MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Tuesday, December 5, 2013
Winants Hall – Board Room, New Brunswick Campus

PRESENT: Timothy Farrow, Vice Chair; Maurice Griffin, Chair; Kenneth Johnson, Treasurer; Donna K. Thornton, Vice President for Alumni Relations; Bob Barraco, Carl Burns, Bob Eichert, Glenn Gniirrep, Shawn Golhar, Joe Lemkin, Jeff Linfante, Sean Murphy, Debra O’Neal, Kim Sciallo, Jennifer Sneed, Daniel Swartley-McArdle, Suzy Swartz, Jennifer Tennant

ALSO PRESENT: Nevin Kessler, President, Rutgers University Foundation; Laura Stanik, Senior Director, Alumni Communications; Lisa English, Director, Alumni Relations Newark; Scott Owens, Director, Alumni Relations, Camden; Tara Massey, Assistant Director of Alumni Programs, Kristy Omelianuk, Assistant Director of Alumni Services, Mike Rutkowski, Director of Reunions and Homecoming, Dana Shapiro, Assistant Director of Volunteer Engagement, and Patrice Jaskiewicz, Administrative Assistant

EXCUSED: Jennifer O’Neill, Corporate Secretary, Kara Cafasso, Assistant Director of Outreach Programs

UNEXCUSED: Salim Patel

CALL TO ORDER:
The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Mr. Maurice Griffin, Chair, who welcomed everyone to the meeting and mentioned there was a special guest tonight; Nevin Kessler, President, Rutgers University Foundation. Mr. Griffin then asked everyone to introduce themselves.

MINUTES:
The minutes of the September 19, 2013 meeting of the Board were circulated in advance of the meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved following a motion (Kim Sciallo) duly seconded (Joe Lemkin).

GREETINGS:
Mr. Nevin Kessler thanked the RUAA Board for attending this evening and for having a 100% giving rate. He discussed the Strategic Planning Process on the part of the University as well as the Foundation and RUAA citing mutual interests. Mr. Kessler spoke about the upcoming Presidential Events, the amazing new University leadership which included two new chancellors. He addressed the need to engage recent graduates and boost alumni participation as well as student engagement. Mr. Kessler then began and Q & A session with the Board. He concluded by encouraging the Board to reach out to him if they had any questions in the future.
CHAIR’S REPORT:

Mr. Maurice Griffin provided a recap of his experiences at some of the RUAA Fall events, including the biggest weekend of the year, featuring ALC, REAL and Homecoming. Mr. Griffin also mentioned the Day of Service projects; 27 community projects in 7 states, half of which were led by our Regional Clubs. Mr. Griffin volunteered at Rutgers Gardens. The weather was great and a lot was accomplished. He congratulated everyone on a job well done.

Mr. Griffin informed the Board that in light of Ms. O’Neill’s illness, Tim Farrow is functioning as the Corporate Secretary. He thanked Mr. Farrow for stepping in at this time.

Although Mr. Griffin did not attend the November BOO meeting due to a prior commitment, he did submit a written report. He stated that the RUAA chair does have an ex-officio position on the BOO’s Exec Committee and Board. The Chair is included in all BOO activity. This is an important connection to the Foundation and the university.

Mr. Griffin informed the Board that as of November 30, 2013, 14/19 board members have made a gift in this fiscal year which is a record! He reminded the Board to make their gift prior to December 31, so there would be a tax deduction in 2013. Mr. Griffin thanked everyone for continuing this commitment to 100% participation.

In closing, Mr. Griffin discussed the event he attended in Summit, NJ - the Rutgers Club of North Jersey’s annual Brunch in early October. The guest speaker was Dr. Chris Molloy who spoke about the integration with UMDJ and the new structure of Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS). This event was attended by many Rutgers-Newark alumni and supported by the other charter groups.

VICE-CHAIR’S REPORT

Mr. Timothy Farrow stated we are focusing on moving forward to develop a new strategic plan. We are waiting for the unveiling of the University’s Strategic Plan and our goal is to have our plan be aligned with both the University’s and Foundation’s strategic plans.

Mr. Farrow explained we will start by developing six objectives (pillars) and the next steps would be to develop strategies and tactics. This will entail involving charter leaders as well as the Board. A brief Q & A session followed.

VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Ms. Donna Thornton thanked everyone for working on the fall events and stated they are great ambassadors for the University. Ms. Thornton stated that mid-term score sheets would be distributed and there was plenty of opportunity for Board members to earn a score of 105.

Ms. Thornton gave some staffing updates;
- She welcomed Laura Stanik and provided some background information
- Kara Cañasso is currently on maternity leave beginning today and will return
sometime in the late spring

• The search for the Assistant Vice President continues

Ms. Thornton encouraged the Board to enjoy the new 2014 RUAA calendar and they are also for sale for $12.00 each and make great gifts.

Ms. Thornton announced that she is very proud of this year’s confirmed class of the Hall of Distinguished Alumni. They are:

- JOSEPH G. DIPIETRO RC’84
- SHERI MCOY RBS’88
- DANIEL C. REDA PH.D. ENG’65, GSNB’67, ’69
- HARVEY M. SCHWARTZ LC’87
- ROSEMARIE T. TRUGLIO PH.D. DC’83

Ms. Thornton informed the Board that she would be traveling to Chicago December 17-18 for a meeting of the Big 10 alumni leaders. One of the items on the agenda is “Best Practices Managing Affinity Groups and she is very excited to be attending. Ms. Thornton then provided a Bowl update and stated we needed to win Saturday’s football game and we are penciled in to go to Birmingham Alabama on January 4th.

PRESENTATIONS: None

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Mr. Griffin opened the items for discussion

- Bob Barraco went over the University Senate Report. Mr Baracco highlighted the University’s Strategic Plan and the role of the Senate. He also mentioned some alumni’s opinion on the changes to alma mater.

