

**Stony Brook University
School of Dental Medicine**

School of Dental Medicine Alumni Board of Directors

Deans Conference Room
Sunday, September 11, 2005
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Attending: Anthony Casino, President; Peter Ceravolo (teleconference), Anthony Fazio, Denise Emma, Steven Goldstein, Daniel Melnick (teleconference), Maria Ryan (teleconference), Steven Schwartz, Laura Selub, Rhona Sherwin and Ernest Orphanos (teleconference).

Excused: Jodi Guttenberg and Paul Handsman.

Staff: Barry Rifkin, Dean, School of Dental Medicine; Kathryn Yunger, Assistant Dean for Institutional Advancement, and Bill Dethlefs, Assistant Director for Alumni Relations-HSC.

Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions – Anthony Casino, President

After member introductions a minute of silence was held for the 21 Stony Brook University alumni and for family members of Stony Brook employees that died on Sept. 11, 2001.

II. Greetings and Words of Welcome - Barry R. Rifkin, Dean, School of Dental Medicine

Dean Rifkin gave highlights of the history of the School of Dental Medicine. The School of Dental Medicine was created as a small school in the early 1970's. Since it was founded each successive dean has had a number of challenges to face.

Current challenges include the recent retirements of many founding faculty members and major budget cuts. The State of New York allocation that the School of Dental Medicine receives is the same as it was in 1989 at \$5 million a year. This allocation represents 35% of the operating budget. In comparison support through tuition for private universities generates 65-70% of their operating budget.

Another great challenge is the need to bring new talent to the school. One priority is to strengthen General Dentistry. It has been in turmoil in the recent past. It has recently lost Drs. Schlissel (sp.) and Wolff. The goal is to hire more full-time faculty and to strengthen the academic scores of students. At least three people will be interviewed for these positions in the near future. As an aside, many of the current job candidates and other faculty prospects are foreign trained. This presents a unique challenge since the State of New York restricts them from 'faculty practice.' Otherwise, the primary

sources of faculty are from other schools of dentistry. Because of this dilemma there is an active proposal in Albany to change these legislative restrictions for foreign trained dentists.

Two more candidates are being interviewed in Endodontics and faculty members were just hired in Pediatric Dentistry. A replacement for Richard Oringer from Columbia University is soon to be hired and a chair in Oral Surgery is soon to be posted.

There is also a need for government funded research grants, particularly in the Department of Oral Biology. Overall, the department has a number of industrial grants, but the need is to balance it with NIH funding.* Revenue from the clinical departments has helped to stabilize the funding. In the recent past this funding was \$2.9 million a year. It has since grown to just under \$5 million in revenue. At the same time an important source of revenue has been lost as the Periostat royalties have ended.

During the general discussion that followed a request was made to acknowledge the volunteers that serve in the dental clinics.

III. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes - Anthony Casino

Besides an overview of the organizational structure, the support materials distributed during the meeting were also reviewed. It was noted by Rhona Sherwin that the current dues structure for lifetime memberships was \$400 and was not expected to change under the pending membership campaign. The new promotional materials for the HSC part of the alumni membership campaign show the new rate at \$600.

Steve Goldstein moved that the minutes be approved with the change indicated above. Denise Emma seconded it. The motion was approved by consensus.

IV. Review and Modify Bylaws – Anthony Casino

A. A request was made to change Article III, A, 1. As follows, it should now read: (Text changes are highlighted in **bold**).

New language:

Regular full membership will constitute those persons who have received a DDS **or post-graduate degree or certificate** from the School of Dental Medicine.

B. A need was stated to insert language to separate the **Treasurer** position from the Secretary. It will need to be changed in Article IV, section 2. and Article V. (Text changes are highlighted in bold).

New language:

IV. Section 2. Titles, The Executive Committee or officers of the Chapter shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, **Treasurer**, Nominations Committee Chair and Alumni Faculty Representative.

