

Northwestern Foundation & Alumni Association
Annual Meeting
Thursday, September 24, 2015 – 5:00 p.m.

Welcome

Dr. Megan Darrow, chair of the Executive Committee, welcomed guests to the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Northwestern Foundation & Alumni Association.

Approval of the 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes

Darrow asked for approval of the 2014 Annual Meeting minutes. A motion to approve was made by Allen Zadorozny and seconded by Sue Fellers. The motion passed.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Skeeter Bird thanked the guests for their attendance. He introduced the Foundation & Alumni Association staff.

Goals for Capital Campaign. Bird announced that the Capital Campaign is moving forward with all milestones being met. The culture of collaborative University-wide fundraising is making a strong impact. Each week, leadership from both the University and the Foundation and Alumni Association meet to discuss fundraising opportunities and issues. In addition, the Capital Campaign Steering Committee – comprised of community members, University leadership and Foundation and Alumni Association representatives – meets monthly.

With a focus on optimizing the engagement of students with the Foundation and Alumni Association before graduation, we will continue the annual Thank-a-Thon from October 26-30. Bird invited the audience to attend the Thank-a-Thon event to experience the gratitude of our Northwestern students. Popcorn Fridays is an event held monthly to encourage students, faculty and staff to visit our offices and learn more about our mission. This year, tee-shirts were given to freshmen and new transfer students with the lettering “Northwestern Alumni, Est. 2015”.

Presently 61 percent of our students are being supported with scholarships. Our goal is to make it 70 percent.

Endowment support is \$12,958 per students. Two years ago it was at \$10,058. Our goal is to make it \$15,000 in five years.

As we move forward with the capital campaign, we will continue to maximize communication to create awareness of the importance of community philanthropy.

Capital Campaign Progress. Bird said that the original internal goal was \$20 million. To date, the Capital Campaign has \$18,583,169.52 in cash gifts, planned gifts and pledges. This, according to Bird, is highly encouraging as most of the funds have come from previous donors. As every major gift candidate has yet to be contacted or cultivated, the financial goal will most likely increase before we enter the public phase of the campaign.

Percentage of Endowed Scholarships by Area. Bird referenced a pie chart that illustrated the percentages of endowed scholarships by specific disciplines, geographical area-specific and multiple departments. This information may motivate donors to give in areas of need.

Percentage of Eligible Students Receiving Scholarships by Campus. Bird showed a bar chart graph that illustrated that all Northwestern campuses are well-represented with scholarship distribution.

Student Presentation

Blake DeMond, a nursing major from Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, spoke to the audience regarding the opportunities and advantages offered by a smaller university. DeMond appreciated the time spent with President Cunningham as a President's Leadership Class member, as well as the personal attention from faculty and staff. Scholarships made a difference to DeMond, and he thanked the audience for their involvement and investment in Northwestern.

Investment Committee Report

Steve Bahm, financial consultant with Morgan Stanley, provided a breakdown on the financial portfolio. This year's net return was 3.1 percent. He noted that this has been a difficult market, but looks for a reasonable return by the end of the fiscal year.

2014-2015 Annual Audit Report

Jim Hinkle, auditor with Hinkle & Company, acknowledged the copies of the financial statement available to the guests. He said his company has issued a clean report, with no disagreements or problems with management.

Governance Committee Report

Sue Fellers, chairwoman, reported that five trustees have agreed to a second term, including Crystal Harmon, Paul Kinzie, Lavonn McKnight, Tom Newby, and Jim Richey. Paul Corr has agreed to serve on the Stewardship Committee, first term.

2015-2016 Committee Appointments and Trustee Plaque Presentations

Allen Zadorozny made a motion to accept the Class of 2018, including Harmon, Kinzie, McKnight, Newby, Richey and Corr. Sheila Ferrell seconded the motion and it passed.

Donor Gift Presentations

Bird read the names of donors who achieved a new level of giving, and President Janet Cunningham presented the gifts.

University Report

President Janet Cunningham acknowledged the cooperative spirit between the Foundation and Alumni Association and the University, noting that the results are a direct indication of this strong partnership.

Dr. Cunningham reported that enrollment for fall 2015 remains steady with 2,135 students. This is the seventh consecutive fall semester passing the 2,000 mark.

The 2015 President's Leadership Class has an average ACT score of 27, and includes ten valedictorians.

Twelve new full-time faculty joins Northwestern this year.

This past summer, Fryer Hall received a complete interior renovation with new HVAC, lighting, restrooms and movable furniture. Dr. Cunningham said the project came in under budget and on time.

The Dean Linder Press Box was dedicated on September 12. The Press Box includes a concession area, restrooms, suites and media accommodations. Dr. Cunningham acknowledged the Charles Morton Share Trust for its leading portion of funding.

Also included at the football stadium was the ribbon cutting for the new artificial turf on Ranger Field. Sixteen games will be played on the field this season, including six home games for Northwestern and several games from area high school teams.

President Cunningham said Northwestern was awarded the First Student Support Services Grant, which provides five years of funding totaling more than \$1 million. This grant will serve 140 students, including first generation, low income and disabled individuals.

The transition to NCAA Division II began full membership September 1 after a three-year process.

Homecoming 2015 is October 8-10. Dr. David Pecha serves as the Homecoming Chair.

Northwestern continues to make several ranking listings. *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked the University as Number 1 in most affordable on-campus living cost. *Affordable Colleges Foundation* ranked Northwestern's online accounting program in the top 50. Northwestern was the only Oklahoma school listed.

The Northwestern nursing program is ranked Number 18 according to *CollegeAtlas.org*.

Moving forward, Northwestern has begun a new strategic planning process. Also, University leadership is preparing for more cuts in state funding.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice Program process is advancing to review and approval by the State Regents for Higher Education.

Adjournment

Ferrell made the motion to adjourn, Zadorozny seconded and the motion to adjourn was approved.