

Lewis & Clark College
Board of Alumni Meeting -- Remote via Zoom
June 28, 2020

Board Members Present:

Hillary Dixon, *President*
Mary Bodine-Watts
Margi Brown, *Chair Albany Society Board of Directors*
Jonathan Burton
Katie Byrnes
Anne Caputo
Alexa Cid Carerra, *SAA president*
Peter Dempsey
Edgard Garcia
Catherine Gibson
Hanako Imber
Erik Jensen
Hongda Jiang
Ryan Lockard
Chris Ohman, *president-elect*
Aron Phillips
Stacy Rout-Thompson
Anthony J. Ruiz
Richard Sames
Chris Scheffler
Marnie Troska
Barbara Whitaker

Board Members Absent:

None

Staff Present Full BOA meeting:

Andrew McPheeters, *Associate Vice President of Alumni, Parent, and Student Engagement*
Emily Decker, *Senior Associate Director*
Tara McIrvin, *Associate Director*
Caroline Mead, *Associate Director*
Ginger Moshofsky, *Associate Director*

Additional Staff Present for Ally Skills Training:

Todd Davis, *Administrative Specialist*

Pre-Meeting resources:

- ☐ A video from Robin, VP of Student Life, welcoming new students and preparing campus for COVID19: <https://youtu.be/NHFeyxJlItE>
- ☐ A Reflection Activity to prepare for the afternoon session on Allies Training and Anti-Racism worksheet is shared with the board members for completion during the lunch period.

- ❑ **CAS Fundraising Update June FY20** (PDF provided to members via link)
- ❑ **APP Report Outline - BoA Meeting, June 28, 2020** (Document provided to members via link))

Notes:

SESSION I

Hillary Dixon - **Call to Order**

Welcome new appointed BOA member Anne Caputo '69, and Alexa Cid Carrera '21, new *SAA President 2020-2021*.

Hillary -asks for a motion to approve the spring meeting minutes.

Catherine Gibson - **Motion to approve minutes.**

Jonathan Burton - **Seconds the motion.**

17 members approve minutes.

4 members abstain who were not in attendance for the spring meeting (Aron, Mary, Anne and Erik*).

*Spring minutes amended to reflect Erik Jensen not in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Hillary introduces Robin Holmes-Sullivan, *Vice President of Student Life and Dean of Students*.

Update and Q & A - Robin Holmes-Sullivan:

Robin speaks about the upcoming plans for the college pertaining to student life and the student experience. These plans are designed to focus on improving our retention and enhance the connection students have with L&C.

■ Division of student life

- Key leaders that departed the Division are:
 - long serving *Assistant Dean of Student Rights and Responsibilities*, Charlie Ahlquist.
 - Director of Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement*, Angela Gintz.
- Great staff members stepping up to fill these positions are:
 - *Interim Director of Student Rights and Responsibilities*, Jessica Carron.
 - Interim Director of Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement*, Dominic Gardner.

■ Student life strategic plan and goals

- The Strategic Directions document completed in January will guide us over the next 5 years. There are 6 new goals for the division:

1. Collaborate across the institution to attract, enroll and graduate global citizens.

--Implemented a campus wide engagement programing plan to enhance engagement and connection for staff, faculty and students.

- Commitment to major facilities improvements and revised student activities infrastructure.
- Developing a healthy campus initiative.
- 2. Strengthen, differentiate and promote co-curricular learning
 - New co-curriculum implemented as a roadmap of experiences for student's (using a technological tool called *Presence*) to promote student engagement and success. Hopefully this will be rolled out in time for NSO this fall.
- 3. Prioritize the development and maintenance of the campus infrastructure and facilities.
 - Renovation and expansion of Templeton into a true student union.
 - Renovate the outdated student housing and create a grand pedestrian plaza.
 - Updates to athletics and recreational facilities.
- 4. Strengthen our individual and collective commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
- 5. Recognize and reward our staff.
 - Student Life Recognition and Professional Development Program.
- 6. Participate in fiscally responsible projects that help us to realize our untapped potential.
 - Collaborate with our institutional partners, and Alumni to support fundraising efforts for the L&C Comprehensive Campaign.
 - Increase the number of endowed student life positions through philanthropy and support.
 - Increase our Alumni engagement in student life activities, thorough mentorships and philanthropy.
 - Come up with new ways to generate revenue to better support programs and the student experience.

