

## Minutes of the AMSL Alumni Board Meeting

Approved February 2, 2021

Date: Tuesday, January 5, 2021

Time: 8:00PM EST

Via Zoom

### PRESENT

Kevin Normile, Zachary Miller, Benjamin Donovan, Luca Hickman, Brendan Karl, Naomi Hatton, Amy Howarth, Kelsey Cameron, Kevin Cieply, Jennifer Lucas-Ross, Victor Bermudez, Andrew Bodoh, James Skyles

- 1) Call to Order/Establish Quorum
  - a. Established at 8:05 PM
- 2) Opening Prayer
- 3) Approval of Previous Minutes
  - a. 12/8/2020
    - i. Tabled
  - b. General Meeting
    - i. Tabled
  - c. 11/10/2020
    - i. Tabled
  - d. 10/6/2020
    - i. MOTION to approve by Kevin Normile, SECONDED by Naomi
      1. Approved without opposition
- 4) Messages
  - a. President's Message
    - i. We have an all-star board who has great potential to be effective.
    - ii. More alumni interaction in-person, once this virus is dealt with, is the best way to achieve our goals.
      1. We should build a team in the Naples area who will use social media and phone calls to get alumni to come to live events.
      2. We should work on an in-person meeting at the March for Life 2022.
      3. We should create a team to focus on in-person interaction in Michigan, starting with a class reunion in the Ann Arbor area.
  - b. Dean's Update
    - i. Rather than doing ACTLA assessments in Fall of 21, we are doing it in Spring of 11.
    - ii. We are finishing up Winter session and preparing for Spring Semester.

- iii. Amy Howarth ordered Josh's paperweight. We hope to have him join in the next meeting so the gift can be presented
- iv. FL Bar will be 23-24 February. It is an online exam. Msr. Mcgrath will be blessing our buildings tomorrow for Epiphany with this intention.
- v. We received a generous gift at the end of this year courtesy of the Robey Charitable Trust, in the amount of \$150,000.
- vi. We will be hiring I-Law to conduct a market analysis to determine whether there is demand for a part-time course. Our goal is to start this in Fall 2022.
  - 1. Luca Hickman: Will this program involve additional startup costs?
    - a. Dean Cieply: Mostly no. We are largely already equipped for such a program. There will be some costs.
  - 2. Kevin Normile: Will these students be full-tuition payers? Will they receive a discount rate?
    - a. Tuition will be the same. We will be freezing tuition for incoming students.

## 5) Old Business

### a. Facebook Page Rules Committee Proposal

- i. Naomi Hatton: We should be able to vote on items 1-3, but there is more room to discuss item 4.
- ii. Benjamin Donovan: I wanted to keep it as short and succinct as possible, putting people on notice that some types of discussion may be moderated.
- iii. Kevin Normile: 1-3 should be uncontroversial. But Item 4a seems to require pre-approval, and 4b seems to be a little more in depth than what we have now.
- iv. Naomi Hatton: 4a and 4b were intended to be alternates.
- v. Victor Bermudez: Do either set of guidelines prohibit promotion of specific organizations?
  - 1. Hatton: This wasn't contemplated in these drafts, but it could be contemplated in a final draft.
  - 2. Donovan: An organization like "Law of Life" would probably not be appropriate to censor.
- vi. Zachary Miller: I like the language that generally only allows content that is constructive mission of the school, but I dislike the language that seems to too narrowly tailor what specific activities will be allowed on the page.
- vii. Luca Hickman: Should there be any non-staff admins?
  - 1. Dean Cieply: I have no problem with that if somebody so desires.
  - 2. Dean Lucas-Ross: Elizabeth Westhoff expressed that she would prefer to be the main administrator. It would be fine to have a non-staff admin so long as decisions didn't have to be unanimous.
  - 3. Kelsey Cameron: Is anybody currently moderating the board?
    - a. Dean Lucas-Ross: Me and Amy Howarth are currently doing this, but we don't do much unless it is absolutely necessary. We are monitoring the page but not deleting anything

