Minutes
Executive Committee Conference Call
Tuesday, February 27, 2018
2:00 p.m. (CST)

The Executive Committee of the SIU Alumni Association Board of Directors met via teleconference in the SIU Colyer Hall Conference Room on Tuesday, February 27, 2018, at 2 p.m. CST. The following committee members and staff were physically present unless otherwise noted by CC (conference call) or Absent:

Gary Heflin - Absent
Dede Ittner - Absent
Mike Kasser - Absent
Molly Hudgins - joined at 2:20
Larry Mieldezis - CC
Scott Moller - CC
Lauren Soucy - CC
Greg Wright - CC
Rick Wysocki - CC
Michelle Suarez (Executive Director)
Tina Shingleton (Corporate Secretary)
Patrice DeBlois (Asst. Treasurer/Controller)

The reason for not waiting until April for this conversation is due to time constraints. The intent of this conference call is to share some conversations that included Mr. Mieldezis and Mr. Wysocki. Most recently Mr. Mieldezis has been involved in more detailed conversations with SIU Foundation Board president, Susie Rashid.

At the Executive Committee meeting held last year in October, the notion to sit down with the Foundation to lay out how the two organizations could work together was presented. We agreed that a sub-committee of the Executive Committees would take on a role of sitting down and having that conversation more actively with the Foundation leadership. Subsequently, after that, a couple of calls took place regarding this idea. Unfortunatelly, Mr. Mieldezis was unable to attend – however, the sessions were very productive. The feedback from the Association Executive Committee members who participated in these calls was the stance that the Association is an independent entity, from that of the Foundation. We foresee the same position moving forward. It was suggested that we investigate engaging an outside consultant to assist the Association with strategic planning. This would also more clearly define a path forward as it relates to our complimentary relationship to the Foundation.

With potential change in direction on the horizon in terms of our new Chancellor’s plan and vision, this would be a great time to take a look at the two organizations. They should come together to work through current Strategic Plans and what it would mean moving forward. Because of this potential change and restructuring there has been a slight diversion from the original plan. Originally proposed by SIU Foundation President, Susie Rashid, was to bring together a subset of representatives from the Foundation and Association Executive Committees to hold a working session.
1. understand our operating model as a blueprint for moving forward
2. compare or contrast the new direction that has been set
3. anticipate alignment with the Chancellor’s plan going forward.

Ms. Rashid had a direct conversation with the Chancellor and he is a big supporter of this conversation and workshop to engage the Foundation and Association. The Chancellor believes this is a proactive approach for the Foundation and Association to work through an exercise that aligns us with his plan and vision moving forward. This concept has also been shared with the Foundation Executive Committee and has received support from them as well.

In recent conversations between Mr. Mieldezis and Ms. Rashid, this has now developed into a different model and approach. Mr. Mieldezis presented to the Executive Committee what he and Ms. Rashid have discussed and what she has invited the Association to participate in moving forward. The concept would be a two-step process:

1. Analysis and Adjustment – The Foundation and Association would take this step separately and parallel. There would be three components to this first step.
   - Assess our performance today against our current Action Plan
   - Assess the Chancellor’s direction and strategy and determine that the Action Plan (created a year or so ago before the new vision was known) for any glaring gaps or missing/misdirected components that are in conflict or missing from a support perspective to support the Chancellor’s plan going forward
   - Over the next year or year and a half, identify 3 to 5 key major things from the Strategic Plan that will be critical in supporting the Chancellor’s vision and moving forward

2. Alignment and Reconciliation – A transparent planning workshop between the sub-committees (4 or 5 members from each Executive Committee) of both the Foundation and Association to look at the areas of focus moving forward.
   - Check for any problematic dependencies between the two organizations
   - Identify possible crossovers; things that counter each other such as any campaigning or activity that might contrast with the Foundation’s top three to five areas of concentration (?
   - Determine any huge misses (areas that have not, but should be addressed?) on either side that would support and embrace changes on the horizon with the Chancellor’s plan and vision moving forward

At the end of this planning workshop, what we anticipate is an understanding of how the two organizations not only compliment each other in this operating framework, but how toe two organizations align with the Chancellor’s plan and strategy. The next step at this time is unsure.

