

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Winants Hall

Rutgers University-New Brunswick

PRESENT: Timothy Farrow, *Chair*, Joe Lemkin, *Vice Chair*, Kim Sciallo, *Corporate Secretary*, Debra O'Neal, *Treasurer*, Donna K. Thornton, *Vice President for Alumni Relations*; Greg Bedard, Julie Bianchini; Neal Collins; Jim Cummings, Michael Esposito; Houshang Parsa; Keanna Ralph; Squire Servance; Iesha Suber; Gloria Vanderham; Mary Clare Venuto; Linda Wray; Ken Johnson

ALSO PRESENT: Nevin Kessler, *Rutgers University Foundation President*; Hilary Cohen, *Senior Director for Events*, Lisa English, *Director, Alumni Relations, RBHS*, Patrice Jaskiewicz, *Executive Assistant*, Tara Kissenberth, *Associate Director for Student Engagement*; Yvette Martinez, *Interim Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations and Senior Director for Volunteer Engagement*, Kristy Omelianuk, *Director, Business Development and Operations*, Scott Owens, *Director, Alumni Relations Rutgers-Camden* Mike Rutkowski, *Director of Events*, Dana Shapiro, *Associate Director of Volunteer Engagement*; Gloria Walker, *Director, Alumni Relations Rutgers-Newark*

EXCUSED: Michael Duncan, Amanda Ebokosia, Charles Spingler

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Tim Farrow, Board Chair.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the March 23, 2017 meeting of the Board was circulated in advance of the meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved following a motion (Jim Cummings) duly seconded (Houshang Parsa).

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S UPDATE (Nevin Kessler)

- Mr. Kessler provided a fundraising update.
- Presently working on a 3-5 year strategic plan.
- Reviewed the Foundation's core purpose.
- Will focus on three priorities with tactics to accomplish goals.
- Mr. Kessler took questions from the board.

CHAIR'S REPORT: (Tim Farrow)

Mr. Farrow thanked all of the outgoing board members and gave recognition to each:

Kim Sciallo - acknowledged as **Outgoing Officer**; Kim will be returning to complete the last year of her 3-year board term.

- Current RUAA ALC Committee Chair; Grants Committee member and Scarlet Council volunteer
- Former RUAA Homecoming Committee, Chair and Member; RUAA Run For Rah, Chair and Member; and Nominations Committee member
- Chartered Group activity: University College New Brunswick Alumni Association (UCNBAA)

Jim Cummings

- Current member of the RUAA ALC Committee; Grants Committee; Committee on Diversity & Inclusion and Scarlet Council Volunteer
- Participates in RU-Newark alumni activities
- Former Alumni Benefits Committee member and At-large member of the Alumni Leaders Council (ALC)
- Jim will be serving a 2-year term as an alumni senator beginning on July 1, 2017

Houshang Parsa

- Current Chair of the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion; Philanthropy Committee member; Nominations Committee member, and Scarlet Council Volunteer
- Former member of RUAA Homecoming and Reunion Committees
- Former Reunion Campaigns Committee Chair for the Class of 1980
- Chartered Group activity: Former Rutgers Alumni Association (RAA) Class Officer
- Inducted as a Loyal Son of Rutgers 2013.
- Houshang will serve a 3-year term as an alumni senator beginning on July 1, 2017

Mary Clare Venuto

- Current member of the RUAA Philanthropy Committee and Committee on Diversity and Inclusion; Chair of the Nominations Committee
- Former member of the Nominations Committee and Rutgers University–Camden Alumni House Fundraising Committee
- Chartered Group activity: Honors College Alumni Association at Camden Co-Founder and member of the Rutgers University Camden Alumni Association

Ken Johnson - This is Mr. Johnson's last year attending board meetings as a chair, Philanthropy Committee.

Incoming Officers 2017-2018:

- Joe Lemkin, Chair
- Debra O'Neal, Vice Chair
- Greg Bedard, Corporate Secretary
- Squire Servance, Treasurer
- Donna Thornton, Vice President for Alumni Relations, Annual Giving and Communications

Incoming Board members:

- Maurita (Rita) W. Bivans CCAS'66, GSE'84, '93
- Francine M. Glaser SAS'15
- Laura Ann Pontelandolfo CLAW'09, GSC'11
- Martin (Marty) A. Siederer LC'77
- Bryan T. Wilson SAS'11, RBS'16

VICE CHAIR'S REPORT (Joe Lemkin)

- Mr. Lemkin thanked Mr. Farrow for his leadership.
- Mr. Lemkin is looking forward to the role as Board Chair.
- The deadline for the Board Evaluation is June 30. Mr. Lemkin reminded all board members to be sure to participate. There have been 14 responses so far.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Donna Thornton)

