

**Native American Alumni of Notre Dame [NAAND]  
Fall Board Meeting  
Notre Dame, Indiana  
October 10, 2008**

**Friday, October 10, 2008**

**Location:** Notre Dame McKenna Center

**Present:** Kateri Kerwin, Wilda Wahpepah, Bernadette Freeland-Hyde, Melissa Castillo, Elaine DeBassige D'Amato, Otakuye Conroy, Lakota Mowrer, Tom Monaghan

**Absent:** Bryan Printup, Nebeesh Shognosh, Chad Harrison

**8:25 am:**

Joint MAN Board Meeting –

Chuck Lennon – Welcome

Chuck updated the MAN boards on the growth of the Notre Dame campus. There is construction of a new Law School building, Engineering building, and new women's dorm. There will soon be more dorm rooms for the same total student population. Ryan hall will open in August 2009.

Eddy Street Commons – This joint project with the City of South Bend and Indiana University is in progress. This will include new apartments and shopping areas. There will be a community park.

In the Joyce Center, the monogram room will be closed. There will be a new hockey rink. East of the Joyce Center, soccer and lacrosse stadiums are being built. The goal is that each team will have a meeting area next to their practice field.

Chuck introduced Dolly Duffy. She has five children. She and her husband were running their own business. She has served 18 years on the Notre Dame Library counsel.

Dolly Duffy – Alumni Association Associate Director

Moving to the Alumni Association has been exciting for Dolly. There are great staff and effort to work for the alumni. Her focus question has been: How do we create synergies among alumni groups? What will be the strategic priority? One is the young alumni initiative. It will affect every thing that we do. Young alums are not joining as much as the older alums. The office will embark on a research endeavor. The Irish Online website needs a little bit of work. There is a focus on this. They only have 53% of email addresses. The office continues to focus on pray.nd.edu. Kathy Sullivan got a letter from a child whose teacher read the online reading every day. Career development is being looked at also.

One more pleasant surprise for Dolly is working with other departments on campus. There are so many positive comments about the alumni association programming.

These MAN boards are being looked at as very important throughout the campus. She thanked the groups for giving of their time and talent to help the University.

One MAN board director asked about whether the new buildings will be built to the new environmentally friendly standards (LEED). Chuck answered that yes they will be.

Has the alumni association considered a Facebook type application? Yes, there will be a tool to integrate current Facebook sites to the Notre Dame system. They will do the same with “Linked In” a career networking system.

Mirella Riley – University Committee on Cultural Diversity

Mirella updated the MAN boards on the University Committee on Cultural Diversity and University Committee on Women Faculty and Students. The committees submitted reports to Father Jenkins in May. In August, he met with the chairs of the committees. He was pleased with the work of the committees. A complicated part is the recruitment and retention of minority faculty and women faculty. Father Jenkins tends to take time to reflect on the recommendations. He has asked all faculty members to review the recommendations and comment on the best method to approach this.

There were three main focuses of the reports: Faculty Recruitment, Student Life – programming, and Communication.

Mirella offered a handout titled “2008 Summary Recommendation Report” which references the website <http://president.nd.edu>. Mirella asked for input and comments on this. She asked that comments be emailed to [president@nd.edu](mailto:president@nd.edu). If the MAN boards are interested in an update at the spring meeting, Don and Francis would be glad to come.

**9:07 am:**

Christina Brooks & Covington Doan – Diversity Recruitment Update, Admissions Office

Christina showed some Power Point slides with numbers on applications, admits, and confirms. Notre Dame has admitted a 2008 diversity student population that is 56% catholic, has 1361 SAT average, and has 30.225 ACT average. The majority students have an average 33ACT and 1430 SAT. The academic strength of students is increasing. MAN UP: get involved, we need to concentrate on the yield. We need to make sure the students that we admit, we confirm. We need to target high talent students. Need to look for, communicate with, and contact merit scholars, so that we can contact the students where Notre Dame would change their lives. Attend ASC fairs. Check the admissions website for info night locations and dates. Many students of color will be drawn to a table where there are people of color. Attend information nights in your area. Area sendoffs should be attended. Game watches. The key is to be

consistent with personal contact with the students. Follow up, send cards, phone calls. Many people want to hear from people who live in their community. Take advantage of contact lists that we will be given. Go to your old high school. The Royal search has given the University many names. Stay in contact with three at one time. Stay in their lives.