Comments/Feedback from Executive Committee Members:

Rick Wysocki - Feels this is a good idea to come together with the Foundation to come up with a plan

Scott Moller – He is in agreement with Rick. One thing that might be helpful is to have a list of goals up front so they can be reviewed later on the back end.
Larry Mieldezis – Agrees and believes we should state up front what we want to accomplish and through the process, and most importantly at the end of the process, were we able to accomplish that goal? If so, were those goals and objectives not real or attainable; did we fail to achieve what we hoped to; and identify how to adjust going forward to achieve those goals and objectives.

(Who made this statement) There have been some comments stating that the Executive Committee does all the work. He does not want the rest of the Board to feel left out but with what we are talking about discussing is impossible, with the size of our board, to have the full board in the initial discussion. He also feels the Executive Committee and leadership at the Board level goes along with the responsibility and position of those roles with the Board. It was suggested that the full board be provided information in advance of the board meeting regarding any discussions that might take place.

Mr. Mieldezis will put together a draft that talks about the two steps, timing, and also identifies up front the goals or objectives of the effort and send it out to the broader Executive Committee for comment. These comments or feedback would be incorporated into a document to use as a guiding map of what we are talking about doing. Then he would like to have conversations with Ms. Rashid.

The sub-group of the Association Executive Committee established at the July 2017 meeting (Larry, Rick, Mike, Scott, and Michelle) will participate in the suggested workshop. It was suggested these volunteers are queued to confirm their desire to serve. This query could easily occur via email. Mr. Mieldezis would like to have the Planning Workshop take place prior to our April board meeting to present to the full board.

Ms. Suarez confirmed the sub-committee discussed last July was comprised of Larry, Rick, Mike, and Scott. She also reminded the group that materials to be posted for the April board meeting must be received at the Association office by April 13.

Ms. Suarez was asked by some of the board members what her thoughts were regarding this. She asked if when they talk about the Strategic Plan are they referencing the actual plan that is being worked on for this fiscal year. That is correct. She advised that we did not have a full fledged plan. We have been working year by year with the understanding that at some point the University would have a plan, which has not yet occurred. She believes we are close on completing our Strategic Plan for the next fiscal year. This is something that they can review. It would at least give some idea of the team’s thoughts and the suggested direction. Michelle is in support of the Association and Foundation working together to develop a plan.

Mrs. Soucy thinks everything discussed makes sense to her and likes the idea of having an idea of what our goals are before we start. Her one concern is aligning with the Chancellor’s plan. Everything she has seen has been constant changes and if we align with his plan and it changes drastically we could be headed in the wrong direction.

Mr. Mieldezis stated one of the things we might need to think about; do we put a stake in the ground and make an assumption that the plan is still being worked and may vary but the plan will still be executed - but in general will remain the same? It could change if there were a dramatic shift somewhere. That would be out of our control to some extent. This is a risk we need to acknowledge and understand. We also need to be aware of what is unfolding and going on. If there is anything that determines we need to change our approach, we can identify through the process.
Ms. Hudgins agreed this is a good idea. It seems our Executive Committee has support for the Chancellor and his plan. Taking these steps with the Foundation probably shows a little of this support in an indirect way. She also feels that it is important to list our goals up front as Mr. Moller suggested earlier, as there will probably be a few people who are not supportive of us aligning with the Chancellor’s plan going forward (the last part of the sentence seems to be in contrast of the beginning).

Mr. Mieldezis stated that we should probably have 3 or 4 objectives or talking points that consistently, in a simple fashion, articulate externally questions from alumni, faculty, and other parts of the institution.

Mr. Wysocki commented he believes the Chancellor is on our side. In his conversations with the Chancellor he wants the Association to work closely with the Foundation board and was advised that we want to work closely with the Foundation board. However, we cannot be viewed as part of the Foundation and have to remain independent. We have to maintain the position as the networking relationship(?) of the university while the Foundation is the fund raising. We can push the fund raising to them but we can’t fund raise. The Chancellor agreed with that. Mr. Wysocki thinks we have an opportunity to present something solid and make our own mark on how we feel we want to work with the Foundation.

In summary, Mr. Mieldezis proposed he will finish up the memo he started that outlines the approach of moving forward with the Foundation. He will add the goals and objectives to the front part and create a timeline. The intent is for this to be sent out as a request for comments by March 1.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

[Signature]
Corporate Secretary