

Minutes of the AMSL Alumni Board Meeting – Approved July 6, 2021

Date: Tuesday, June 1, 2021

Time: 8:00PM EST

Via Zoom

PRESENT

Kevin Normile, Zachary Miller, Dean Czarnetzky, Tylan Ricketts, Naomi Hatton, Benjamin Donovan, Amy Howarth, Andrew Bodoh, Kelsey Cameron, Will Sullivan, Charles Mailloux

- 1) Call to Order/Establish Quorum – 8:03PM
- 2) Opening Prayer by Kevin Normile – Peace Prayer of St. Francis
- 3) Approval of Previous Minutes
 - a. April 6, 2021
 - i. Normile: Motion to approve
 1. Tylan Ricketts: Second
 - a. Passed without opposition
 - b. May 4, 2021
 - i. Tabled
- 4) Messages
 - a. Welcome to Dean Czarnetzky
 - b. Dean's Message
 - i. At the senior staff meeting, it was discussed that we are tracking with a nationwide banner year for admissions.
 1. 24% increase in applications.
 2. All metrics have improved, including LSAT scores, median GPAs, Catholicity, etc.
 3. Our entering class is stronger than last year's entering class.
 - ii. Dean's Philosophy
 1. I will exercise my Deanship using the principles of subsidiarity and solidarity with the anthropology of man in mind and the common good as a goal.
 - iii. Questions for the Dean
 1. Donovan: Do we know how many 1ls there will be next year?
 - b. Czarnetzky: We have admitted around 220. Last year was under 200. I do not yet know whether our yield will track at the same rate as last year.
 2. Miller: Do you have a sense of when the Law School will be ready to host live events on campus?

- b. My sense is sooner rather than later. I have appointed a committee to study and report on this. We will divide into subcommittees on instruction, housing, etc. They are tasked with devising the policy. We may have three feet of distancing and masks while moving through the hallways, but those restrictions may be lifted as well. I want our policy finalized by July 1. The committee is drawn from the senior staff, tenured faculty, and representatives of LAWR, bar prep, Library, etc. The structure of the committee mirrors Dean Cieply's committee from last year.
- 3. Normile: Last year Dean Cieply was looking into deemphasizing year-after-year improvements of the student body and emphasizing eliminating the discount rate and improving financial stability. What is your plan in this regard?
 - b. This thought has not yet occurred to me. It is not at this time my intention to do things this way. I think the discount rate is a virtuous cycle. On the other hand, we should endeavor not to be reliant on our benefactors to support our school. The school should be self-supporting, and we should improve our student body.
- 4. Sullivan: Do you see the Alumni Board having a place on the Board of Governors for the purpose of preserving the legacy of the school? What is your vision for the Alumni Board?
 - b. I have not given forethought to this question. Your point is well taken. The board is certainly interested in the student experience. I think the best way for the board to get input from the alumni is from myself. I can bring a message to the board, if you desire, that the alumni board is interested in having a voice on the board of trustees.
- 5. Donovan: What do you think about doing admissions interviews?
 - b. Czarnetzky: The primary purpose of interviews is to help somebody get admitted who was otherwise on the borderline, rather than to see if somebody who's otherwise qualified was a good fit for the school. I understand why those concerned with mission drift might be interested in admission interviews. If a person declares their intent to actively undermine the mission of the school, the applicant should not be attending AMSL.
 - i. Hatton: I worked in admissions for a year. We actually interview everybody in admissions now. It increases our yield.
 - ii. Donovan: Our concern is that people are coming to Ave to enjoy the beach rather than to become a lawyer.

1. Czarnetzky: I share your concern.

c. President's Message

- i. I will be bouncing between Michigan and DC for the next 5 months. I am excited to see people moving so quickly in chapters. Other than that, it's been a quiet month.

5) Old Business

a. March for Life 2022

- ii. Bodoh: I was able to talk to Naomi about Lex Vitae and we are getting the conversation started regarding coordinating March for Life.
- iii. Cameron: And I do believe we should involve the local DC alumni in this conversation too, which we are working on.

b. Naples Events

- i. Miller: I have been considering the possibility of having a separate chapter for Naples and Fort Myers.
 1. Donovan: I am not opposed to this. Jets and Sharks.
 2. Will: Whatever will stick is what we should do. If it will work, just set up a meeting and roll with it.
 3. Donovan: Also, one of the ideas here is to take some of the onus off the law school for organizing events.

c. Michigan Chapter

- i. Nothing

d. Election Protocols

- i. Bodoh: I would like to get a public record posted on Facebook regarding this. I am in the process of getting this put together.

e. Regional Chapters

i. DC Chapter

1. Cameron: We will have a meeting. We have a very big interest. I think this will be helpful in generating interest for March for life.
2. Normile: The event will be June 29, 6pm, near the Capitol.

- ii. Donovan: We have somebody in the Grand Rapids area who is interested in starting a Michigan chapter. Tampa has an unofficial regional chapter, as does South Bend and Chicago. Somebody reached out about Philadelphia. Also, somebody reached out about San Antonio/Austin Texas.

f. Hatton: The distinguished alumni awards have been awarded and a new cycle is opening for nominations. Joshua McCaig and Lauren Muzyka were the winners of the awards this year.

- i. Donovan: What if we rolled all these awards into one big event?

1. Hatton: End of year awards have normally been done at Barrister's Ball. Going forward, at the Alumni Pinning Ceremony we may be able to have speeches and congratulations regarding the awards. We will think more about this over the next few months prior to graduation. It would also be a nice idea for the student award winners to have an event.

2. Czarnetzky: These sound like good ideas and I am willing to work with you all.
3. Sullivan: I have been talking with Kelsey about having touchpoints between students, staff and alumni that are consistent sustainable. Graduation and March for Life, are examples of this. Using these as focal points creates a nice cadence that allows the rest to fill in naturally.

6) New Business

- a. None

7) Setting Next Meeting

- a. Tues 7/6/21 @ 8PM

8) Closing Prayer – By Dean Czarnetzky, Hail Mary