 president
   1. Ended operative course early due to COVID.
   2. Moved D2 lecture courses to the past spring and then began the Fall with intensive hands-on labs.
   3. Clinic begins at the end of September. Cleanings will hopefully begin at the end of the Fall semester.
   4. Collaborative efforts for fundraising with social justice focus.
   5. Penn Pals – assigned another student to encourage each other.
   6. Summer programs were able to continue remotely.

c. Eric Spieler - Thank you to previous board members who transitioned off the board this year. (Judy Bendit, Stefani Cheung, Gail Spiegel Cohen, Lee Durst, Michael Rulnick, Mana Mozaffarian, Mickey Goldin)
d. Eric Spieler - Welcome to new members (Katherine France, Andrew Fraser, Maria Perno Goldie, Stephen Howarth, Mel Mupparapu, Shabnam Sedaghat

II. Theme for 2020 – Dr. Eric Spieler
   a. Engagement - Connection - How do we engage our people?
   b. Micro-networking – small groups doing activities together
      i. Cooking a recipe
      ii. Painting
      iii. Virtual trivia night – Shabnam Sedaghat
      iv. Alumni-student dinners are a virtual opportunity – Eric Spieler
   c. Eric Spieler – mini-class reunions. Give a date and leave it open.
      i. Maria Perno Goldie – FUN! Look forward to meeting in person. Reach out to her own class to find out their perspective.
   d. D4s seem uncomfortable around residencies. They want to get to the nitty-gritty of alumni’s experience with their programs – Shabnam Sedaghat
      i. Andy Fraser – students asking for mentorship around residency experiences. Specific residency programs.
      ii. Breakout rooms based on geography. Small groups are the focus.
   e. Eric Spieler – create sub-committees for logistics.
   f. Liz Ketterlinus – how to connect with people who aren’t as technologically savvy.

III. Development Report & Activities –
   a. Lindsay Murphy – New Student BBQ
      i. Virtual happy hour.
      ii. Lower attendance rate, however much more engaged students.
      iii. Group activity and then breakout rooms.
         1. Opportunity for good conversation and students were able to ask a lot of questions and make connections with specific alumni (making it easier to reach out in the future).
   b. Liz Ketterlinus
      i. Olivia (admissions) and Mark (Dean) speak to group of Bio-Dent volunteers update about the school.
      ii. Mentor orientation. Update from Mark (Dean) and what the role of a mentor is.
         1. Andy Fraser – students have been reaching out (pre-dent as well as looking to residencies). Residency students interested in one-on-one.
            a. Without opportunity to shadow, students interested in boosting their application – pre-dent advisors at Penn looking for alumni mentors.
         2. Scott Chanin – Shadowing-style opportunities with alumni for recent graduates in place of residency or GPR. (Hygiene work, practice management, etc.)
            a. Can make use of our job board on our website.
            b. Maria Perno Goldie is a resource for dental hygienists.
   c. Sarah Burton Flynn
      i. Alumni Survey – nearly 1,000 alumni participated.
1. Continuing Education – appreciated opportunities during COVID and beyond.
2. Penn's Pre-Health Post-Bacc Program is looking for PDM alumni interested in speaking (virtually) to pre-dental students. To be connected with the advisor, please reach out to Sarah at sburton@upenn.edu.
   a. Career opportunities page is getting a facelift and becoming more searchable.
4. Maren Gaughan
   i. Changed schedule for these meetings.
      1. Nominations for Alumni Awards available online https://www.alumni.upenn.edu/pdmnominations and need to be in by November 1. Voting at next meeting.
      2. Think about nominations for board members. Vote in April (closer to their start date).
         a. Consider diversity.
      3. All of our events through the Fall semester are virtual. It is very likely that the Spring will also be virtual.
      4. Photos and biographies are due for the website.
   IV. New Business – Eric Spieler
      a. Email Eric if you have new business if you would like to bring it up next meeting.
      b. Gary Wegman is running for Congress.
   V. Alyssa Greenberger motion to adjourn 7:55PM. Seconded Hope Berman.