Alumni need to help with student retention. We need to stay in contact with the freshman students. She asked if the groups had made contact with the student groups. Home visits are great. Invite the parents over. Phone calls at least. Check in with students during fall break to make sure the students are not too home sick. Accountability – we need to measure our success. We can track success with the ASC website. Login for success!

Log in to the ASC website. The admissions office tries to make as much info available as possible. Admissions.nd.edu. Go to Alumni Volunteers. Access the ASC MAN website. The login is specific to each individual. Board members need to go through OIT for the login and password. There are informational files to read if you need general recruitment info. We need to be looking at the Prospects tab to look at the new potential students. Click on the icon to the far right to report the contact. We need to track the correspondence and write notes on their interests. Check the box for “Student was contacted” only if you spoke with the student. We do not want to create a sense of false hope. The student may not meet the minimum admissible guidelines. We can get a list of High Talent students. The office will give the list to each board. We can log this info into to the website. Club info is also included. We can place an order online for pencils, books, postcards. The info is updated on the website every month. The office will look into an administrative view. The legacy students are those whose parents have come to Notre Dame or they have an uncle who is a Holy Cross priest.

Charlene Vinalon focuses on Native American student recruitment. The admissions counselor has the responsibility to target minority students for ¼ of their visits. A no-loan package is a possibility for the high talent diversity student.

The coordinator responsible for international recruitment is Ruben Medina and his email is on the admissions website. The international student recruits are not on the list.

What is the most important part of the student profile in admissions? There are 7 components of the application; the most important are the high school transcripts and the strength of schedule. If the high school offers honors programs, they need to participate in these more rigorous programs. Transcripts, GPA, and rank in class are very important. Also, the SAT and ACT are important. The Admissions office is only looking at the highest critical reading and math. The College Board is putting test scores in the hand of students. Students need to submit the highest scores to colleges. They need to submit additional test dates for their highest scores.

At Notre Dame, there is still a strong correlation in the first year with SAT scores and performance. At other institutions, they are not using the SAT as criteria because they don't see the correlation with success. The SAT is the only measure Notre Dame has to compare students across the nation and world.

**10:30 am:**

NAAND Business Meeting - Kateri welcomed the NAAND board. She mentioned that Nebeesh, Bryan, and Chad weren't able to make the meeting.

Kateri – Review of Mission Statement and Purpose - We were planning to review the individual missions and accomplishments, but will wait until Lakota gets back from finding her luggage. We reviewed the bylaws to re-establish our goals and mission. One of our weak areas is the connection with alumni. This year no Native American alumni attended the mini-reunion tailgater. One idea was to write a personal letter to each alum and send it this weekend. We read the rest of the by-laws, and Tom Monaghan updated the electronic copy as we spoke. Tom emailed and handed out printed copies of the revised by-laws to the board for review and approval. Wilda will send a few more corrections to Tom on the election process. Wilda noted that since all of these changes had been made and approved in the past, an approval vote was not necessary.

Travel Policy – The NAAND board agreed that if travel is booked less than 21 days in advance of the meeting, then only \$350 will be reimbursed for the travel. Melissa will type up a form where all members can initial and we will sign during the letter writing.

Personal Statements –

Kateri's reason for joining the board – She primarily joined because of D'Juan Francisco who brought up the idea and because Native Americans needed a voice on campus. She also joined to help increase the number of Native students on campus.

Kateri's work – Kateri wants to move the board along as the Chairperson.

Elaine's reason for joining – She wanted to increase enrollment for students of color, assist these students to grow to help others, help other alumni feel connected to the community, and give something back to the place that she loves. It is also an opportunity to fall in retreat at the Grotto for 5 minutes each meeting.

Elaine's work – She's written many personal letters and gone to Alumni Senate. She's given her best effort to Admissions.

Wilda's reason for joining – She was at the first organizational meeting and was struck by the people at the meeting, and excited about being part of a Native American community at ND. She liked that we tailored the bylaws to our cultural community.