- Alumni Leader’s Conference Recap – Tim Farrow thanked the Committee and Staff for an outstanding conference this year. According to the post-conference survey, the results were positive overall.

- REAL Recap – Glenn Gnrrep stated it was a great opportunity to honor all the recipients and everyone had a wonderful time.

- Homecoming Recap – Mike Rutkowski explained the series of events for the weekend in New Brunswick and thanked Kim Sciallo for chairing the run for Rah committee.

Lisa English went over the events in Newark; Hall of Fame, Street Fair and Young Alumni Event. The weeklong event attracted 2,100 attendees and was a great week on the Newark campus.
Scott Owens highlighted Camden’s events and stated the main focus was to engage students. Over 900 students attended.

- Run for Rah Recap – Kim Sciallo thanked the Board for the opportunity to chair the committee this year. The committee did a tremendous job. A record setting $10,281 was collected as well as 900 pounds of food. In addition, Ms. Sciallo stated there were 14 sponsors this year, 10 more than last year.

- Update on Camden Alumni House Brick Campaign – Scott Owens informed the Board that $12,000 has been raised so far and another $4,800 in pledges. Mr. Owens thanked Daniel Swartley-McArdle for his pledge and Joe Lemkin and Tim Farrow for their brick purchases. A mailer will go out next week and additional marketing will be done closer to Reunion. Mr. Owens also stated that payroll deductions for brick pledges have been approved.

ACTION ITEMS:

Resolution to approve charter applications – presented by Kenneth Johnson

Four charter organizations were put forth and included the following:

- Rutgers OrphanSporks Alumni Association
- Rutgers Club of Michigan
- Rutgers Career Advancement Program (RCAP)
- Rutgers School of Dental Medicine Alumni Association

There was a motion to approve the resolutions (Ken Johnson), seconded (Bob Eichert) with an opportunity for discussion. The resolutions were approved unanimously following a voice vote of all voting members present.

Resolution to Approve the RBHS At-Large Council Members – Presented by Joe Lemkin

Ms. Thornton presented the Nomination’s Committee’s recommendation for the following alumni to be considered At-Large Council Members from RBHS:

- Neal Collins, RWJMS
- Sonia Garcia Laumbach, RC’96, SPH
- Roger Johansen, RC’80, NJDS
- Tariq Mahmood, SN
- Mark Robson, CC’77, GSNB’79,’88,’95, SPH
- Anita Van Wingerden, SHRP

There was a motion to approve the nominees (Joe Lemkin) seconded (Jeff Linfante).
Resolution to Affirm the Electronic Vote Approving the Recommended Nominees to the Board of Trustees – Presented by Donna Thornton

There was a motion to affirm the electronic vote (Donna Thornton), seconded (Joe Lemkin).

CONSENT AGENDA - MOTION TO ACCEPT WRITTEN REPORTS:

Maurice Griffin moved to remove the Ad Hoc report and place under New Business, seconded (Glenn Ginnerp)

Maurice Griffin calls for motion to accept reports. Motion approved. There was a motion to accept reports (Ken Johnson), seconded (Tim Farrow), with an opportunity for discussion. The written reports were accepted unanimously following a voice vote of all voting members present.

PROGRESS REPORT ON RUAA BOARD GOALS presented by Maurice Griffin

1. Raise visibility among University and Foundation leadership
   a. Welcome new Rutgers University Foundation President. In progress
   b. Welcome and work with the Chancellors in Newark, New Brunswick, Camden & Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS) In progress
   c. Communicate importance of Alumni Relations resources with Boards (BOG, BOT, BOO) and University leadership. BOG committee meeting was canceled, next meeting is in February.
   d. Make Board introductions across all university In progress
   e. Identify the key leaders in our new and existing partnerships and ask them to help us move our engagement forward VP has met with Michael Gower, Felecia McGinty, Nevin Kessler,
   f. Educate Board on RBHS then move towards educating our alumni In progress
   g. Educate the new RUF President and Boards about value of RUAA In progress

2. Advocate for Rutgers University
   a. Develop pro-active strategy on a standard operating procedure for advocacy (vs. crisis mode) 3rd Q activity
   b. Establish a more formal relationship with Vice President and Public Affairs Staff DONE

3. Alumni Engagement and Charter Relations
   a. Develop strategies for charter groups & leaders to begin to engage 3rd Q
   b. Examine charter group relations for opportunities for symbiotic activities & outcomes 3rd Q
      i. Enact participation/attendance via Board advocacy 3rd Q
c. Begin Engagement on day ONE of the student experience Part of Strategic Planning process

4. Strategic Plan- Develop a process -In process. Dependent on university/foundation process

UPCOMING NOTEWORTHY EVENTS:

Mr. Griffin noted that the date of the January 30th meeting with the Executive Committee and Committee Chairs may change. Mr. Griffin then reviewed the upcoming events.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Griffin addressed the Board Survey results. Specifically focusing on the issue of 10% of the survey questions were answered with an “I Don’t Know”. The goal is to ask questions regarding concerns in order to correct them.

Mr. Griffin then discussed issues regarding Committees; the need for committee descriptions, monthly and/or quarterly reports depending on how often they meet. A review of the Committee performances will take place in January.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Ad Hoc Committee Report was discussed by Glenn Gniepp. He suggested that the Board review the report and revisit it at the next meeting. All are encouraged to give feedback and recommendations. Mr. Griffin and Ms. Thornton thanked Mr. Gniepp for the compiling report and mentioned the importance of charter groups. A discussion regarding chartering ensued.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved (Maurice Griffin) and seconded (Tim Farrow). The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:
Tim Farrow
Vice Chair & Interim Corporate Secretary

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