

## Alumni/Intl. Committee Minutes Fall 2013

Savannah, GA 13 September 2013

Co-Chairs: Roger Stanley, Jon L Peacock (submitted report)

In Attendance: John Kerrigan, Kelsey Hixon-Bowles, Katherine Williams, Ericka Hoagland, Timothy Leonard, Janine Brooks, Morgan Johnson, Lauren Brandeberry, Deb Seyler

- Write Away – update students through projected-graduation to AE opportunities
  - Add a self-option for students to show they've graduated
- Seniors can currently sign up at Convention for AE, but when do they officially become AE members?
  - Upon graduation: 1 June/July of that year (arbitrary post-graduation date)
  - Change language of registering at Convention to "pre-registration"
  - Remove the encouragement/possibility of "Faculty/Alumni Reception"
- Find ways for AE members to give back? Have we ever asked? Look at Jayne Wiese Higgens
- AE members mentor undergrads/chapters, give a professional workshop at Convention
- Electronic Application form: coupled with LinkedIn + Write Away + Facebook, etc
  - Create the online form that sends an equivalent of the paper form to Central Office
- We're not recreating the "community" by trying to model AE benefits after student benefits
  - Find ways foster benefits that is more towards Alumni needs
  - Networking, jobs, enhance resume, contacts, building careers
  - Online Workshops: resume building, job hunting/interview tips, publishing opportunities
- Partnership with The Society of Technical Communications
  - Win/Win, if we can get discounts for Alumni
- Hopeful flow of Sigma Tau Membership: student – grad – AE – chapter/local literacy organization
- Looking at Philosophy of renewing commitment to undergraduate students
  - By tabling Alumni we can be hurting the undergrad experience
  - With so many articles about whether being an English major is still valid,
    - we need to be showing the benefits (and Alumni can show this)
  - Undergrads are concerned about networking after they graduate, AE can help them, even as students
  - Show the "success stories" along with networking opportunities beyond
- Recognize alumni work/publications by showing where they are published
  - Recognition of Alumni work
  - Showing places for other Alumni to publish
- Alumni do continue to participate with local chapters: How can we raise awareness to join AE?

- Ways of promotion: sending info on AE to individual members, Official announcements at Convention
  - More of a presence at Convention (beyond disjointed information in program)
  - Awards during Banquet: bring info on AE and AR during this time (2 minutes)
  - With a broad announcement, undergrads (who are normally segregated from Alumni) can learn about benefits even beyond being students (tying back to central philosophy)
- Can Sigma Kappa Delta join AE after they graduate and not move to a university with a chapter?
  - Constitution Language: Membership categories
  - They are interested for opportunities, so why not bring them in?

### Proposals Brought to Board Meeting:

- 1) In conjunction with the Scholarship Committee, we propose to eliminate the one-year membership requirement for applicants to be eligible to apply for the Alumni Epsilon Scholarship. The Scholarship Committee approved Gabriel's suggestion that "applicants must be Alumni Epsilon members in good standing at the time of their application in order to be eligible to apply for the Alumni Scholarship."

Results in Board Meeting: PASSED

- 2) We propose to change the AR position selection from the current SR model to reflect more of the SA model starting at the Spring Convention: The AR would be appointed (not elected), to a 2-year term, **with a 2 term limit. The application for the AR position would need to be presented before the Convention, where each candidate would be interviewed on-site.** The selection process would be made **by a committee created by members of the Executive Committee and members of the Alumni/Intl. Committees, including student representation.** (Create more of a structured continuity of leadership with the AE Chapter of STD and allows candidates to be more aware of the responsibilities affiliated with the position)

Results in Board Meeting: TABLED FOR THE DAY: **\*Bold** are changes while motion was tabled: PASSED

- 3) We propose that we change the 1 year membership of AE requirement for the AR Position to be changed to a requirement of having "graduated from an undergraduate program."  
(Remove possibility of those who transfer and become AE but are still students)

Results in Board Meeting: PASSED