

Aquinas Scholars Student Board Retreat  
Meeting Minutes  
2/11/17

**9:00am - Welcome New Board Members**

- a) Introductions

**9:15am – Executive Goals Update**

- a) Faculty Board Meetings – March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 12-1, JRC 222
  - April 27<sup>th</sup>, 12-1, JRC 222
  - May 15<sup>th</sup>, 12-1, Davanni’s – Seminar Proposals review
- b) Waiting to hear back on formal document
  - i) Scholars residence will be put aside for awhile
  - ii) Still waiting to hear about the ease registration idea.
    - (1) Hasn’t been shot down yet.
  - iii) Funding & Scholarships will be most likely
    - (1) Hasn’t been shot down
  - iv) Dan Meyer is no longer here
    - (1) We’ve got no real strong connection or influence for some of these goals now.
  - v) Wendy Wyatt will want to talk with the Student Board to see if they would be part of the process to look for next Honors Program Director.
    - (1) Some board members could be on the interview committee
  - vi) Ideas to achieve our goals:
    - (1) In terms of funding, keep on top of the changes that are happening and meet with those people involved, especially when they’re new.

vii) Honors Section Influence

(1) Send out another Survey for next semester?

(a) Volunteer with Dr. Waldner to create the survey: Lisa DiGirolamo.

(2) Dr. Waldner update

(a) Sections – departments planning 12-18 month schedule

(b) Seminars – create HONR course category for Banner

c) Study Room in Library – room 405

i) Lock Options

(1) We don't have a lock or card swipe option now

(2) This room has been taken off the reservation room

(3) The problem is that the door lock will probably cost \$3,500

(a) There's the risk that we lose the room

ii) We have a couch now

iii) Reach out to Scholars to make them aware

(1) Have an open house event, but needs to be quite

(2) T-shirt give away or any type of give-away. Rally as well.

(3) Little Library?

(4) Social Media awareness for Scholars

iv) Possibly put up a sign; reach out the library leadership for approval

v) Have a paper sign with "Aquinas Scholars Reserved Room" on the door.

vi) For now, we'll have a clipboard and people sign in when they use the room

(1) There are flaws for this idea but it'll keep track of activity.

(2) Make a sign to inform people that they should sign in

- (3) If people don't use it, we'll lose that room
- d) Call Prospective Scholars – week of Feb 20<sup>th</sup>
  - i) Need volunteers
    - (1) Come with personal testimony & why they should join
    - (2) Push for the LLC option as well
  - ii) We have a spreadsheet for contacts
  - iii) After dinner around 7pm; Free food
  - iv) We need to make a clear voicemail to tell the students that they cannot call this number back because they will just be talking with an Admission representative.
    - (1) Tell them to call Dr. Laumakis (651-962-5363)
- e) New Treasurer Duties
  - i) Got overall budget from Erica.
    - (1) No students can move money around. Only Erica can do that.
  - ii) Michelle is mostly going to track it
  - iii) If you intend to plan a larger event & don't end up using all the money, you need to inform Michelle & Erica. Save the receipts too.
  - iv) Send all receipts to Erica & Michelle
    - (1) Send all Catering receipts to Erica & Michelle
  - v) One person will send the email & one will gather the receipt
  - vi) Try to create more balanced budget in the program next year.
  - vii) LLC has its own budget as well
- f) NCHC conference for next year
  - i) Plan out the hotel, transportation, & food budgeting

- ii) Plan ahead & see who is interested
- iii) Submission for proposals is due on March 13<sup>th</sup>
- iv) Early Bird rates are due September 22<sup>nd</sup>
- v) Hotel rates (Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel):
  - (1) \$215 Singles, \$215 Doubles, \$235 Triples, \$255 Quads
- vi) We can reach out to Undergraduate Research Center for more funding if we can't get it from the Scholars Program
- vii) Upcoming Dates & Locations:
  - (1) **2017**: Atlanta, **2018**: Boston, **2019**: New Orleans
- viii) Try to see if we can get the NCHC in the Twin Cities in the future
- g) Underrepresented Students in Honors Program
  - i) Faculty Board is still discussing it
  - ii) We do want more diversity, but we probably shouldn't change or lower our standards
    - (1) Creating a double standard is an issue and risk
  - iii) For phone calls & recruitment, we can reach out to our underrepresented scholars to help recruit and reach out to other students
  - iv) Faculty Board talked about focusing on the underrepresented students that are already here in at St. Thomas & the Scholars Program
    - (1) There could be many students who could be (eligible to be) in the Program
    - (2) Possibly focus on the top 5% of your Major area for Scholars acceptance and institution
  - v) Threshold for invitation would change, but not the application or standards for acceptance