New language:

V., Section 3. Secretary, It shall be the duty of the Secretary to maintain a record of any decisions, votes or resolutions made by the Board and to assist in drafting correspondence, coordinating meetings and performing other duties relating to alumni affairs as requested by the President.

New language:

V., Section 4. Treasurer, It shall be the duty of the **Treasurer** to maintain a record of any monies deposited in or withdrawn from the treasury in regard to action taken by the Board.

C. Student members on the alumni board Article IV, Section 3. Term of Office. Still to be defined are the numbers and starting dates for students to serve on the alumni board. This decision could also include residents as students for the purpose of board representation. The decision was deferred to the next meeting.

D. Discussion was also made of Article III, Membership, Section B. Dues, Item 3. The dues structure is set centrally and is not under control of the individual HSC alumni advisory boards. The Stony Brook University Alumni Association Board of Directors, as the governing board, might not honor these changes therefore the sentence, "Graduates in accredited residency or fellowship programs may apply for a reduction in their annual membership dues," cannot by itself change the dues structure for the Stony Brook University Alumni Association.

E. The current board members are to be considered an ad hoc body until the Bylaws are finalized.

F. The date the bylaws will be activated is **April 2006**, as approved by consensus.

V. Accomplishments – Anthony Casino

Appreciation was expressed to all members for their involvement since the inception of the board. There has been a high amount of activity outside of the regularly scheduled meetings. Here are two of the highlights:

1. Several board members, 16 alumni total, participated at the farewell dinner at Sunwood for the Class of 2005.
2. There were a number of board members at the welcoming dinner for the Class of 2009. Creative thought was requested of the board members for specific activities to involve incoming students during 'down time' during similar events in the future.

VI. Subcommittee Reports and Discussion – All

A. Membership

There have been ‘growing pains’ with centralization of membership processing to the Office of Alumni Relations. The new membership application and renewal form lacks an independent verification of membership and it does not include a “Class Notes” section for completion by the members. A request has been made to have a copy of all completed membership application forms forwarded to Dental Medicine for cross-referencing. In addition, a problem remains for ensuring current addresses and phone numbers of alumni. Despite these transitional problems a goal to create a comprehensive School of Dental Medicine alumni directory is still being considered.

Since the last meeting membership recruitment letters were sent to all graduates and targeted outreach were made to alumni peers of board members. Overall, the statistics for membership are as follows:

101 members as of April 2005

145 new members were added since then

16 renewals came through during that same timeframe

40 new graduates were added to the mix (first year membership is free)

201* current total membership (nearly 30% of all School of Dental Medicine alumni**, which beats Tony Casino’s goal of 200!)

*This figure includes 20 lifetime members

** Membership at 30% of the alumni population it is the highest of any school on the Stony Brook University campus. Congratulations to everyone that made this happen!

Current finances indicate that \$12,005 in membership dues has been raised from both annual and lifetime members. It is a combination of annual dues originally at \$30 a year, now \$45; and \$400 for lifetime membership, which was recently raised to \$600.

Discussion followed on additional benefits as incentives to membership. One in particular that is highly desired is electronic access for alumni to online library journals. Wisconsin is the only known university to offer this benefit to their alumni. Obstacles to adding this benefit include current restrictions by the publishers of online journals limiting the total number of users, and a limit on the number of users at any one point in time.

Another suggestion involved identifying a wall for alumni use that can feature framed photos of each graduating class. The stone wall between the Howard Oaks Center and the lecture halls is considered ideal for this purpose. There could also be an opportunity for sponsorships (\$250 was suggested) in exchange for having names engraved and mounted on a plaque. The idea is to have as many members of the class donate as possible, raise

money for the school, and have a photo gallery of alumni for viewing by the current students.

