
Lycoming College AAE Meeting Spring 2021

Call to order at 10:06 by AAEB Vice President Phil Levesque at 10:06 am.

A meeting of AAEB Spring 2021 was held in person & via Zoom on June 4, 2021. Attendees included Sarah Balduino, Jamie Brown, Robert Burger, Robert Cook, Cassidy Deppen, Mindy Gunn, Len Hahn, Nancy Hoerner, Stacey Kacyon, Kerri Kearney, Jacob Kiessling, Hank Knerr, Phil Levesque, Robert Martin, Charles McCall, Ron McElwee, Brad Myhre, Meagan Montgomery, Ashley Newcomb, Michael Ruddy, Gary Samuels, Jasmine Sanders, Tara Shaffer, Christian Shaffmaster, Brenda Soder, Chris Spadoni, Annie Spencer, Gary Spies, Phil Sunderland, Alexander Towle, Erica Vargo, & Lillian Weekes

Approval of minutes

Fall 2020 meeting minutes were sent to AAEB before our June 4th meeting by Amy Reyes. Phil Levesque motioned for approval with a name correction to Jasmine Sanders; seconded by Gary Spies. Minutes approved.

Reports

Treasurer

Jamie Brown reported that we had a strong year for brick sales regardless of having to go with a new brick company. Amy Reyes expanded on our brick drama & moving to a new company.

Gary Spies asked about last 2 winners of our AAEB student scholarships: Ron Burger's daughter, & Amy Reyes to follow up on recent scholarship awarded.

*Update Olivia Butler '24

Office business: Jamie Brown's term has come to an end. We are taking nominations.

Phil Levesque motioned for report approval; Phil Sunderland approved & Bobby Cook seconded. Report approved.

Recruitment & Recognition

Chair Phil Levesque asked our 5 new members (Mindy Gunn, Jake Kiesling, Megan Montgomery, Ashley Newcomb, Lillian "Cookie" Weekes) to introduce themselves as well as current members.

Alumni Relations

Senior Director Alumni Engagement Amy Reyes began her report reflecting on it being an interesting year; the virtual space allowed us to connect with people like never before.

- Advancement Staffing
 - ✓ Admission Julie Mingle 2013
 - ✓ Major Gift Officer Jessica Shover 2017
 - ✓ Annual Giving Officer (on the hunt)
- Retired Professors
 - ✓ Spanish Harvard Burrell
 - ✓ English G.W. Hawkes
 - ✓ Math Eileen Caruso
- Classes in-person; students did what they needed to do
- Senior week modified
- Commencement 2020 & 2021 back on campus
- Virtual Engagements
 - ✓ Economics Alumni roundtable
 - ✓ Virtual coffee tasting
 - ✓ Wine & Design
 - ✓ Rich Hall painting
 - ✓ Book Club with Hawkes
 - ✓ Calligraphy
 - ✓ Candlelight Service
 - ✓ Lunch & Learn
 - ✓ Common Hour Series
- In-person Engagement
 - ✓ Yoga on the Quad
 - ✓ August Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs
 - ✓ September 9th Bald Birds Brewery, Jersey Shore
 - ✓ September 18th Elmwood Zoo, Norristown
 - ✓ November 11th Versi Vino, Maple Shade
- On-going Virtual Lunch & Learn & Common Hour Series continue
- Day of Giving (\$371, 817 @ 24% of goal; 19.11% alum)
 - ✓ Younger alum give due to social media
 - ✓ 875 # of donors
 - ✓ 985 # of gifts
 - ✓ 125 # of new donors
 - ✓ Need 347 more donors by end of June
- Save-the-Dates Community Funded
 - ✓ 3 year contract platform to keep giving vs 2 days vs 1 day
 - ✓ April 12 & 13 2022
 - ✓ AAEB's suggestions to create more giving day excitement:
 - ✓ Live, moving around campus MC to engage students from Bobby Cook
 - ✓ Text a word like radio stations do & win a T-shirt from Jamie Brown
- Warriorthon; Fall & Spring phone calls
 - ✓ Students not well-prepped per feedback; lacking some class info & per Bobby Cook students should know more specifics like how much was previously given each year, etc.
 - ✓ March Matchness - new branding, social media, & thank you notes

