Georgia Perimeter College Alumni Association Board Meeting
Dunwoody Campus, Room NA-2150
February 25, 2009, 6:00 p.m.

Minutes

Chair, Melinda Mock Presiding

Present: Melinda Mock, Isaac Boring, Dr. Garry McGiboney

Absent: D. Wayne Adams, Derrick Shelton, Stella Xu, Brenda Jackson

Guests: Collins Foster, GPC Director of Alumni Relations; Gay Stahr, Vice President’s Secretary; and Jeff Tarnowski, Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

I. Welcome ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………Melinda Mock

   Melinda Mock opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. by welcoming everyone.

   a. Alumni Association dues

      Melinda Mock suggested the Board members all be current with their Association dues before the Board begins asking Association members and non-members to renew and/or join.

      Melinda Mock noted that when Nursing dues are paid it includes membership in the GPC Alumni Association; the funds are split between the two organizations.

      Mr. Tarnowski informed members that the current policy states that the first $25 is applied toward dues and anything above that amount is applied toward the Alumni Association scholarship.

      Mr. Boring suggested staggering the dues and renewals; for example for each 5 years the dues amount goes down and so on.

      Ms. Foster suggested the Association collect dues on an annual renewable or lifetime basis to make membership renewals less cumbersome on an annual basis.

      Ms. Mock posed the question to the Board to go forward with the Board paying dues now or to table the discussion and approach at another time? Mr. Boring offered that the current amount of $25 is a good amount for now with the limited benefits being offered at this time. The Board agreed.

      Mr. Tarnowski recommended that the Board think about what the dues will be used for in the future and how the Association can impact programs at the college. Ms. Mock also suggested to members to think about the affinity groups and how they will fall under the association’s umbrella. Dues structure will be reviewed by members as well – fiscal year vs. calendar year.
Ms. Foster will send out billing notices to each of the Board members.

II. College and Advancement Update........................................................................Jeff Tarnowski

a. Tough Choices, Tough Times Update

Mr. Tarnowski informed the members of the University System of Georgia Chancellor Davis’ visit to Georgia Perimeter College’s Newton Campus on January 30th. Chancellor Davis had met with Georgia Governor Purdue and the two co-chairs of the Tough Choices, Tough Times Task Force and it was his impression that Governor Purdue has not made any final decisions regarding the recommendation of the two-year colleges being absorbed by the technical schools.

Mr. Tarnowski also informed members that none of the facts have changed and there has not been a date set for when the final recommendation from the task force will be issued.

b. Endowed scholarship update

Mr. Tarnowski informed the Board that the GPC Foundation’s endowment dollars are down 21 percent. In light of this, most schools are not able to award the same dollar amounts as in the past; however, this is not true at GPC. The Foundation will award full scholarships this year and next year. Mr. Tarnowski explained to members that after 9/11, the Foundation Board of Trustees changed the investment policy to be able to award scholarships regardless of market conditions. The Foundation Board’s investment advisors at Merrill Lynch came up with a plan to fit the Foundation Board’s needs on the premise that the goal of an endowed scholarship is awarding scholarships.

III. Office of Alumni Relations..................................................................................Collins Foster

a. Focus areas

Ms. Foster gave members an overview with a PowerPoint presentation to show strategic focus areas of the office of Alumni Relations during the first year. Ms. Foster touched on the following points:

- Role of Alumni Relations within the Institutional Advancement Office
- Defining what Alumni Relations means at GPC
- Staffing plan for the Office of Alumni Relations
- Board Development
- Alumni Identification
- Alumni Fundraising
- Alumni Communications
- Alumni Success Stories

Ms. Foster told members that she will have drafts of the annual fund letters for the Board to see at the next meeting.
IV. Action Items

Ms. Mock asked members to review the by-laws, specifically with respect to:

- Definition of Alumni
- Annual Dues period – needs to be changed to calendar year
- Board composition – looking at representation from different campuses, and/or having someone on the Board from Student Life
- Acknowledging the new Office of Alumni Relations
- Address financial stewardship of alumni funds

Dr. McGiboney suggests leaving the by-laws as they are until the Board grows and only change those that are needed to be changed for accuracy at the present time.

Ms. Mock requested members to reply all when e-mailing their thoughts to Ms. Foster regarding suggested revisions to the by-laws and a final vote will take place during the March 25, 2009 meeting.

Members reviewed the minutes from January 28, 2009. The minutes were approved by the Board.

V. Announcements

a. 2009 Outstanding Alumni Award

   Ms. Foster is reviewing the past nomination forms and will be sending out to the Board members soon. Ms. Foster asked the Board to be thinking of nominees.

VI. Next Meeting

a. March 25, 2009 @ 6:00 p.m. (location TBD)

   Ms. Mock thanked members for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.