Wilda's work – As an at-large director, the primary focus was recruiting students. She was happy to go to info nights. We're not in a great position to help with retention, because the alumni are not close to campus. Wilda also went to Senate.

Otak's reason for joining – She joined the board because she sees many qualified and talented native students that should be coming to Notre Dame. It is an opportunity to share her very positive experience. She wants to help all current students to have a great experience with other students in NASAND.

Otak's work - Otak wants to expand on other areas like working with the admissions office.

Bernadette's reason for joining – There were very few natives when she was at Notre Dame, but she had a blast. Her experience enriched her life. It made her who she is today. Notre Dame is a better place now where there are other natives. The community teaches you how to give back, and that's what she's doing now. There are a lot of alumni that didn't have the opportunity to connect with other ND natives and she liked the opportunity connect with other Natives on the board.

Bernadette's work – She met other alumni while working on the newsletter, went to AISES with Otak where she met tons of people, and wrote millions of emails to prospective students.

**12:00 pm:** Lunch in South Dining Hall with Students

**1:30 pm:**

Joan Martel Ball – Director of Pre-College Programs –

They had four Native American students in the programs this summer. One of the students was in the high talent program. Joan has been working with her boss, Dennis, to clarify goals. The programs have very similar goals as Admissions, but have a commitment for scholarships for high talent Native American students. They did a search for Native American junior students with 1230 PSAT, and they found 19 across the country. Joan would like us to make personal contact with the students. Joan will forward the email to Tom who will send it out to the group. Joan gave a blue handout on the Pre-College programs.

The Global Issues Seminar is part academic, retreat, social, and camp. These students care about the issues in the world. They will look at global warming, economic issues, peace and justice. This will be on the website by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Joan asked that the board look for kids who are interested in global issues. The program likes to have current students as counselors. Typically all 40 pre-college program participants will apply for admission and all will be admitted to Notre Dame. This year, 17 students from the program are now freshmen students. She will send us the new 8 minute video soon. With Native Students, the personal touch is very important. Talking to parents is very important. Joan will work closely with Gil Martinez on the SAT and score minimums. The program always looks for guidance counselors to help recruit program participants. The four students who participated this past summer found out about the program through the website. The program will send out post cards this year.

We should put a link on our NAAND site and on the NASAND website. We could have NASAND students contact potential students at their high schools. The program could put a link on the AISES website.

**2:15 pm:**

NAAND Business Meeting –

Lakota's Reason for Joining – She joined the board to serve as a role model. She wants to help Natives.

Lakota's Work – As the Native student recruiter, she helps the group understand the current student population.

Kateri reviewed for Lakota what we talked about this morning on the by-laws and travel policy.

### **2:30 pm:**

Admissions Website Login and Training - Tom helped everyone get online and log into the Admissions website. He got each person their use ID and password from OIT. We have to change our temporary passwords within 30 days. And we need to change it every 6 months. Nebeesh, Bryan, and Chad can call Tom Monaghan to get their Net ID and password.

### **3:00 pm:**

Admissions Statistics – The numbers of confirmed students has increased since 2006. This year there are 15 confirmed freshman students, out of 30 admitted students. Charlene was hoping for 20 confirmed students. The yield rate has gone down. 30% of the applicants were admitted and 48% confirmed. The profile is 61% catholic, top 3.7% of class, 1367 SAT, and 29.8 ACT. Otak will type up the statistics and send them out. The goal is to get more quality applications and improve the confirm rate.

### **3:05 pm**

Micky Magnuson – MSPS (Multi-cultural Student Programs & Services) Office

Updates – The graduation ceremony went well, and the NAAND gifts were up on the table. They brought Navajo pottery, and Tazi put up a family shawl to decorate. The tables were decorated with centerpieces. Author Taylor came to talk to an estimated 100 people, from 9 families. Each grad came up to say thank you. Next year, MSPS and NASAND wants to keep the ceremony at Legends, but make it a little bigger and maybe bring a band. It would be nice for NAAND to get more involved. The alumni suggested that the ceremony be video taped. Micky has already made arrangements for this. There was an idea for NAAND to purchase the video as a gift for each grad.

Summer was a good time for Micky to get caught up. There are few Native American faculty members on campus. Joan Martel Ball is in Pre-College programs, and Lori Arnold is in development or grants. There is a new Native American professor, a Cree woman from Manitoba.

