

**The Storm King School**

**Alumni Council**

**October 20, 2018**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome and Opening:** A regular meeting of The Storm King School Alumni Council was held on the above date in the Ogden Hall Classroom Building on the Campus of the Storm King School. President Cantor ‘73 presiding and Secretary Crevling ‘72 present as Secretary. The following members were in attendance Steve Bluth ’83 (by phone), Sele Birchwood ’09, Richard (Dick) Broughton ’54, Tom Delaney ’58, Adam Eisen ’80 (by phone), Johnathan Flores ’12, David Gilmore ’61, and Madison Sergi ’14. The following members were excused Christopher Bonner ’66, Charles Cordero ’92, and Christine Watson ’94.

Alumni guest were Matt Fascaldi ’14, Trevor Hughes ’13, and Stephen Paley ’60.

Sarah Fulton ‘09 represented the Alumni and Development Office.

Mr. Cantor called the meeting to order at 9:40 am and ask for a motion to approve the June 9, 2018 meeting minutes. Mr. Broughton made a motion for their approval seconded by Mr. Gilmore. Hearing no discussion or amendments the meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Cantor remarked about the benefits of the October 18,2018 Career Night and how mentoring helps as a way for alumni (current and future) to connect and support one another.

**State of the School Update:** Sarah Fulton, Annual Giving and Alumni Special Events Manager provided the Council with a report on the state of the School noting that Storm King is in a very positive position. (See Attached Slides) Members of the Council did ask as to the implication having such a large senior class, 60, and enrollment status of students for the upcoming academic year. She stated that the pipeline for new students is healthy and continues to grow. Mr. Broughton sited that studies on independent schools and size showed that 185-195 is optimum for small schools offering personalized student-centered education. It was also noted that the School’s 2022 Strategic Plan sets an enrollment goal of 190 students.

A discussion was held as to the need to achieve this year’s Storm King Fund goal of $260,000 and SKS Alumni participation. Participants spoke of the merits of what alumni gain by strong participation and giving. Ms. Fulton shared with the Council the recently released GiveCampus Appeal whose focus is on investing and its impact on the School. Mr. Delaney asked where the School’s endowment stands. Referring to her presentation, Ms. Fulton stated that total net assets both restricted and unrestricted stood at $5,875,027. Ms. Crevling added that one of the goals for the Sesquicentennial Campaign is to add $2 million to the School’s endowment resources.

**Alumni Awards Committee (Part 1):** Mr. Cantor began the discussion about the establishment of two additional alumni awards. The first is a SKS Alumni Humanitarian Award and the second, a SKS Alumni Arts Award that would recognize achievement by Storm King Alumni in the arts. He spoke about the possibility of presenting these awards in the fall as part of building on the momentum from this year’s fall Alumni Weekend. Mr. Bluth commented that day schools where he has served have a very large turnout and participation for fall homecoming weekends. While a traditional homecoming weekend has been tried numerous times at Storm King, the School has been very successful in ingraining in its alumni its spring Reunion Weekend where attendance has been very good and is increasing in recent years. Mr. Birchwood noted that the fall is a very busy time as noted by the absence of Mr. Bluth, Mr. Cordero, and Ms. Watson who were all attending fall events. Should the School expand on the fall alumni weekend, Mr. Flores suggested that School capitalize on a country fair or fall harvest theme to attract alumni and their families.

There was a consensus by Council members in attendance that the Alumni and Development Office move forward with the development of criteria for the two above-mentioned awards, drafts of which will be presented at the regular February meeting. The timing of their presentation will also be in development, particularly when there is a critical mass of alumni on campus. Mr. Cantor suggested that a way should be found to involve the student body, especially with the humanitarian award. Mr. Gilmore suggested that the Sports Hall of Fame and Clark Faculty Excellence Awards be presented at dinner when there is a captive audience and critical mass. He further stated that brevity be key to the presentation of the awards.

**Academic and Student Life Report:** The Alumni Council welcomed Dr. Tim Lance, The Storm King School’s Chairman of the Mathematics Department and Academic Dean. Dr. Lance began by stating that the overall health of the School as indicated by its enrollment is good but it is not without its challenges. He reported for the first time in School history that the 8th grade has two sections of students of 10 students each. He also reported that classroom space and dorm beds are now at a premium as there remain only six beds within the dorms.

Dr. Lance reported that Storm King transitioned into a new electronic registrar platform this year called Blackbaud which is quite robust. The system marries block teaching and traditional high school scheduling into a college-like model in line with the School’s college preparatory mission.

Dr. Lance further reported that the School has a new college counselor in place, Marti Kwon, who began in September. She will be meeting with all students, not just the Senior and Junior classes, in regards to the college process. He commented that to meet with each student individually will take time for her to connect. At her urging the School has also adopted Naviance, an online system for college readiness. The system is robust not only for college-bound students but also for placement and alumni tracking.

Dr. Lance remarked that he had been an educator for the past 22 years. In that time he taught at the Berkshire School, among other institutions. He noted that in all the Schools he has served, the Storm King student body is of a caliber that is equal or stronger. He noted that there is an increasing demand for advanced placement classes that are currently being offered and that students’ academic success is evidenced by the strong college placement results.

