

Alumna Council Meeting
United Theological Seminary
October 30, 2007

Present: Casey vanderBent, Margaret Morris, Jim Peck, Mary Samuels, Lydia Huttar Brown, Cherie Daniel, Anita Hill, George Kearney, Gail Anderson
Staff: Julie Brown

Meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m.

Introductions included each person speaking of where s/he finds the Divine.

President Jim Peck opened with reflections on “apology” and the MPLS Art Institute’s MN 150 Exhibit. “This may never happen again in your lifetime.” A statement true about wonderfully interesting things and as well about the everyday passage of time and events also may never happen again in your lifetime.

1. Julie Brown presented an update about United.

- \$1million annual fund campaign reached. Want to reach new donors and visitors to campus and are using small dinners, wine and cheese receptions, and after church gatherings to highlight students and help people become more fully aware of United and our student body.
- Forty-three percent of our seminary’s alums contributed to United last fiscal year producing the largest amount ever. Goal for this year is \$130,000 from alums, to which each member of the Alumna Council was encouraged to contribute.
- CUE (the fundraising arm of Chicago, United, Eden seminaries) funding has declined significantly since 2002. CUE is now working to develop new relationships with congregations which have not yet contributed. Kathleen Remund (United church relations staff) is spending much of her time visiting congregations and offering the resources United has to offer using faculty and staff. If Alum Council members want to connect Kathleen with persons in a congregation, please contact her directly.
- A feasibility study was conducted interviewing 25 donors and other community members for a potential capital campaign. Many of the people interviewed wanted to support capacity building instead of endowment at this time. Capacity building would be for marketing, development, and admissions.
- November is a very busy months on campus with events and speakers. United student Ruth MacKenzie will perform in Bigelow Chapel.
- Website remake is underway and is expected to be available in January 2008.
- Duluth Program – An admissions event to raise community awareness of United is scheduled at UMD and an alum reception. This is another way to get out United’s message. United classes are available in Duluth.

2. Spring Convocation – April 23-24, 2008

A. Worship Service – Margaret Morris, Cherie Daniel, Kathy Nelson, Dennis

Crumb (he will be contacted and asked to help with this) have volunteered to work on this aspect of convocation.

- B. Register early as the event is expected to fill quickly. The keynote speaker is Bishop John Shelby Spong.
- C. President's Lunch – Alumna Council members are encouraged to attend.
- D. Alumna Banquet –George Kearney, Lydia Huttar Brown will assist with this.
- E. Alumna Breakfast and Annual Meeting – Jim Peck, Julie Brown
- F. Alumna Award –Mary Samuels, Jim Peck, Nancy Swanson, George Kearney
- G. Nominating Committee – Seeks five nominees to be put forward for election –Casey vanderBent, Gail Anderson, Mary Samuels
- H. Alum Art exhibit during convocation –request that pieces be submitted, dropped off, and displayed for the month of April through Convocation when art pieces may be picked up by the donors. Need for criteria, limit of the number of pieces, not juried but...is there a range of art styles? ...right of refusal? Inappropriate submissions? Proposal was changed to limit the initial year of alum art to the graduation years being celebrated during the convocation. Does Cindi Beth Johnson have a list of alum artists? Poetry that could be displayed? Consider contacting alums who have previously displayed art at United as students or thereafter. Do we want to limit to “religious art”? Probably spiritual art.

3. Constitution and By-laws Update: Jim Peck and Casey vanderBent

Items that require attention:

- Constitution, Article V, Section 1. Representatives will be sought to represent diversity of degree program, gender, class, denomination, geographic area. The make up of the council should include all the categories represented in the diversity of the Alumna Association, with special attention to denomination, geography, and degree programs.
- Article V, Section 2. How long shall an officer serve?
- Article V, Section 5. Shall an alum appointed to fill a vacancy also be eligible to be elected to two full terms following?
- Article V Section 1 and Section 5 – up to more than nine years total?
- Shall we add a way to remove a member of the Alum Council –for example, if they never attend a meeting? Expectation of the three yearly events – fall and spring meetings, and the Annual Meeting of the Alums. If there are three uncommunicated/excused absences? What if the person does committee work and doesn't attend meetings? What is the minimum level of participation? Could someone attend by electronic means? Is the minimum attendance at one of the three events during each academic year? Make a contribution of note to the yearly Annual Fund.
- Note that the Alum Council is responsible for determining the recipient of the Distinguished Alum Award.

- Bylaws Article II – change “written notice” to “communicated”
- Bylaws Article III – Section 2 – change from “mail ballot” to “ballot.”
- Members may serve six consecutive years?
- Bylaw Article IV – Continuing Resolutions – To the best of our knowledge we are fulfilling the requirements of the bylaws regarding the Alumna group of Yankton School of Theology and the Alumna Association of Mission House Seminary.
- Alumna Council Terms Expire...Month, Year – Date Certain
- Invite nominees to attend the spring meeting and actually take office in June of the year they are elected
- What if there is a contested election?

4. Potential Projects

- Round Table discussions with United Students
 - Urban, Rural, Non Profits
 - Plan another discussion spring '07
 - Locate a space for the discussion where participants can hear
- Early Bird Breakfasts quarterly – 8:00-9:00 a.m. with an alum speaker. Open to alums and could be hosted at various churches in the Twin Cities by alums. Might this be a development opportunity for donors to meet “products” of the seminary? Record and place podcasts on United website. Julie Brown will work with Gail Anderson on this.
- Alum Art Exhibit – We like the idea. Julie will ask Cindi Beth about whether or not a list of alums who have previously displayed at United.
 - Margaret Morris will help from a distance.

5. Annual Fund Phonathon – Julie Brown will contact us with dates for these events, and thank you calls. What are the costs of phonathons—gift cards, food, long distance calls, etc?

6. E-mail contact from Alumna Council members to alums about upcoming events and such. Jim is willing to do this kind of communication again, for example for the early bird breakfasts. Julie will send six addresses to each Alumna Council member.

7. Event in Rochester –Development, Cultivations, and Recruitment Event may be held in Rochester, Minn., to reach out to SE Minnesota and SW Wisconsin, NE Iowa. Reception, breakfast, etc. There are significant churches that Kathleen Remund and Kita McVay would like to get to know. Do we have an institutional relationship in Rochester that is not in a church? Faculty member presentation may be a draw.

8. Minutes of April 24, 2007 were ratified.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Minutes by Anita Hill
Secretary, Alumna Council