



Alumni Board  
of Directors

Saturday, November 13, 2021  
Quarterly Board Meeting  
Richards Hall, Room 122

### Minutes

#### I. Call to Order and Welcome

#### II. Advancement Update

Dr. Brunen shared with us how the new RCOB building is open and bustling. The ribbon cutting took place for Roy Richards Sr. hall the week of Homecoming. It houses the newly established Stone Center which helps students learn and community members build and improve their family businesses. \$1.14 million dollars was raised for A Day, UWG's most ever. UWG also unveiled its brand new children's book 'Wolfie Finds His Howl'. The Presidential Gala will also be coming up in March.

#### III. Student Perspective

Lily Barwick of Student Services shared her "why west" story with the board. UWG was her 1<sup>st</sup> and only choice. She especially loves the programs offered by UWG and is excited to hopefully continue her career with Student Affairs at UWG. At UWG she didn't just feel like another number in a crowd. She received more opportunities and was able to see growth and change over her 4 years in Carrollton. Since she began here, UWG has become a more lively campus with more student involvement.

#### IV. Presidential Update

Dr. Kelly shared with us how US college enrollment across the nation is down 2%; 6.5% YOY. He posed the question that we should be asking of ourselves as we continue to grow UWG- "What's actually important to me?" His answer outlined the importance of coming to a university that creates a personal foundation for the rest of their lives. Reminding us that what our institution has been in the past is not necessarily what we need to be for the future. He mentioned his excitement to have all fall sports playing in the postseason for the first time in school history. He said UWG needs to be concerned with creating more exciting opportunities and experiences for our students, staff, alumni, and community.

#### V. Program: Academic Initiatives

Dr. Preston (Provost) led with his vision for UWG to be "running to the next" innovation, level, big moment, etc. He is working to evaluate and expand our academic programs focusing on if they meet



the needs of the world today. He unveiled our newly approved Digital and Social Media communication Masters program, along with other nexus and 4 year degrees in computing.

Dr. Schuessler (Nursing) spoke on admissions, GPA, and freshman commitment with nursing declarations. A current nursing student shared his story and explained how the personal touch of the UWG nursing program changed the trajectory of his life and gave him great confidence to continue his career. He mentioned the realization that being in the nursing program at UWG surrounds him with others his age who want more out of their lives, and that motivated him to be the man he is today. He acknowledged that his "Plan A" for life taught him what he actually needed was his "Plan B."

Dr. Smith (College of Education) taught us about how COE focuses on teaching, leadership, and wellness. Majority of the current student body are graduate level. They have added 4-5 concentrations in health and wellness in the past few years. One of these is a new Doctorate in Higher Ed Administration/MBA degree. They worked with state and local governments to create paid internships for UWG students to assist local boards of education with the current teacher shortages, giving UWG students real life experiential learning while creating the avenue for students to roll directly into full time employment in those schools upon graduation.

John Garner (Guest Speaker from COE) has recently won teacher of the year for his efforts and presented to the board from a robot. He was the first of 57 family members to graduate college and finished his degree while raising a young family. He still has relationships with his mentors from UWG that continue to influence his life and career. He noted the shortage of male teachers of color and provided inspiration to those young men to become teachers and have an impact on their communities.

## **VI. Executive Committee Reports**

**Executive Director's Report:** Allyson Bretch introduced new staff member Kate. Allyson gave the dates for Santa on campus. She discussed an offering of Peach State Pride Polos for sale and fundraising. A report on A DAY giving was presented. A DAY raised 1.14 million for 2021. There was a presentation of Ashlyn Arp's work on social media platforms. Allyson reviewed the homecoming activities. There was discussion of the Verzuz Event in Atlanta with Chris and



Semeka in attendance. There was a review of the key highlights and Allyson presented the information on the Student Scholarship provided by Wanda McGukin.

**Chair's Report:** There was no report from the Chair offered at this meeting

**Vice Chair's Report:** There was no report from the Chair offered at this meeting

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report consisted of a reading of the following:

Operating Budget, Legacy Endowment, Endowment recipients, Current giving level: 68%

**Secretary's Report:** The Secretary's report was provided by Christopher Sanders presenting the minutes for Brian Nichols. The minutes were presented and motioned for approval by Courtney and seconded by Tanya. All members voted to approve the minutes as presented.

#### **VII. Old Business**

\*Approval of Minutes:

#### **VIII. New Business**

**\*Bylaws Update:** Bylaws Update: Discussion of editing Section 4.3. There was a motion to approve the edits by Christopher Sanders, and a second by Philip Cochran. All members voted to approve, and the motion passed.

Melanie Hildebrandt promoted the concession sales for the Legacy Scholarship. She reported that the Bookstore would be open and provided the hours. Melanie reminded that board applications are open. She reported that our next meeting will be February 26, 2022 (2/26/2022) in Newnan, and that the Alumni Awards will be on April 30, 2022 (4/30/2022).

#### **IX. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am

Approved by the University of West Georgia Alumni Board of Directors this \_\_\_\_ day of

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary



Alumni Board  
of Directors

SIGN IN SHEET  
NOVEMBER 13, 2021

Name	Check-In
Steve Anthony	virtual
Ashlyn Arp	
Ashton Blackwood	
Ashley Bush	
Philip Cochran	
Courtney Cook	Cook
Chantrice Copeland	
Troy Crittendon	
Karen "KC" Curtis	virtual
Michael Davis	
Tanya Debick	Debick
Marshall "Tyler" Duffey	
Tracy Fields	virtual
Samuel Gentry	
Donte Gilbert	
Greg Goodlett	
Keith Haber	
Gere Helton	

Melanie D. Hildebrandt	Melanie Hildebrandt
Edna Huey	
Danielle Jenkins	Danielle Jenkins
Jason Kennedy	VIRTUAL
Allison Key	VIRTUAL
Ashley Kovac	VIRTUAL
Frederick "Rick" Martin	
Michael McDowell	Michael McDowell
Wanda McGukin	Wanda McGukin
Brad Mock	Brad Mock
Justin Monsewicz	VIRTUAL
Artagus Newell	Artagus Newell
Brian Nichols	Brian Nichols
Judy Rowell	Judy Rowell
Semeka Samuels	Semeka Samuels
Christopher Sanders	Christopher Sanders
Shelby Scott-Guinn	Shelby Scott-Guinn
Peggy Smith	Peggy Smith
Terie Smith-Phillips	Terie Smith-Phillips
Barbara Tanner	
Donald L. Walker	Donald L. Walker
Joy White	
Dexter Williams	VIRTUAL

Lily Barwick ✓  
 James Camp-woods ✓  
 John Gamert ✓

Jenny Schuessler ✓  
 Zoe Wheat  
 Laura Smith ✓