

Department of Psychological Sciences
Alumni Advisory Council Meeting
Friday, September 28, 2018
Bluemont Hall, Room 021
Minutes

Members Present: Mitch Brigell, Lindsey Firebaugh Bock, Susan Burns, Michelle Coker, William Conaway, Bill Deeds, Joel DiGirolamo, Richard Felton, Janet Gee, Sandi McCoy Kramos, Doug Peterson, Kenneth Sewell, Jeanne Tomiser

Others Present: Gary Brase, Kim Kirkpatrick, Jin Lee, Jason Walls, Matthew Wisniewski, Michael Young, Alexandria Zakrzewski

Call to Order: Alumni Advisory Council Chair Janet Gee called the meeting to order with introductory remarks welcoming everyone.

Introduction of Advisory Council members. We went around the room, and each member of the Alumni Advisory Council and faculty and staff introduced themselves.

Introduction of new faculty and staff members:

Matthew Wisniewski (COG) and Alexandria Zakrzewski (Research Assistant Professor) introduced themselves. Each made a brief introduction about their academic and educational backgrounds and areas of interest.

Marketing the Psychology major and update on Alumni profiles

Dr. Young discussed continuing efforts by the department to develop a comprehensive web presence, marketing plans, and alumni engagement per the Huron Group recommendations. The website changes have focused on career engagement, research potential, and ease of use for potential students and their families. Jason discussed with the alumni the use of their information including educational and career biographical information and its application with prospective and current students. Various Alumni gave their insight about providing career exploration and readiness information through Junior Seminar and alumni engagement.

Further discussion of how the department could subtly communicate the need for a broad-based psychological education in the era of parental and student questions focused primarily on employment prospects and relative early career income. One suggestion was to focus on skill-based resumes to help potential employers understand the applicable knowledge the student has achieved with their degree. Skills-based resumes complement the student's entire education and highlight how psychology connects to core competencies. Finally, an update concerning the university-wide mentorship program 'Wildcat Links' for alumni to be paired with students based

on interest and availability as well as the departments transition to the Student Success Collaborative program for scheduling, tracking, and monitoring undergraduate students.

Biomedical Research grant update:

Kim Kirkpatrick discussed the COBRE grant update with the group. K-State, partnered with Wichita State and Kansas University Medical, received the \$10.6 million grant in 2017.

- Review of grant and its purpose for new council members
- Site visit in June with external advisory committee, participants, and mentors
- Research Update: four primary project grants at \$400-500k over three years, Three one-year pilot grants \$25-35k
- Development Update: Statistical and computing workshops and Grant writing training
- Production from COBRE: 15 conference presentations, 4 journal articles, 4 grant submissions
- Infrastructure development: animal imaging center, human imaging center, renovated animal lab, computer engineering data core, and driving simulator core
- Pilot grant selection process discussed with Alumni Council
- Generating awareness of COBRE/ CNAP activity on campus, at the state level, and nationally

Report by Tracy Robinson from the K-State foundation: Tracy reviewed and discussed the K-State foundation goals.

- Discussed changes at the Foundation over the past year
- Jenny Brittan, new point of contact for the department
- 4,000 alumni from the department
- Philanthropic advising for alumni who want to plan how their money is utilized
- Help facilitate gifts, annuities, and contributions to the department and university
- Innovation/Inspiration campaign for 2018 was to raise \$1 billion; goal was met and passed; \$1.4 billion by 2020
- Arts and Sciences campaign \$125 million and currently \$115 million
- Arts and Sciences \$62.3 million is deferred/ estate gifts
- Areas of philanthropy for the College of Arts and Sciences
 - Student Experience
 - Undergraduate Research
 - Top Notch Classrooms
- Using milestones in the department to encourage Alumni to commit to the department
- Creating a scholarship

Department Head's Report. A detailed outline of Mike's report was included with the agenda and is attached to these minutes (see attachment). He selectively covered many items.

Approval of Minutes of 2017 Alumni Advisory Council meeting. The minutes from 2017 meeting were approved without correction.

Janet Gee and Alumni Advisory Council positions for 2019:

- **Desirae McKenzie Moreno:** Chair
- Nominations for 2020 Chair, **William Conaway**
- Setting the date for the meeting and issues/problems with the dates

Adjournment.

Lunch. The group was joined for lunch by the faculty and undergraduate and graduate student leaders.

Research Presentation by Dr. Susan Burns. "Life: A Journey Best Traveled with Psychology"

Following Susan's discussion attendees divided into two groups and chose which discussion group to attend next:

- **Undergraduate Panel Discussion:** "Career Options With an Undergraduate Degree in Psychological Sciences: Learning From Alumni Experiences"
- **Meet and Greet with Graduate Students:**
 - Behavioral Neuroscience/Animal Learning
 - Cognitive/Human Factors
 - Industrial/Organizational
 - Social/Personality

CNAP Open House and Tour. Alumni Advisory Council were invited to walk through the 4th-floor hallways and view some biographies and graduate research posters on display.

Research Walkabout. Our graduate students invited all members of the Alumni Advisory Council to visit their research posters and presentations to discuss the students' research findings.

Dinner: The Alumni Advisory Council was joined by the faculty, their partners, and student leaders in the Purple Pride Conference Room in the Alumni Center.