This fall, one grad student, David Baker, recommended a welcoming party. The local tribe and staff attended, but only 4 returning students and 1 freshman attended. NASAND has many great ideas, but need to focus. Dana Lee is the president. NASAND can afford to send 1-2, and the MSPS office can send 1-2 students to the AISES conference in California. The students need a chaperone in Anaheim on October 31st for the AISES conference. Otak volunteered, but asked for another person to assist.

Heritage Month Activity – Campus Ministry is hosting prayer from around the world, and Calvin Hill will present Navajo prayer. MSPS will host an event to focus on the “real” Thanksgiving, focusing on an indigenous perspective. There will be a reception with a Native American alum poet. Winona LaDuke

will be at Notre Dame for the Environmental Forum on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The title of the talk is “Indigenous Perspective on Grassroots Initiatives.” A movie called “The Exile,” about a day in the life of Indians in L.A., was shown on campus. They had a panel discussion with Benford, Amanda, and Dana. The movie “Frozen River” will also be shown on campus. Next semester NASAND and MSPS are working on showing more films. There have been no meetings on the Native American Studies minor.

NASAND Students –

Christin Suspenia (Cricky) - Senior, Economics & Peace Studies

John Ross – Freshman at Holy Cross, Cherokee and Navajo (Nancy Ross’s nephew)

Cricky spoke about tutoring the Potawatomi kids. NASAND is trying to coordinate this program. They had the concession stand at a game. On Nov 14<sup>th</sup>, the group is going to the Chicago Pow Wow. Next spring, NASAND is planning to host a mini-Pow Wow with an art contest, dancing, and drums. It will be held in March or April.

Micky is working on informing the students of activities with the Potawatomi tribe. Benford got an eagle feather from the Potawatomi elder women.

NAAND board members complimented the NASAND group.

Two Native students graduated without jobs last year. Ben Secunda, PhD graduate, does not have a full time job yet. He gave Wilda a copy of his dissertation on the Native American involvement with the founding of Notre Dame.

The next board meeting will be held March 26 – 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### **4:00 pm**

Letters to Alumni - The board worked on writing the letters to alumni. Tom will print up the letters so that the board can sign them tomorrow.

**5:30 pm** – Break for dinner

#### **6:00 pm - Dinner**

Cultural Sharing –

Wilda – Showed her son’s Kickapoo moccasins and spoon. She explained the Kickapoo naming tradition.

Elaine – Told the story of her Ojibwe family history.

Kateri – Showed the documentary movie “Miss Navajo”.

## **Saturday, October 11, 2008**

### **9:00 am:**

Joint MAN Board Meeting – Position Break out Sessions

Many members commented on how beneficial it was to compare what the other MAN boards are doing in their respective position.

### **10:00 am:**

Student Retreat Report –Lakota & Elaine - Carissa Brown Otter, Amanda, Dana Lee, Kellen Lewis, Benford, David, Lisa Vavricka, and others attended. Elaine and Lakota wanted to provide purpose and future goals from the retreat. The retreat began with prayer and reflection. All students told their story of why they chose Notre Dame, and they talked about the influence of their parents. They were at the Eck Center for the morning 10-12am, and in the afternoon, they went to the Pokagon Pow Wow. The APA offered to have the Native students join their retreat. But, the group agreed that the one-day retreat and trip to the Pow Wow was more personal. Just over \$1500 was spent on the retreat, and \$1000 was budgeted. Board members need to submit the expense reports within 60 days. We are considering using the Sacred Heart Parish center for the retreat next year. We will try to book it for the last weekend in August, the day of the Pow Wow.

### **11:00 am:**

Goals & Objectives – Elaine Presentation / Training

We used the bylaws purpose to start as our group purpose. We need to develop specific goals to support each purpose. From there we get the tasks.

Tom Monaghan typed up the goals, accomplishments, and objectives. See attachment.

AISES – We get two passes for all activities when we get the booth. Otak had an idea to have the AISES students (that she will be chaperoning) man the booth for 1 hour shifts.

Success of activities – The Alumni association measures success by turnout, budget, and customer satisfaction (1-5 scale).