Music Facility update virtually with William Ciabattari, department chair & associate professor

- Needed a space for band, choir, orchestra, & community members that's not only wheelchair accessible but creates opportunities to host festivals, let's us collaborate, is fresh/ large; embraces the past & opens doors
- Growing technology areas
 - Q: Will course work change? (Chuck McCall)
 - A: Yes – need to grow such as:
 - ✓ Music Theory
 - ✓ Eurocentric music; need a new prospective
- Utilize the space
 - ✓ by delivering more & better courses
 - ✓ rehearsals at same time (up to 4 groups) or into one large group
 - ✓ Q: space cap due to Covid & utilizing existing space? (Phil Levesque & Lilian Weekes)
 - A: 100 piece ensemble & continuation of Clarke Chapel presentations, Christmas Candle Light, organ recitals, & Homecoming events

Athletic Director & Head Football Coach Mike Clark 93'

- Baseball/ Field Hockey (reinstated)
 - ✓ attract & hire new coaches; we wanted our parents to be comfortable, have institutional strength, & they should be with:
 - ✓ Baseball Rick Oliveri;
 - ✓ Field hockey Allyson Kenyore; started Fall 2020
 - ✓ Spring 2023:
 - ✓ Baseball team practice & compete at brand new baseball/ softball complex being built by Lyco County Visitors Bureau
 - ✓ used by Penn College
 - ✓ tight timeframe
 - ✓ Q: Connecting with Little League? (Bobby Cook)
 - A: Advised that there are different Covid parameters that Lyco is trying to work our way.
- Athletes during 2020-2021 year & altering timelines during pandemic
 - ✓ MAC & NCAA correct decision to cancel competition 2020 year
 - ✓ MAC athletic directors met every Friday to discuss best possible way for students to continue to compete
 - ✓ MAC commissioners, presidents, athletic directors follow info & guidance from NCAA, CDC in PA, NJ, MD
 - ✓ What we needed/needs to happen:
 - ✓ Resocialize college sports
 - ✓ Considered size of MAC to test kids
 - ✓ Keep kids on campus
- 2021 NCAA Winter & Spring
 - ✓ MAC President ruled to move forward with wrestling, basketball, & swim season
 - ✓ Abbreviated schedules for wrestling (Feb marked end of season)
 - ✓ Athletes will be Covid tested x3
 - ✓ Winter athletes dorm over at Little League
 - ✓ Spring was okay
- Q&A:
 - Q: How did COVID impact the rec kids? (Bob Martin)

A: PA kids okay; out of state a bit harder:

- ✓ Tent out on quad for eating or at stadium
- ✓ 330 athletes vs wanting 350
- ✓ 40 new guys that didn't play games last year

Q: Post case tension between athletes & non-athletes? (Phil Sunderland)

A: some negative incidents associated with teams that was resolved

President's address

Amy Reyes provided AAEB with a 2020-2021 update for a Q&A approach.

President Dr. Kent Trachte

Q: College & Pandemic? (President started)

A: COVID-19 2021 update

- ✓ In-person with students
- ✓ In April resumed outdoor small events
- ✓ International students stayed at school March (2020 couldn't get home) & 35 stayed through the summer

Q: Music Groundbreaking? (Hank Knerr)

A: RFP bids will go out in July; we'd like to shorten time & have a formal groundbreaking in July 1st 2022.

Q: Health of Williamsport & economy? (Bobby Cook)

A: Some of it thriving & some not. The East End is the future so we are cautiously optimistic, plus baseball may bring in more.

Letter of intent to Pine Ridge, a Williamsport developer. There's a design/ architect plan to develop this area with retail, commercial, healthcare system, condos so we are negotiating right now. Phase 2 & 3 includes "Pub" rooftop restaurant/ bar.

