

***Altamont Alumni Association***

Board Meeting Minutes, May 18, 2021, 5:30 pm | via Zoom

**Members Present** — Claudia Carcelen, Jeanne Classe, Teal Cuellar, R. Jordan Davis, Cameron Givianpour, Jack Gray, Sam Haskell, Ralph Patton, Jeff Payne, Bart Kelly, Carolyn Kezar Galgano, Laura McCraney, Lawrence Perry, Alaina Pineda, Donald Robinson, Emily Schultz, Jimmy Screven, Scooter Thomas, Leigh Sloss-Corra, Mia Tankersley, Sarah Whiteside, Ashley Adams, William Cook, Olivia Dure, Phil Carroll, Trip Hereford, Frank Tynes, Susan Haskell, Uche Bean

**Guests and staff present** — Charlotte Russ, Cameron Gaede, Bryson Stephens

**Call to Order** — Donald Robinson ‘98 called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Approval of March 2021 Meeting Minutes** — The March 2021 meeting minutes were

distributed and approved via unanimous voice vote.

**Financial Report** — Scooter Thomas ‘08 (Treasurer) was absent for a portion of the meeting, so Donald Robinson provided a quick update. The balance in March 2021 was $8,636.62. The May 2021 balance is $8,636.62.The only change to the financial report is that Ann Vrocher scholarships will be disbursed shortly.

**College Counseling** — Cameron Gaede provided an update regarding college counseling and this year’s senior class. The Class of 2021 had quite a trying year but there were some positives that emerged. Colleges and universities had to pivot and create really robust online resources for prospective students (mock classes, etc.). Standardized testing was upended. Most schools were test optional or test blind, and this trend is expected to continue. The test optional movement picked up steam as admissions officers are feeling very confident about taking this route. This year saw a huge increase in applications at highly selective schools. 11 of 51 students submitted fewer than 3 applications. Students submitted 173 unique applications and 134 were admitted. Students will be matriculating to Barnard College, College of Charleston, Columbia University, Drexel University, Duke University, George Washington University, Hollins University, Holy Cross College/Notre Dame (in the Driscoll Scholars program for STEM/Engineering), Middlebury College, Rice University, Rollins College and more.

**Update on Head of School Search** — Bryson Stephens ‘90 (and parent) provided an update regarding the Head of School Search. The process will occur over the next 5 to 6 months. First, a committee was formed of 7 (5 alumni and 2 parents) — Paige Daniel (parent), Will French ('86 and parent), Donald Robinson (’98), Emily Schultz (’01), Dr. Katisha Vance (parent), Chris Nicholson (’99), Bryson Stephens (’90 and parent). A search firm has been selected and will be announced via email on Thursday, May 20, 2021. (If a search firm were not used, the committee would be doing the legwork themselves and that is a lot to ask.) The committee will be looking first for an interim head of school (likely someone who is does not yet want to retire, and is available for 1-2 years), to serve as a temporary leader to keep things stable. The goal is to have an interim head of school by July 1, 2021. Outreach to all interested constituencies (alumni, parents, faculty, staff, students) will begin in June 2021 and will take 4 to 6 weeks. The process will begin by narrowing down to about 15 finalists. From there, the number of candidates will be narrowed down to 10 finalists for interviews. Then 3 to 5 finalists in October or November will come to Birmingham for 2 to 3 days over a period of 2 to 3 weeks. They will tour the school with students, do interviews, and attend social events. It is not uncommon for candidates at this stage drop out at the final stage, however the goal is to have an offer and acceptance for the new Head of School by Thanksgiving. If there is no clear winner at the end of this 5 to 6 month time period, the committee will begin the search over again and continue looking for suitable candidates. The committee aims to be transparent throughout the process, have good communication, and share information via a dedicated spot on the Altamont website and through social media.

Over the next few years, we will be evaluating what we need as a school. In terms of endowment, ours is good but not great. A general rule of thumb is to have an endowment that is 3 times the budget.

**New Officer Elections for Treasurer and Secretary** — Lawrence Perry ‘14 and Dr. Carolyn Kezar Galgano ‘04 were approved as new Secretary and Treasurer.

**New Members** — New member candidates Ashley Adams, R. Jordan Davis, William Cook, and Edith Grant were presented and approved for membership.

**Meeting adjourned.**

Minutes prepared by Claudia Carcelen.