- vi) Possibly look into the Board & Scholars to write emails to send to fellow St. Thomas students to explain how the program works, what we're about
  - (1) Do an info session as well where everyone can come
- h) Creating T-shirts design for everyone in the program; have scholars submit designs to us.
  - i) Have people use T-shirt design websites & send a photo to us or have them draw it
  - ii) Send specific guidelines for the T-shirt design
    - (1) Don't put a date on it
  - iii) The board has voted to order the shirts & go through with this.
  - iv) When we have the shirt designs, we send a survey for you to pick the T-shirt and selecting a size
  - v) Advertise the T-shirts for an event such as Symposium
    - (1) Issue is that make sure that we don't confuse it with those who order them through our survey.

### **10:00am – Committee Updates**

- a) Collaborate with other clubs/programs/departments on campus
  - i) Julie Kimlinger – Noon-art-sound events in the library
    - (1) Offer it for a point; more like a social event
- b) Dr. Bouwman's New Book
  - i) Book club
    - (1) Has a book signing event on February 24<sup>th</sup> (Friday) in the Library Leather room
  - ii) Pizza with a Prof Lead
    - (1) Propose the book club there as well
  - iii) The Board is in support of the Book club

iv) Collaborate with the Via leaders, which have helped with volunteering at St. Mark's, about the Book club

c) Mentorship Program Changes

i) If you didn't finish points and requirements for last semester, please complete it for this semester

ii) Some issues of mentors and mentees being in contact with each other

iii) Have a meeting with these guys at the end of the semester for feedback and where changes can be made

iv) The Freshman reps say that some of the mentees haven't heard back from some of their mentors

(1) We need to contact the mentors.

v) Send out a 5 question survey to the mentees and mentors about what's going on, where improvement can happen, and if it's beneficial

vi) If there are issues with mentors participating, we shall send them to Dr. Laumakis about violating their roles since they volunteered for this.

vii) We need to change the set-up of tracking them at social events; it's pretty hard to track them and even for them to interact

(1) There are even mentees who don't even know who their mentor is

viii) We need to connect to all the mentees too

(1) They could be more honest about what is going on.

ix) Recommendations

(1) It would be nice to have mentors who are in the same major as you

- (2) Have them choose each other through a networking event instead of assigning them.
  - (a) We have the mentor put their major down, but we should have the mentee put down their major or major preference so that we can match them closely.
- (3) Send an email to the mentees about the progress of the relationship
- (4) Make it more flexible in the nature of the mentee & mentor relationships. It's a bit of pressure for the mentors.
  - (a) In this case, the mentors have to be the ones to reach out.
- d) When you graduate, we should have former Scholars come in and talk about what they're doing & what life is like in post-Tommie life.
  - i) Get a budget line for flying former people back to St. Thomas if necessary
  - ii) Have a list of people in the Scholars program from the past
  - iii) Connect with Alumni relations to send emails and contact these people.
  - iv) Pitch an idea to Alumni-Relations to run a story regarding the Scholars program; have them come in and share their experience and their current life.
- e) End of year social event? – bubble soccer
  - i) Budget issues possibly?
  - ii) Getting it on campus is an issue with the waivers
  - iii) Other Ideas:
    - (1) Formal Event?
      - (a) Avoid the formal event
      - (b) Issue of having many people show up for this event
      - (c) Have people vote on the theme of the formal event?