■ Preparations to open the college in the fall

- Creating plans to safely open for in person instruction and programing in the fall.
- August 17th-20th new student virtual trips thorough College Outdoors.
- August 24th-26th new students move in dates.
- August 26th-29th New Student Orientation.
- August 31st First day of classes.

No Fall Break: October 8 and 9 will be instructional

- November 20: Final day of in-person instruction

Thanksgiving week: No classes; students travel home

- November 30: Online instruction begins
- December 13–16: Final exams administered remotely

Students will return home for Thanksgiving, and not return to campus for the rest of the semester. This schedule will allow them to have a meaningful on-campus experience while minimizing travel between home and campus. Students who need to remain in campus housing for the duration of the semester will be accommodated. Plans for keeping students safe and healthy are evolving in the next few weeks. We will have to have solutions for large scale detection, identification and tracking of the virus. We have plans for testing, tracing, cleaning and a robust educational campaign and student pledge, all to help us slow the spread. We are hiring our own contact tracers, and also may get rapid testing machines for fall.

■ Equity and equality

- The National picture at this moment in time has captured the attention regarding Black Lives Matters. As a predominately white institution in the pacific NW the spotlight on the senseless killing of black and brown people by police and the structural and institutional racism in our country is something that our students and community must be responsive to. We prepare our students to think critically and to act globally. There is no time in our history that that's more important and more needed than now. We are anticipating that the activism and demonstrations that we have been seeing nationally will be part of the landscape as we roll into the fall. And such activity on our own campus is assuredly going to occur. We are meeting with students in two weeks to hear about some of their concerns specifically in regards to L&C. We held a call to action meeting for our division soon after the killing of George Floyd and the ensuing national unrest. We committed to deeming the year 2020 as a year of unlearning racism. We will develop opportunities for dialog, learning, cultural competence, and developing a more inclusive and equitable L&C.
- The first year experience committee was formed to study and propose new programming and approaches to improve retention. Early themes and goals are how to develop opportunities for first year students to revisit the theme of belonging. All freshmen will participate in a common reading of an essay by the Portland based writer Jamila Osman titled: "*A Map of Lost Things: On Family, Grief, and the Meaning of Home*" <https://catapult.co/stories/a-map-of-lost-things>.
- A campus wide (CAS, GRAD and LAW) common reading on anti-racism will also take place during the coming year, the text has yet to be selected.

How can L&C Alums help?

- We need to have more of a critical mass from various backgrounds, nationalities, races, socio economic statuses, and underrepresented groups at L&C. To do so we need more scholarship and financial aid help.
- We need more philanthropic support to attract and retain faculty and professional staff of color.
- White alumni with skills and experiences of navigating difficult dialogs and have an understanding of the values of multiculturalism and equity and inclusion could volunteer to work productively with our white students.
- Our black and brown alumni can play a huge role in mentoring and supporting our black and brown students.
- Alumni can continue to insist that L&C do better. Do better with the students, faculty and staff of color that we do have. Identify and eradicate inequities and understand and acknowledge how our campus history plays into white supremacy and change it. Do better to make L&C a place of social justice, community and inclusion.

Q&A discussion was held with Robin.

Update Alumni Honors Committee - Catherine Gibson

(Catherine, Chris O., Aron, Edgard, Erik, Ryan, Marnie, Jonathan, and Barbara)

We selected a slate of nominees for each of the four alumni awards who will be announced in the February 2021 honors event.

- Presentation of nominations for awards
- Members speak about the individuals on the ballot for each award category.

Members Vote for Honors recipients by google form/ballot.

Votes will be collected and counted up to 1pm.

Hillary- Voting results will not be announced at this meeting but after those chosen are contacted and they have accepted.

