

Minutes of the AMSL Alumni Board Meeting (Approved June 1, 2021)

Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2021

Time: 8:00PM EST

Via Zoom

PRESENT

Kevin Normile, Zachary Miller, Victor Bermudez, Tylan Ricketts, Amy Howarth, Dean Eugene Milhiser, Charles Mailloux, James Skyles, Brendan Kyle, Naomi Hatton, Andrew Bodoh, John Tuttle, Luca Hickman, Kelsey Cameron

- 1) Call to Order/Establish Quorum – 8:03PM
- 2) Opening Prayer - Memorare
- 3) Approval of Previous Minutes
 - a. February 2, 2021
 - i. Normile: Motion to approve
 1. Karl: Second
 - a. Passed without opposition
 - b. March 2, 2021
 - i. Tabled
- 4) Messages
 - a. President's Message
 - i. Thank you to the alumni association for the hard work you put in to this organization.
 - b. Dean's Message
 - i. Dean Jennifer Lucas-Ross has resigned. Amy Howarth will continue to provide support to the alumni board and all the alumni. A committee has been formed to interview candidates and make recommendations. This position should be filled by May at the latest.
 - ii. Commencement will be held in-person on May 15, 2021, the same day as the Baccalaureate Mass at St. Agness. Commencement will follow the Mass.
 - iii. We will have a virtual pinning event in the mid-afternoon on May 14, 2021. Amy Howarth is taking the lead on this event and would appreciate input. Peter Cancro will be speaking at the event.
 - iv. Finalists for Dean Search have been selected
 1. Professor Teresa Collett
 2. Professor John Czarnetzki
 3. Professor Brian Scarnecchia

- v. We will block time for alumni to interview the Dean candidates. The Board should select a panel to interview candidates via Zoom.
- vi. We will set up a meeting with the voting faculty on March 23.
- vii. Links to bios are in the announcement that will be sent to alumni.

5) Old Business

a. Dean Selection Process:

i. Normile: Volunteers to participate in Dean Selection Process

1. 16th, 19th and 20th
2. Brendon Karl
 - a. Yes
3. Andrew Bodoh
 - a. Tentative Yes depending on schedule
4. Zachary Miller
 - a. Tentative Yes
5. Victor Bermudez
 - a. Tentative Yes
6. Kelsey Cameron
 - a. Unavailable
7. Naomi Hatton
 - a. How will the faculty voting process work?
 - b. Will serve if needed, but will give others the opportunity for a seat first.
8. Luca Hickman
 - a. Tentative Yes
9. Charles Mailloux
10. Tylan Rickets
 - a. Yes
11. John Tuttle
 - a. Declined
12. Jim Fox
 - a. Tentative Yes

ii. Comments on Alumni Participation in the Dean Search

1. None

iii. Pinning Event

1. Howarth: I will be contacting alumni to solicit participation.

b. March For Life 2022

i. Bodoh: No updates. A good next step would be to communicate with the new Lex Vitae board when they are elected.

1. Tuttle: Do we know if it will be happening?
 - a. Bodoh: We will plan as though it is happening.

c. Local Chapters

- i. Cameron: Ben Neglia will be contacting people about the Southwest Florida Chapter. Also, I would like to organize a DC chapter.
 - ii. Tuttle: For the Ann Arbor meeting/event, we should look for private property to avoid covid restrictions ruining the event. We should go forward with a regional Michigan chapter. And we should be cultural rebels.
- d. Alumni Awards
 - i. Naomi: The nominees are Josh McCaig and Lauren Muszycka. They will be presented at graduation. There will be a distinguished alumni award every year and a lifetime achievement award every 5 years. These options are \$250 each.
 - 1. [shows group an array of options for the award medium]. Naomi: I think we should pick option 1 for the lifetime Award, and this small one for the Distinguished Award.
 - 2. Bodoh: I like Option 6 because it corresponds to the school's seal.
 - 3. Bermudez: I like 1 and 6. I prefer 6 because it is more horizontal and takes up less desk space.
 - a. 1 (lifetime) and 6 (distinguished) are selected through consensus

6) New Business

- a. Bodoh: I sent out some proposals for changes to election protocols. I am hoping to improve our balloting procedures. This addresses four theoretical possibilities as to how a ballot can be imperfect. I would like to add this paragraph:
 - i. "Be it resolved by the Ave Maria School of Law Alumni Board of Directors, that the Elections Procedures adopted October 13, 2015, be amended as follows, with the addition of Section III(a)(x): III.a.x. In general, it will be the goal, in evaluating the imperfectly marked ballots, to preserve as much of the ballot as possible. Ballots reflecting the following imperfections should be evaluated as follows. For ballots in which a particular candidate is awarded two rankings for the same office, or for Chair positions, the ballot shall be disregarded only as to that office or the Chair positions. For ballots in which two candidates are awarded the same ranking for the same office, or for Chair positions, the ballot shall be disregarded only as to that office or the Chair positions. Any candidate not ranked shall be awarded zero (0) rank points. If a ballot awards nonsequential rank points, such as ranking a most preferred candidate and a third most preferred candidate, without ranking a second most preferred candidate, the ballot will be accepted as is."
 - 1. Bodoh: I believe these will changes will increase transparency and reliability of our voting procedure.
 - 2. Normile: When voting for individual chairs, If a ballot marks two people for the same position, do we want the whole vote for chair thrown out, or just the mistaken block thrown out.
 - a. Bodoh: We should throw out the whole vote for chair, because throwing out just the mistaken block effectively ranks their

lower preferences above the higher preferences that were thrown out due to being ranked in the same position.

3. Tuttle: We could always just cure imperfect ballots by reaching out to the voter.
 - a. Bodoh: I disagree. Not only would such a procedure delay the election, it would create an opportunity for a person to challenge the election on the suggestion of tampering.
 4. Tuttle: I think it is a smart move to have these types of situation spelled out more clearly. How much detail should we go into?
 - a. Bodoh: I would rather have a system equipped with a good objection system that can adapt to human imperfection, rather than an overly precise system that pretends people are perfect.
 5. Tuttle: Perhaps we can reach out to people to verify an imperfect ballot?
 - a. Bodoh: This delays the process and introduces the possibility of challenging results by accusing the contactors of favoring candidates.
 6. Normile: we will table this for a month to let everybody review it.
- 7) Setting Next Meeting
- a. 5/4/21 @ 8PM
- 8) Closing Prayer – By Kevin Normile at 9:30 PM “Almighty God, Giver of all that is good...”