

Board of Directors Minutes
November 20, 2008

Members Present: Walt Merritt (President), Anita Raby (President Elect), J. J. Donahue, Chad Easterling, Ann Greer, Kay Kelly, John McLain, Jim Miner, Betty Ruth-Oliver, Janice Owen, Janet Smith, Louise Steele, and Vicki Stevenson.

Members not present: Mike English, Lisa Payne, Sunny Parker, Kent Bevil, Mignon Bowers, Robin Clem, Donald Entrekin, Tressie McLemore, Deborah Schaus, and Tony Smith.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Dr. Robert Glenn (University President)

1. Welcome – President Walt Merritt called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. He announced that Board Member Tony Smith had three strokes and was hospitalized. A blood clot had lodged in his neck and he is now resting at home. A card was circulated for each member to sign wishing him a speedy recovery.

Betty Ruth-Oliver was appointed secretary of the meeting.

Jeff Bass has resigned from the Alumni Board.

2. September 4, 2008 minutes were approved. M/S/P - J. Smith/Easterling.
3. Financial Report – Jim Miner: Proceeds from 2008 Fiddlers Convention was close to last year's receipts. Alumni funds are \$8000.00 ahead of last year's funds considering the purchase of two podiums and an increase in scholarship funds. M/S/P to accept report as presented Kelly/Greer.
4. Dr. Glenn reported progress continues to be made in many areas. State Board and ACHE has suggested that the University collaborate with area institutions for master program development. Increase funding for 2009 does not appear to be promising. All educational institutions are expecting proration. Steps to reduce the University budget will be reviewed and implemented in the spring. At a later date the Foundation Board will announce a \$6 million building fund drive. Prior to the announcement 40 to 50 percent of the funds should have already been acquired. Sanders Hall expected completion date is spring 2009; Water's Hall should be completed in two years at a cost of \$2.5. million. The University has sent out RFTP for an architect for the President's home.

Partner colleges will share faculty with Athens State University. The concept is to work collaborative with faculty. All colleges have agreed with the concept, but details are to be worked out later resolving several issues. This concept would allow students to work more efficiently toward degrees.

An additional million dollars is needed at Water's Hall for extra details to help with recruitment of students.

The board expressed appreciation to Dr. Glenn for his leadership.

5. The board was asked to meet in the parlor immediately following the meeting to decorate for Christmas.
6. Christmas Concert and Reception – Classic Catering will cater the reception at a cost of \$600.00 for 250 people. This will include setup and cleanup.

Tickets are available for each program. Proceeds from the tickets will go to the Community Band to purchase equipment. All board members are encouraged to attend the reception. Board members will serve as hosts. The University Alumni Board President will extend a welcome to concert attendees.

7. Fiddlers Report – Kay Kelly expressed appreciation to board members for their help, time and effort during the Convention. The board needs to be considering items for sale next year since food may not be an option. What could the board do as a fund raiser during the Fiddlers' Convention? One option could be the Alumni tent could be for hospitality only. It was requested by alumni member Randy Elkins to have a get together for fraternities and sororities during Fiddlers' weekend.

Janet Smith and Ellen Miner's sister-in-law won the rings.

Dr. Glenn is hosting a recent alumni meeting (five years or less alumnus). At the present time the University does not have a homecoming event. Fiddlers' weekend could be promoted as a homecoming event for all alumni.

The board expressed appreciation to Kay and Tony for the successful weekend.

8. Alumni Awards Banquet is scheduled for April 3 and 4, 2009.

Janet Smith encouraged award nominations. Be sure to nominate worthy individuals. February 27, 2009 is the deadline for nominations. It was determined that an award does not have to be to just an individual, but could be given to a department.

9. 50 Year Club - May 2, 2009 – Mrs. Steele reported that 2008 was a success but there is a great need to increase attendance. It was suggested that more years could be added to the club to increase attendance. Communication needs to be extended. University information should start in January announcing the date.
10. Membership Status – Emeritus and Associate – No report. Robin Clem, Committee Chair was absent.

New membership category suggested was an associate to include any community person that is not an Athens State University graduate but will be a dues paying member of the Alumni Association. An Associate member may not hold office nor vote on elections.

Emeritus membership category - should have been an active board member (number of years served on the board to be determined by the committee) and now unable to remain active and attend meetings, but still interested in alumni affairs.

11. Old Business – There is one board vacancy. It was suggested replacement should be a male. Potential candidates should be notified of board requirements.
12. New Business - Thank you notes from Dr. Charles Chapman and Roger and Tena Bullington were read.

February 26, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. is the first Alumni Campus Colloquium to reconnect alumni to the campus. This could be the future Elderhostel.

Golf Committee will meet to finalize the event prior to the next meeting.

Travel brochures for 2009 Alumni trips to New England and Europe were available for board members.

Motion to adjourn 6:15 p.m. – J. Smith/J. Owen