- (i) Issues of people not showing up despite preferences.
  - (d) Plus, the seniors already have a formal banquet
- (2) Sporting event with cheap seats or student nights.
  - (a) Wild game, Saints game, Twins game
- (3) Kickball tournament in ASC
- (4) Comedy Club
- f) Off campus academic event?
- g) Social Media brainstorm
  - i) We need to do more if we want to justify the position
    - (1) Was only about 4 Instagram posts per month
    - (2) Would be no different for the publication chair to take
  - ii) Adding more activities for the job would probably help
    - (1) Such as pizza with the prof
    - (2) More activities
  - iii) Focus a bit more on Facebook. Gives people a chance to invite people.
  - iv) Have at least 2 posts a week
  - v) Instagram & Snapchat are popular, but focus on Facebook & Instagram
  - vi) We need to be better taking photos
  - vii) Use the social media to advertise the Aquinas Lounge & the new Study Room
- h) Publication submission criteria
  - i) When sending a submission, please keep the following criteria in mind.



- (1) I would like the submission to be between 1-2 pages. If you send an essay over 2 pages I will have to edit and cut down the pages due to the volume of responses I have received.
  - (2) Please do not include explicit language in your writing. I am not allowed to publish explicit words and I also do not feel comfortable changing your work without your permission.
  - (3) I am looking for high-quality, interesting work. I don't want to limit your creativity, so if you have questions about what that may mean, please send me an email and I'm happy to clarify a bit more.
- ii) Get an interview with President Sullivan
    - (1) Pretty cool to do something different such as get a tour about the President's house or more on her personal life outside the St. Thomas roles.
- i) Symposium brainstorm – theme & events
    - i) Starting with Social Justice Theme, which is broad idea
      - (1) Title it “Social Justice” to keep it broad so that people aren't drawn away from it.
      - (2) The board thinks it's a great idea, especially for these days currently.
    - ii) Possibly have events spread out different days; doesn't have to be 3 days in a row.
    - iii) Contact Professor Mike Klein to help with organizing it and bringing in ideas.
    - iv) Recommendations of reaching out to professors: Gerald Schlabach, Bernard Brady, the Law School (Levy-Pounds), Neuroscience dept., or Math dept. (Melissa Loe).
    - v) Possibly have a spoken-word event rather than a poster board session
      - (1) If we have a poster-board session, we could make it more artistic.
    - vi) Have it much more creative rather than just pure research and academic

- vii) Could do an hour about of performance pieces & a hour of non-performance
- viii) Have professors share their mission statements to add personal elements
- ix) Bring up two-year college plan to help underprivileged students; bring in Buffy Smith
- x) Have a photography or art piece focus as well
- xi) Still open to ideas
- xii) Have a hands on project idea for the events
  - (1) Making artistic protest posters or a button idea.
- j) Freshmen Reps shadow
  - i) Also have a shadow for the Symposium

### **10:45am – Spring Election Details**

- a) Election Process
  - i) Internal Elections
    - (1) Board members can be candidates for 1-3 positions,
      - (a) We will go through one position at a time & vote for that position before moving on to the next one.
      - (b) At each position vote, each candidate will present his or her speech for that particular position.
      - (c) The results for each position will be announced after each vote.
      - (d) This will eliminate a candidate's name from other position ballots if they are already voted into a position.
    - (2) We will go through each position individually starting with the President, Vice President, Secretary, etc.
    - (3) Any unfilled positions will be dealt with in the external elections for all scholars.

ii) External Elections

- (1) All Scholars will have the opportunity to apply for any position that was not filled in the Internal Board Elections
- (2) They send in a statement & application about the positions they're interested in and why they are qualified for them
- (3) The Board members will go through each application for each position & vote on who would be the best candidate.
- (4) There will be no overall election for the scholars to vote on & no formal presentation in front of the Board due to scheduling conflicts and time consumption.

b) Board members abroad want to vote in election

i) Most likely, Have candidates type up their speeches for each position

- (1) Send the speeches and the ballots to the board members abroad about a week before the election so that they can vote in time

ii) Or we could have them Facetime or Skype during the election.

iii) Ask them what would be the best scenario for them to vote

**11:00am - Plan Events Calendar**

- a) What, date, time
- b) Email me details of planned events by end of day

**11:30am – Lunch Catered**

**12:30pm – Drive to Trapped Puzzle Rooms, St. Paul**

- a) 561 Snelling Ave S, Saint Paul, MN
- b) Street Parking

c) Drivers: Katelin, (need 2 more)

**1:00pm – Trapped Puzzle Rooms!**