Update Administrative Committee - Peter Dempsey

(Peter, Mary, Jonathan, Erik, Hongda, Chris O., Stacy, Richard, and Anthony)

Peter welcomes new board member Anne Caputo '69.

Anne gives a self-introduction about her interests and background.

- Presentation of candidates for Board of Alumni Election.

Prior to this June meeting to fill a vacancy from a member withdrawal, one position was appointed (Anne Caputo) per the rules of the bylaws. We have three new open positions and two positions are incumbents who will appear on the ballot along with the new candidates that were interviewed. Nine new candidates were interviewed by the Committee and five were selected and will appear on the ballot along with the two incumbents.

- A discussion held with recommendations from the Committee.

Topics addressed:

- This year's pool of applicants were very incredibly impressive and strong.
- The Demographic makeup of the current board should be a factor to consider.

Equity & Inclusion Committee – Hanako Imber

(Hanako, Mary, Katie, Hillary, Stacy, and Anthony)

Hanako's perspective is that there is a lot of momentum right now at Lewis & Clark to build an actively anti-racist culture. This is part of the reason why we are doing a skills training session this afternoon, so we can all be a part of building the type of inclusive community that we would like to see here at Lewis & Clark.

Short break to give members time to fill out a worksheet to prepare for the training session later this afternoon.

Alumni and Parent Programs Update - Andrew, Emily, Caroline, Tara, and Ginger

Office Update - Andrew

Thank you everyone for your patience these past few months. I know my response time has been slower and each day in our office I'm not sure what we will encounter.

Ended the year with a balanced budget, despite cancelling last three Pioneer Travel trips. Proud that we got refunds to everyone even when the contract didn't guarantee it.

Our team is furloughed one day a week through July. We continue to work from home and will probably do that until January 2021. Starting in September some staff presence in the office to allow students to return to jobs. But we do not expect alumni visiting to campus this year.

We will not be traveling through May 2021 or having events on campus.

Our operating budget for 2020-2021 was cut by 55%.

Some good news as we celebrate with Tara (she will be on Family Leave November to March).

Pivoting Toward Virtual Experiences - Andrew/Emily

Created a new infrastructure. A web-page that features virtual events, and catalogues other resources, recorded presentation etc. A weekly Monday email featuring events in the next eight days.

By end of July over 1,500 individual experiences with more than 70 events. Attendance from a total of 136 participants with Stephen Beckham to small but meaningful affinity gatherings.

Emeriti, faculty, alumni presentations, film screenings, piano concerts, life planning workshops, yoga, weekly meet-ups with academic departments and current students, and the list goes on.

Over 30 Happy Hours with affinity groups

One example, Art History Professor Dawn Odell gave a free one hour academic presentation. Afterwards, developed a course *5 Cities/ 5 Centuries* (five 1.5 hour sessions). We charged \$45, capped the class at 35, and have a waitlist of 19.

Mapping out now what the fall will look like with a couple virtual events a week. I will send you an idea survey about this after July 4th. But we'd like to follow-up with your ideas like Aron's alumni musicians concert.

Our observations include many alumni attending who never went to an alumni event before. We can make intimate connections, build relationships. Increased giving at the registration, and after the events.

Many of you helped us moderate or attended sessions -- Thank you! Your observations?

Black & Orange Parties - Caroline

Moving to a virtual experience. Plan for cities, states, regions, countries. Run of Show. BOA help with welcome as moderator. Trivia.

Virtual October Homecoming - Tara

Moving to a virtual experience. A month vs. a weekend. A kick-off to programming that extends into the rest of the semester (November, December). Some of the ideas shaping up

Looking Ahead - Andrew

October Board Meeting will be at least 3.5 hours on Sunday, 10/18. After we evaluate this meeting look to select a date for an additional virtual meeting in September or November.

Alumni Honors will take a new format probably virtual, we'll just need the Committee's help with that in a few months.

We will have the February/March meeting on-campus if we can. Chris Ohman and I need to visit about the Board of Trustee meeting and we'll poll you about dates for that Winter meeting very soon.