- Ms. Thornton thanked our outgoing board chair, Tim Farrow for his leadership and many years of service to the RUAA Board. This was followed by a video thank you presentation.
- Following the video presentation, Mr. Farrow thanked everyone and gave his final thoughts.
- Ms. Thornton reported there will be two interns placed in Alumni Relations this summer as part of the new "Futures in Advancement Program".
- Alumni Relations will be moving temporarily to Liberty Plaza in July until Van Nest renovations are completed in early 2018.
- Rutgers-Newark is finalizing the plans for their alumni house and are planning a Fall, 2018 opening.
- In 2018 there will be alumni houses on each of the three university locations.
- Several staff announcements; Kristy Omelianuk received a master's degree from the College of St. Elizabeth.
- Colin von Liebttag was hired as the Assistant Director for Alumni Career Development.
- We are in the process of interviewing candidates for the AVP for Alumni Relations position.
- In Camden there is a search underway for a Vice Chancellor for Advancement.

Board Priority 1: Increase Engagement of Volunteers

REAL Nominees (Greg Bedard)

After the nominees' bios were distributed, Greg Bedard explained each award and the Awards and Recognition Committee selection process. This was followed by Mr. Bedard putting forth the **Resolution to Approve the Recipients of the 2017 Rutgers Excellence in Alumni Leadership (REAL) Awards:**

Individual Awards:

Scarlet Forever Award

Ruth Ann & Carl Burns

DC'67, GSNB'75 & RC'64, GSNB'73

Young Alumni Service Award

Josh Hanson CCAS'08

Volunteer of the Year Award

James Savage AG'71

Charter Group Awards:

Collaboration

Latino Alumni Association of Rutgers University

(LAARU Mentorship Program)

Student Engagement

Rutgers University-Camden Alumni Association

(Alumni Night at the Theatre)

Professional Development

Rutgers Engineering Society

(7th Annual Alternate Energy Symposium)

Community Service

Rutgers Club of Sarasota/Manatee

(Community Holiday Program)

Philanthropy

Rutgers School of Nursing Alumni Association

(RSONAA Awards and Scholarship Gala)

Communications

Rutgers Club of New York City

(Social Media Blitz)

There was a motion to approve the resolution (Squire Servance), seconded (Debra O'Neal) with an opportunity for discussion. The resolution was approved unanimously following a voice vote of all voting members present.

Tim Farrow thanked Greg Bedard and the members of the committee for their work. The nominees will be honored on October 20th.

Inclusion and Diversity Committee Report (Houshang Parsa)

- Mr. Parsa distributed a postcard to the board and explained it is meant to be a messenger device to the RUAA, alumni and charter groups.
- The committee worked by very hard by holding meetings and workshops and partnered with the Communications department to complete. Feedback is welcome.
- Mr. Farrow thanked Mr. Parsa for his service to this committee as the chair.

Alumni Leaders Council Vote Ratification – Kim Sciallo reported the vote closed on June 1. The vote was ratified and the Slates were accepted.

Board Priority 2: *Contribute to the Culture of Philanthropy* (Ken Johnson's Report)

- Provided a year-end overview.
- Much has been accomplished over the past three years; participation by the Alumni Leaders Council is at 50%, a 6% increase and At-Large members are at 63%, a 16% increase.
- Major initiatives have been to increase; participation, communication and awareness, social media/focus days
- Awareness continues to increase.
- The recommendation is to stay the course for ongoing initiatives and to work with the department of Annual Giving to improve participation of younger alumni and to establish a culture of philanthropy for future alumni.

Board Priority 3: *Add Value to the Student Experience*

- Scarlet Council Report – Tara Kissenberth referred to the written report attached to the agenda.

Board Priority 4: *Increase Awareness of the RUAA: No report*

Board Priority 5: *Engage Alumni through Innovative Programs and Events: (Hilary Cohen' Report)*

- Ms. Cohen reported on the metrics of the FY'17 events and reviewed the upcoming signature events for each of the three university units.

Board Priority 6: *Be a Best Practice Business Model: No report*

Board Priority 7: *Supporting the Staff to Better Serve the Alumni Community: No report*

CONSENT AGENDA - MOTION TO ACCEPT WRITTEN REPORTS:

Mr. Farrow reminded the Board that if a Board member would like to discuss any item listed under consent agenda, the item will be removed, at which point the topic will be placed under the New Business section of the agenda.

Tim Farrow called for a motion to accept reports. Motion approved. There was a motion to accept reports (Kim Sciallo), seconded (Squire Servance), with an opportunity for discussion. The written reports were accepted unanimously following a voice vote of all voting members present.

UPCOMING NOTEWORTHY DATES – Tim Farrow provided an update from the list of the upcoming events.

OLD BUSINESS: None presented

NEW BUSINESS: None presented

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None presented

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved (Kim Sciallo) and seconded by (Debra O'Neal). The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:
Kim Sciallo
Corporate Secretary

Prepared by:
Patrice Jaskiewicz
Executive Assistant
Alumni Relations, New Brunswick