Q: Student Retention – College still able to keep kids on board? (Phil Sunderland)

A: Data shows 50-60 more students pre-pandemic; we have 345 incoming students & working on enhancing our academic profile better this year.

Q: Are students still mainly from Pa? (Bobby Cook)

A: 2/3 Pa; 15% NJ - down this year with pandemic/travel restrictions. Texas is 4th or 5th with students. More of a national reach right now.

Q: What's the outlook on global education? (Amy Reyes)

A: Can't predict. Uneven pandemic with countries like India, Brazil, & Mexico surging, & cases dropping in Britain, Western Europe, France. Variants are adapting & we are preparing for it & for our international travel students Fall/Spring terms.

Q: Normal Fall schedule? (Nancy Hoerner)

A: The Plan is to have a normal schedule. Last year we had the Thanksgiving surge ending the semester then January 2021 began the Spring 2021 semester.

Q: Require Vaccine? Masks?

A: 400 colleges said yes. When there's a switch from emergency use... there are lots of political aspects here. We'll follow the CDC & Pa Department of Health & stay away from political issues. Regard masks, we are collecting information from students; review incentives & education, & there will be restrictions.

Q: Faculty view on this? (Bob Martin per above)

A: Faculty is cautious due to the rules changing in March/April.

Amy Reyes commented further that employees got vaccinated together; part of team.

Q: Increase in counseling with students due to pandemic? (Jasmine Sanders)

A: Heard stress increased but we have lots of ways to get support; can talk to mentors, adults, faculty & staff resources.

Q: Academic Profile? (Chuck McCall)

A: The Annapolis Group, a gathering of 90 or 100 of the top institutions in order to share best practices, ideas, & innovations in learning (F&M was part of it), executive director invited us to join the group. We had 8 or 10 years of standards to meet. A team came in, collected data on requirements such as depart assessments on ways to know that kids are learning, & our strategic plans. We no longer have these issues & this group will help us gain more of a national vs regional ranking.

Q: Expanding studies; not getting students because we don't have courses? (Bob Martin)

A: We have to dip into this space (such as with engineering) where we can go to another institution along with Lycoming, & gain a hybrid major such as in computer science. We really connect with humanities & make students marketable with internships.

Q: Graduate Programs in the future such as Wilkes? (Len Hahn)

A: Fine line with quality for undergraduate vs masters/ graduate. Stay the course & focus on our core product.

Q: Faculty/ Staff vs students ratio for diversity? (Bob Martin)

A: We are making market progress. Students are more diverse. Next we need a strategic plan like we did for diversity for faculty/staff, & we can recruit through the Annapolis Group, etc.

Committee Reports Overview

Included expanding recruitment, reaching young alumni effectively, increasing the Alumni Spotlight interest, informal alumni reach-outs from faculty & staff, continue Day(s) of Giving, & back to events.

Housekeeping

Fulfill 3 open AAEB spots & appoint new treasurer.

Jamie Brown & Phil Sunderland terms ending. Thankful for their years of service.

Evelyn Bastian term needs to be filled. Phil Levesque motioned for Mary-Louise Paucke to finish out Evelyn's term, & invite Holly Meckley 2014 & Reb Donohue 2019 to the AAEB. Motion passed.

AAEB final recruitment items:

- ✓ Geography – expand our reach to Pittsburgh, Delaware, West Coast & Florida.
- ✓ Lack of diversity in recruitment – expand our reach Latin, African Americans, etc.,
- ✓ Class Years needed - late 70s, late 80s, early 90s, & early 2000

Phil Levesque motioned for Gary Spies approval as the new AAEB treasurer. Erica Vargo seconded. Motion passed.

Next meeting September 30th.

Adjournment

Phil Levesque motioned to adjourn meeting. Motioned passed & the meeting was officially adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Erica D. Vargo
Secretary

Date of approval