Alumni Weekend 2021 will welcome back 21 classes (0's, 1's, 5's, 6's) and include a special time for the Class of 2020 at their "One Year" Reunion. Larger style events will be re-imagined.

APP and Anti-Racism work - Andrew

I can't emphasize enough we are in a listening mode so email me, and let's arrange a call if you have a concern, an idea, or something you want to process. My team has submitted to me equity and diversity plans for their areas of responsibility. We'll be evaluating those this summer and setting goals in our annual evaluation. I'll do the same with Josh Walter. We created a section for Anti-Racism Community Resources on our virtual events page. Replaced the events link on the main Alumni page with a direct link to this. Featured this link in the weekly emails every week in June. I am in discussion with former Board member Aukeem Balalrd to hire him to consult with our Office, and certainly that could include support to this Board. The APP staff will take a couple days this summer and first spend some time reading, watching, and discussing some of the resources available. I hope the Board might join us in a version of that. We are very committed to facilitating stronger relationships with alumni of color, and fostering support to our students of color from alumni. At the October meeting I hope you will expect from me a report of how we opened ourselves up to listen and learn, or specific plans, and what we have accomplished by October.

Chapters Update - Andrew/Barbara

A thank you to everyone who conducted interviews of other schools, or even went through the effort to make contact. It was helpful to round out our ideas about chapters. We collected responses from 14 schools, with attempts to contact 21. (Barbara, Chris O., Edgard, Hanako, Hongda, Kate, Marnie, Mary, Richard)

A special thank you to Barbara who has been meeting with me semi-regularly on this topic. After this meeting I will share the Master Document with all the responses, and a summary report that Barbara has helped with. But, below I'd like to walk through some key points.

While we have starting point we'll only be successful with the BOA's involvement. I know Edgard and Barbara have indicated a willingness to help, let me know via email if you'd like to join that ongoing discussion.

Some Observations:

Colleges with successful Chapters concentrated chapter activity with one specific staff member (vs. a group of liaisons to different areas, cities etc.) *Emily Decker will take that on, it will be her primary area of responsibility, and we'll be adjusting some of her other work responsibilities to myself and others.*

Providing some set funds for Chapters to manage seemed key. *Even with our budget restrictions we will carve out a total of \$10,000 to allocate among emerging Chapters and see how that goes.*

Schools had a variety advice, manage "bottom up", "top down", but what seemed consistent was a regular planned interaction. *Some of the systems that Emily will take and develop would include regular Zoom calls with the group of Chapter Presidents (I wonder if a BOA representative might join that); one-on-one calls with each President; A Handbook; position descriptions; common strategies about use of social media etc.*

Colleges ranged on the size, number, and set-up of their Chapters. *We will move forward with 5 or 6 large Chapters (PDX, Denver, DC, LA, Greater Bay Area, NYC, Seattle etc.), 5 or 6 medium chapters (Boston, Chicago, Hawaii, Minneapolis, San Diego etc.) and as many as make sense that are small singular representatives (Texas, Idaho, New England, The South etc.). The Chapter document has some examples of mock-rosters.*

There are a number of programming ideas collected by all of you from other Colleges, thank you. *We will move forward this summer to activate the first five Chapters. NYC will have have Zoom event with President Wiewel. The Black & Orange parties will help us move forward with those and five more. We'll activate the second set of five this year. Our goal in 2021-2022 will be another five.*

Break for "Lunch" and Voting

Members Vote for BOA members by google form/ballot.

Votes will be collected and counted up to 1pm.

Hillary- Voting results will not be announced at this meeting but after those chosen are contacted.

SESSION II

Alumni Student Connections and Development Committee Report– Chris Scheffler and Alexa Cid Carrera SAA president
(Chris S., Peter, Edgard, Ryan, Aron, Richard and Marnie)

Resources: **Alumni Communications and Development Committee (ACDC) Report** and **APP-SAA Roster 2020-2021** (PDF provided to members via link)

Seven new SAA scholarships were awarded to students this year, with six additional students returning. The new SAA president for the 2020 / 2021 school year is Alexa Cid Carrera.