4. Andrew Bodoh: I think there is value to a non-staff admin. This will allow another set of eyes who can raise potential issues.
5. Dean Cieply: An alumni perspective is a good idea.
6. Donovan: We should expand the reach of the alumni association governance in general beyond the alumni board. This will help our association better represent the alumni at large.
  - a. Luca Hickman: I agree. Fundraising etc. might be a better use of the board's time than moderating a facebook page.
  - b. Dean Cieply: This is also true of the administration.
  - c. Kevin Normile: Nearly 1/3 of our membership uses the board, and it is probably our #1 means of communicating with each other.
  - d. Zach Miller: I think some people would consider moderating the board a burden, others would consider it a privilege.
  - e. Donovan: I wouldn't mind keeping Andrew Bodoh as admin.
  - f. Normile: Perhaps admin can be responsible for appointing an alum to share in moderation responsibilities.
  - g. Cameron: Can we vote on whether admins can delete posts that should probably delete?
    - i. Normile: I think the current language allows that, but I am not opposed to adding specific language to this effect.
    - ii. Miller: We could submit screenshots for vote.
    - iii. Normile: It might be best just to empower somebody with this discretion.
    - iv. Dean Cieply: I could give an admin
7. Normile: MOTION to add 1) "Official" to the name, and 2) allow AMSL to appoint admins to moderate page.
  - a. Motion PASSES without abstention or opposition.
- b. Vice Presidential Election Complaint Committee Report
  - i. Donovan: We have not made much progress on this issue yet.
  - ii. Normile: Perhaps after the meeting we can discuss this with Jennifer and Amy to get the information we need to progress. If we pass this until next month, we will still be within the deadline.
- c. Nomination of Replacement Chair Positions
  - i. Normile: Committee picks are
    1. Charles Mailloux, class of 2005, who was Sacristan at that time. He has also had more than 100 winning jury verdicts.
    2. Donovan: Will Sullivan
    3. Bermudez: Tylan Rickets
    4. Miller: Christina Pasquale

- a. She is a very good candidate. She was going to be President of our DC chapter.
  - ii. Naomi: have all candidates affirmed that they will accept nomination.?
    - 1. Yes regarding all four candidates.
  - iii. Normile: Motion to fill 2022 slots with Mailloux, Rickets, and Pasquale, and the 2021 slot with Will Sullivan.
    - 1. Hatton: Second
      - a. Motion PASSES without opposition or abstention. We now have a full board.

## 6) New Business

- a. Normile: I would like to exercise my executive power to create some executive committees.
  - i. Will Kelsey Cameron and Andrew Bodoh be interested in spearheading our 2022 March for Life initiative?
    - 1. Kelsey: yes
    - 2. Andrew: yes
    - 3. Normile: We can add people to the committee who are not on the board, if you wish.
    - 4. Bodoh: Who is the best person at AMSL to discuss these issues with?
      - a. Dean Cieply: Jennifer Lucas-Ross
      - b. Luca Hickman: I am willing to share some of my connections with pro-life groups as well.
    - 5. Normile: When I was a student, there was a tradition of students and alumni meeting at the March for Life.
    - 6. Dean Cieply: We usually go to the Law of Life summit and form a large portion of the crowd. We then go to the bar and provide enough appetizers to make a meal. Afterwards, we like to meet with EWTN and then march together.
    - 7. Kelsey Cameron: How many students do we usually have?
      - a. Dean Cieply: Usually 25-40, although we didn't go last year. Usually, only 2-5 alumni come to the reception.
      - b. Andrew Bodoh: It is sometimes hard for alumni in the extended DC area to attend two days. Usually they have to make a choice between one or the other.
      - c. Luca Hickman: There is a bar near the Supreme Court that we used to bring a speaker to and draw a decent crowd.
  - ii. Is anybody interested in being on the Naples Engagement Committee?
    - 1. Bermudez: I am interested in helping.
    - 2. Miller: I can help in Fort Myers.
  - iii. Normile: I will spearhead the Michigan Reunion Committee.
- b. Dean Cieply: The Catholic Bar Association would like to host its annual event on our campus. This might occur in October.

- i. Zach Miller: Is there a local chapter here?
    - 1. Victor Bermudez: We reached out to the Bishop and are trying to begin Catholic Lawyer group. We have a Board and I will be reaching out to people to get this group going.
      - a. Dean Cieply: You might reach out to the Catholic Bar Association to see if you can affiliate.
    - c. Normile: Ben, can you look into other regional committees as a new business item for next month:
      - i. Donovan: Yes, I am looking into that.
- 7) Setting Next Meeting
  - a. 2/2/21 at 8pm EST
- 8) Closing Prayer – by Brendan Karl at 9:23PM