Mr. Delaney asked how students with difficulties are supported by dorm parents. Dr. Lance commented that there is a sense among the entire faculty that if you identify that a student is struggling, you report it. It is the ‘see something, say something’ approach. He further remarked that a regular item on faculty meeting agenda is discussion centered on students’ academic and other needs.

Dr. Lance commented, “this is a special place” and that issues found at other schools such as bullying and cliques do not exist at Storm King. The Alumni Council thanked Dr. Lance for his report and remarks.

**Outreach and Development Committee Report:** In the absence of Mr. Bonner, Ms. Fulton reported for the Committee. She began her remarks by stating that one of the committee’s major initiatives is to administer a series of surveys to the entire SKS Alumni body. The surveys will focus on three key areas:

* Student Experience
* Alumni Communication
* Philanthropy

At the recommendation of Mr. Bonner the surveys will be administered over an 18 month period with six months between surveys to avoid survey fatigue and to conduct follow-up focus groups both in person and with student callers.

Ms. Fulton reported that she had distributed the first survey dealing with overall student experience to the entire Alumni Council. She brought several paper surveys which she distributed and asked that the Council complete the survey and send their recommendation, opinions and edits to her no later than October 26, 2018. She remarked that she has been in contact with Mr. Bonner, an expert in survey science, as to the administration of the survey. He also recommended that members of the Council take the survey independently so as not to be influenced by a controlled group environment at the meeting.

As a point of clarification, members were told that this survey is focused on their own experience as Storm King students.

Mr. Delaney remarked that the purpose of this kind of survey is to get more SKS Alumni involved, which would lead to more charitable giving to SKS. To bridge that gap, SKS wants to know their alumni experiences.

**Nominating Committee Report:** In the absence of committee chair, Ms. Watson, Ms. Crevling together with other committee members provided the report. Ms. Sergi stated the Katrina Wu ’12 has resigned from the Council as she was unable to secure a visa to the United States. In her place, the Committee invited Jack Liu ’11 to consider serving. At this time, Mr. Liu is also out of the country and unable to fulfill Ms. Wu’s term.

Ms. Crevling reported that the Committee will be seeking candidates for the following upcoming vacancies:

* Vacancy due to resignation for alumni in the decade of 2010 and above
* Vacancies as a result of potential term expirations in June of 2019.
  + Decade of 2010 and above (1)
  + Decade of the 1980s (1)
  + Decade of 1960s (1)
* Member at Large as delineated in the Constitution and selected by the SKS Alumni body.

Ms. Crevling reported that the Alumni and Development Office will develop materials to promote nominations from the SKS Alumni body for the member at large vacancy. She reported that the Committee will be working to identify individuals for the decade vacancies and that they will also be asking current Alumni Council Members whose terms are expiring for a preliminary indication if they wish to renew their terms, with the decision to be made by the next Alumni Council meeting. .

Mr. Bluth asked that the call for nominations for the Alumni Council Member at Large be put in motion as soon as possible.

**Alumni Awards Committee Report (Part 2):** Committee Chairman Gilmore reported that currently there are 12 Sports Hall of Fame nominations, three of which are strong candidates. Two of the nominees do not fall within this year’s honor years but he did remark that they are well connected to schoolmates in this year’s reunion classes and there may be significant interest in attending their induction.

He reported that one of the nominees is deceased. However, this alumnus has received four nominations and an additional four letters of support. Friends believe if he was inducted posthumously, family members would attend his induction ceremony.

Further, the School has received one self-nomination that is also supported by two other nominations.

Mr. Gilmore reported that to date, the School has received two Margaret Clark Faculty Excellence Award nominations from the same individual. He stated that we should expect further nominations this year for this recognition and for the Sports Hall of Fame.

Members of the Council asked staff that a reminder be distributed for nominations by the December 31, 2018 deadline.

**New Business:** **Alumni Council Senior Class Luncheon** Ms. Fulton brought before the Alumni Council a proposal for a formal spring luncheon hosted by the Alumni Council for members of the SKS Senior Class. The purpose of the luncheon would be to have an opportunity for the Alumni Council to welcome the Senior Class into the ranks of the SKS Alumni and speak to them regarding what it means to be an alumnus/a of the School.

Ms. Fulton suggested that the weekday luncheon be held at an offsite location such as the Storm King Tavern at the Storm King Golf course. Invited to the luncheon would be members of the Alumni Council, selected faculty and staff members, and the Senior Class. A guest speaker could also be invited. Following her proposal she asked for an indication of preliminary support from members of the Council.

The Alumni Council indicated that they were in favor of the luncheon and of their willingness to participate and attend. Ms. Fulton will continue to formalize plans for the luncheon proposed for some time in May.

The next regular meeting of The Storm King School Alumni Council will be held on February 10, 2019 at 9:30 am in the Smidt Room of the Storm King School campus. The meeting will be followed by the annual Alumni Basketball Game. Council members were reminded that the Annual meeting of The Storm King School Alumni Association will be held on June 8, 2019 during Reunion Weekend.

With no further business to come before the Alumni Council, Mr. Cantor made a motion to adjourn the meeting; it was duly seconded by Mr. Broughton. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am with the thanks of the President.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Crevling ‘72

Alumni Council Secretary