■ Two new committee initiatives:

- “Board Buddies,” which would pair each SAA member with a Board member. These buddies would be responsible for acting as an informal mentor, conduit to other alums, and a friendly face at SAA / BoA events. Initial Board Buddies will be from the Committee but anyone else who would like to be involved should contact Chris / Tara. Preferably, 13 Board members would participate.
- Proposal of a letter to the class of 2020 from the Board of Alumni. Let the new alums know we are available as a resource. Try to engage them early as alums and offer to help if we can with immediate concerns (e.g. networking, career advice).

SAA and BOA move into Break-out sessions for personal introductions and sharing.

Update and Q&A from President Wim Wiewel

■ Enrollment

Enrollment for this coming fall was a real worry initially both for retention and new students. We extended our deadline to enroll to June 1st. We ended up with 579 deposits, which is 40 better than last year. We are holding on to those numbers so the situation is good so far.

■ Reopening

We are still planning to be open for in person education, unless the governor tells us we can't be. Multnomah County is currently in phase 1, which limits gatherings only up to 25 people. We are hoping later in July that we will move into phase 2, where we could have gatherings up to 50, but with the current spike this could take longer. Our plans are following the Oregon Health Authority guidelines which means 6 feet of separation in the classrooms, 35 square Oregon Health Authority guidelines which means 6 feet of separation in the classrooms, and a minimum of 35 square feet per person when determining room capacity. Everyone has to wear masks, but in some cases faculty will be wearing plastic coverings. There will be cleaning in-between classes and designated entrances and exits.

So far it is hard to say anything about what athletics will look like in the fall. We are making plans to have athletics including football and Basketball but the NW Conference has not yet made any definitive decisions. The NCAA has been unwilling to make a decision either. I am not optimistic about sports like football as it seems to be very difficult to keep the students safe from the virus.

■ Comprehensive Campaign

Though the June Alumni Weekend 2020 and kickoff of the Campaign in September did have to be postponed we did have a pretty good year. We had a yearly goal to raise 22 million by May 31st and we raise 18 million this year. With a yearly goal of 22 million we are still ahead

overall at 71 million after three years. We hope to get back on track and potentially have the campaign kickoff at Alumni Weekend June 2021.

■ Racial justice and injustice

An important topic that has been a focus of our attention and the nation as a whole are the issues of racial inequity that have been raised by the protests against the police killings that have happened. Of course it is true for any institution in this country and Lewis & Clark is not free from having had racist incidents, and from having practices and behaviors that are properly called systemic racism and that have led to the exclusion in many ways of black people and other people of color. We see that in the make-up of the student body, faculty and staff. We have also done a lot of things to make change and make progress. Our undergraduate student body is now about 28% students of color, which is twice as much as it was 7 years ago. Faculty and staff is about 14% which is also about twice as much as it was 7 years ago. When I came to the college we initiated an implicit bias training requirement for all members of search committees at the college. We know that every institution needs to work much, much harder. In Wim's letter that went out to all alumni on June 9th he listed about 10 specific actions that we are taking.

Q&A discussion was held with Wim.

3 Minute Break

Members of board and APP staff participate in an *Ally Skills Training* facilitated by Tarah Fleming of StartDialog.com

As the training concluded Hanako suggests that all committee chairs initiate an "equity clause" into their committee meeting going forward.

Albany Society Report – Margi Brown, *Chair Albany Society Board of Directors*

■ We have a newly elected slate of officers:

Dee Wolfe '68, *Chair*,

Dave Todd '68, *Vice Chair*

Paula Janz '69, *Secretary*

David Avison '68 *Treasurer*

■ In May we had a ASBD Board Zoom Happy Hour and plan to have a summer Zoom gathering in August 13th with Wim as the guest speaker.

Hillary: Recognition and thank you's

Margi Brown, and Jonathan Burton will be terming off after this meeting and we thank them for their service.

Andrew: Recognition and thank you's

Hillary Dixon is thanked for her service to the board and as president.

Video slideshow of Margi, Jonathan and Hillary is shared with the board

Passing of the gavel from Hillary to Chris

Meeting adjourns.