### **1:15 pm: Lunch**

### **2:15 pm:**

The board reviewed a draft of the letters to alumni.

Native American Studies minor – For now, the board cannot take this on, but will support any effort by other groups. In the future, NAAND may pool efforts of other alumni to help drive or support development of the minor.

Chad has not attended 2 board meetings. Kateri will send him a letter.

Future Conference Calls –

Nov 12<sup>th</sup>, 9pm EST– Discuss recruitment and Kateri will follow up with an agenda

Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9pm EST- Discuss recruitment status

Jan 14<sup>st</sup>, 9pm EST – Prepare Kateri for National board meeting

Elaine will be collecting the feedback from the letters to alumni. All board members should forward feedback to her for tracking.

Tailgater - Idea to motivate alumni involvement – Offer free pair of tickets for 5 people who can help coordinate.

Wilda’s Historian Goals – Wilda listed her goals that Tom will add to the goals list.

Filling Regional Director Position – All will send potential candidates to Kateri if Chad resigns. Natasha Young, Erin Dunnagan, and a few other alumni were mentioned. Otak will ask Tamara if she is interested.

Bylaws – All changes were voted on in the past, but there are more changes that were not captured in the copy in our current books.

AISES – Otak will need another alumni representative to help her man the booth at the AISES conference as soon as possible to keep flight cost low. Vanessa is considering going. Lakota is also interested in going.

Attached – Board Accomplishments & Goals document:

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#### **NAAND Goals 2008-09**

Goal: Assist with recruiting of Notre Dame students

#### Accomplishments

- 100% of prospective students contacted by NAAND board members through email and/or phone calls.
- 100% of prospective student contacts entered into new Admissions system.
- 100% of admitted students contacted by NAAND board through either phone call or traditional letter.
- 50% of admitted student contacts were entered in the Admissions system.
- Attended 2007 AISES conference in Phoenix

- Met with Native students during 2008 spring visitation weekend
- Two admitted Native students of five spring visitation students chose Notre Dame
- Partnered with The ND Club of Tucson in the support of the AISES Conference

### Objectives

- 100% of prospective and admitted students contacted by NAAND board members
- 100% of all contacts will be recorded in the new Admissions system
- Attend 2008 AISES conference in Orange County w/NASAND students
- Meet with and follow up admitted Native students during 2009 spring visitation weekend before confirmation deadline
- 10 Native students on campus for 2009 Spring visitation weekend (100% participation)
- 50% admits confirmed first year ND students
- 100% of high talent students contacted by NAAND board members by end of October 2008

Goal: Assist with retention of Notre Dame Native students

### Accomplishments

- Fall 2007 study break
- 2008 Commencement gift
- Conducted 2008 student retreat with five students

### Objectives

- Roll out mentorship program in conjunction with NDAA program
- Assign all requested Native students a mentor on the NAAND Board and track these connections
- Conduct 2009 student fall retreat with 15 students within the \$1,000 budget and a student satisfaction rating of 4.9.
- Set the date and all logistics for fall retreat by end of 2008.
- Contact all confirmed Native students by beginning of July 2009 (inviting them to the fall retreat).
- 2009 MSPS video gift to all graduating seniors
- Host a reception for current students during one board meeting
- Conduct an online needs assessment of existing Native students by end of January 2009
- Report on student assistance fund application criteria and budget presented at the 2009 spring meeting.

Goal: Promote participation of Native American alumni in NAAND and University of Notre Dame programs.

### Accomplishments

- Contacted 100 Native alumni via Facebook
- Mailed personal letters to all addressable Native alumni

### Objectives

- Create Native American alumni Facebook group
- Attain a 70% target of email addresses
- Contact all addressable Native American alumni
- Host a 2009 event in Denver
- Increase participation to five Native alumni at mini-reunion weekend
- NAAND will update website with 2007/08 newsletter content, previous events, links to appropriate organizations and the shirt by end of October
- Old newsletters posted online by end of October 2008
- Will publish one newsletter by end of fiscal year 2008/09

Goal: Operate an efficient and fiscally prudent board.

### Objective

- Approve final 2009/10 budget by spring 2009 meeting
- Minutes of meetings and calls distributed to members within two weeks and posted online within three weeks