B. Professional Development

Anthony Casino suggested that a student mentoring program be developed. He recognized that there have been difficulties in coordinating this program in the past. With the new level of energy of the board ideas should be explored during future meetings as to how to implement a student mentoring program. The members listed examples of other programs on and off campus. They include:

1. 'Shadowing' by students in alumni offices.
2. Matching of students with alumni mentors on a formal or informal basis.
3. A special 'career day' program of small group discussions by alumni for students regarding dental practice specialties.
4. A 'host program' where students are hosted by alumni as they interview for residency assignments in more distant locations, such as Florida and California.

C. Special Events

In addition to the calendar of events new ideas were encouraged. As a new activity, Rhona Sherwin recommended that the families of alumni participate with new student orientation by hosting informational sessions for the families of incoming students. Members of the board could take on an active role with this event.

Daniel Melnick suggested that special efforts be made for major reunion years. In particular, the 25th anniversary celebration should include a special dinner. It would be another way of getting increased alumni involvement. He also offered to help plan the 25th reunion for his class. Related to this proposal, Anthony Casino suggested that the 25th reunions be held in conjunction with the graduating classes so both groups can participate.

VII. Calendar of Upcoming Events – Anthony Casino

- A. White Coat Ceremony – September 21, 2005 at 7 pm, in the Dental Medicine Learning Center.
- B. Homecoming – September 24, 2005
Dental Medicine will be represented in both the Expo Tent and the KidZone Tent during the 'Wolfstock Village' (11 am – 2 pm), held before the football game against Georgetown.
- C. Malpractice Lawsuit: A Survival Guide – October 22, 2005
It is a special seminar for all health professionals that carry malpractice insurance on the litigation process itself. It will be an all day (8:30 am –

4:30 pm) event at the Melville Marriott. The Office of Alumni Relations in the HSC sponsors the event.

- D. Ramsey Lewis Trio – October 29, 2005 at the Staller Center
Twenty tickets have been purchased for the program at 8 pm. The tickets are \$31 each. Contact Kathy Yunger for details. The board members have the right of first refusal to the tickets.
- E. HSC Alumni Reception – November 7, 2005 at the Cosmos Club in Washington, DC. It is an event open to all Stony Brook University HSC alumni that live in the greater Washington, DC area. The Office of Alumni Relations in the HSC sponsors the event.
- F. Stony Brook University Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner – November 17, 2005 at the Carlyle on the Green in Bethpage, NY. Sponsored by the Stony Brook University Alumni Association.
- G. Greater New York Dental Meeting in Manhattan – November 27, 2005
Special alumni dinner in conjunction with the full Nov. 25 – 30 program. Details are to follow.
- H. Future Events-
 - 1. A spring athletic event in a suite at Yankee Stadium at the end of April was recommended. The Yankee Club might make this possible.
 - 2. Alternative event with the Long Island Ducks.
 - 3. Brunch at the Westin in Times Square.
 - 4. Bill Dethlefs indicated that the members of the HSC alumni advisory board are to be invited to a board development retreat next spring or early summer. Currently, four schools in the HSC have alumni advisory boards. Nursing is to have their alumni board in place by January 2006.

VIII. Online Community and Web Access – Bill Dethlefs, Assistant Director Alumni Relations

Deferred to a future meeting.

IX. Next Meeting – Anthony Casino

The next meeting will be held at the Stony Brook University Branch Campus in New York City called Stony Brook-Manhattan. It will be held on Sunday, January 29, from 11 am – 2 pm. Refreshments will be served and teleconferencing will be available.

X. Adjourn - Anthony Casino

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 pm.

XI. Preliminary Agenda for the Next Meeting on Sept. 11, 2005

- i. Introductions
- ii. Review the Minutes
- iii. Review and modify the Bylaws
 1. Approval of the changes made during the September meeting.
 2. Defining the number of students representatives and starting date for 1 yr. Terms
- iv. Subcommittee reports
 1. Membership
 2. Professional Development
 3. Special Events
- v. Calendar of Upcoming Events
- vi. Online Community and Web Access
- vii. Next Meeting
- viii. Adjourn