

**Native American Alumni of Notre Dame [NAAND]  
Spring Board Meeting  
Notre Dame, Indiana  
March 27, 2009**

**Friday, March 27, 2009**

**Location:** Notre Dame LaFortune Student 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 (resigned)

**8:30 am:**

Joint MAN Board Meeting –

Dolly Duffy – Welcome

Dolly expressed that what the MAN boards do for the University really matters. Leaders of the university really appreciate what the MAN boards do.

Campus Update - Chuck Lennon took a month off and sends his regards. There have been tons of phone and email response on Obama speaking for the commencement ceremony. Many people have a strong passion on the subject. Before this subject, the main topic was the economy on campus and around the community. Elkhart has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country. Notre Dame is doing well financially due to the conservative practices. All buildings will be finished because of the conservative 75% of funds on hand and 25% pledged. There is a strategic plan for the levels of the endowment. The goal is to preserve every job at the university.

Notre Dame has announced plans for a free standing hockey arena. The arena will have two full sheets of ice for the community to use. About twenty-five years ago the campus and community were separated. Now Notre Dame is very involved in the community. Notre Dame is trying to figure out how to take D-Pac and open it to the community.

The Alumni Association is questioning themselves and their programs. There are beautiful new banners at the Joyce center on football game weekends. There was an idea to catch alumni next to the bookstore on Fridays with a band. They're trying to catch the young alumni. Young alumni love Notre Dame like older alumni, but they communicate differently.

At Reunions, the academic program is not very strong. Karen Conway and Karen Putt put together a program called ND Perspectives. One issue being discussed is the Obama presidency. Mark Shields is a

commentator who gives a liberal point of view. The economic crisis is the other academic issue, and Scott will be a commentator on this issue.

The Eddy Street Commons are moving forward at a slower rate than expected. Scott Malpass and his group will be over there. Some fast foods and sit-down restaurants are signed up to start right away.

What is the university doing for alumni who are out of work? The alumni association has had a limited budget for addressing careers. There is a new website that is ready to launch. Marc Burdell has partially launched the systems, career shift and career catalyst. There is a third party vendor, with a service that will be provided for free. It is a robust system. Alumni can network with Notre Dame People. They are starting a hotline so that alumni can talk to someone about being out of work and finding a job.

Also, Meegan has been working with young alumni on conference call career networking.

Graduating seniors are more challenged to find a job.

Irish Online needs work. OIT has an employee who will do some benchmarking of Irish Online against other universities. He will put together a proposal for the new online system.

### **9:07am**

Dan Saracino – Admissions

Admissions received more applications from every ethnic group than ever before. The admit rates are higher than ever. About 30% of the admitted students are minorities. The yield has been less for minority groups. The university needs to work hard on the yield rates. The second spring visitation is the largest group ever. The 30% does not include international students. International students want to go from 3% to 7% in five years. And, the freshman class has to be more than 85% catholic. They estimate 25% students of color based on past yield rates. The challenges will be the economy. There was a decrease in overall applications to private universities due to the economy. There has been a big controversy about Obama speaking on campus. Donors have cancelled their donation. The Observer has posted several articles on the topic online. Notre Dame has done well under these conditions.

Joe Russo – Financial Aid

Financial Aid letters go out on Monday to admitted students. Joe handed out a letter from Tom Burish, Provost, and John Affleck Graves. Also on the handout is the 09/10 cost of attendance. Notre Dame is on solid financial ground due to conservative financial practices. Can Notre Dame afford the students accepted? The Financial Aid office now is hearing from higher income families who are now struggling. The university is still giving no-loan packages to the most needy. Why not make a public announcement about the no-loan packages? Compared to the Yale and Harvard announcement, the Notre Dame announcement would not seem as great. Notre Dame wants to manage expectations. Another reason they don't make the public announcement is because they don't want to have to go back on their word. Father Jenkins wrote a personal letter to all 3,800 prospective students.

Quest Bridge identifies those poorest of the poor who are academically strong. The poorest of the poor are Pell Grant eligible. About 9% of undergrads receive Pell grants.

What is the best way to address students who feel that they need more money than offered by the Financial Aid office? Changes need to be communicated to the Financial Aid office via phone, email, or letter. There are questions online about comparing the investment for other universities. What percent of Freshman come back, what is the graduation rate on time?, 95% of students finish on time, 1/10 of 1% default on their student loans, what percentage of students get jobs on graduation? What is the level of alumni satisfaction? The goal is to respond to any student who communicates within 24 hours.

Obama is talking about increasing government student loans.

**9:50 am:**

Mirella Riley & Francis Shavers– President’s Office, University Committee on Cultural Diversity

Francis spoke about Obama’s commencement speech. The White House took the lead on the announcement. Then Notre Dame sent a press release. There was a 90% negative response. It has now shifted to an 80% negative to 20% positive response. The President’s Office is just observing the response. Father John is emphatic that the invitation is not approval of Obama’s views. The invitation is going to stand. Students are excited about it. It should be used as a chance to engage in discussion.

**10:11 am:**

Joan Ball - Pre-College Summer Programs

Applications for the summer program are up. Their office is mailing acceptance letters on Monday for the summer programs. There is an awesome Native American student in the Global Issues seminar, Neil O’Hara. This guy is from Southern California. Maybe one alum can reach out to him. The difference is the College Board Search and the Royal search. They have the scores for the junior students. They’re sent a nice big post card to advertise the program. Native American students were sent brochures for both seminars. About 10 Native American students applied. All minority applications were up. Focusing on the avenue of communication has been helpful. There was a very strong academic pool. The three seminars are now budget items in the provost office. This is a first in 10 years.

Joan said that the admissions group has been helpful and to thank them for emailing the students.

There was a film in the film festival about Dana Lee. It was by Benford Begay, and its 7-8 minutes. Joan will get a copy for us. This is about Dana who was admitted in 2003. She was from the reservation in Arizona. Her mom died. She came back in 2007.

The last decision goes out on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Joan Ball will send out an email to give Native Students to Kateri and Otak for personal contact. Joan Ball asked us for specific schools or counselors to reach out to. Otak reminded Joan that the AISES conference will need some printed materials to hand out to Native students.

Elaine brought up the ACE program and teachers on the reservations. Joan's office does send info to the ACE teachers, but it would be good to call and personally reach teachers on the reservations. The graduates doing a year of service could also be a resource for recruiting Native American students.

AISES will be in Portland this November. The issue of developing junior students who are college bound was discussed. Joan is considering a program for 8<sup>th</sup> graders, up to 12 people. The program may be with parents or regional.

### **10:45 am:**

Kateri – NAAND Welcome

National Board Meeting Update - Academic committee – Karen Conway is very motivated. There was a successful teacher conference. They nominate an outstanding educator award.

There's a week long program for alumni who want to come back for continuing education. Paul Rathburn will be teaching on Shakespeare. Alumni will stay in air conditioned dorms. The education abroad is stalled. There was a trip/service project in Haiti. The medical ethics program is going on this week. Julia Doubtway was assigned to coordinate international efforts across campus. The numbers have been down. She came to the alumni. How does the university highlight alumni around the world who are doing well? International students will meet with the international reps for a pizza party. Alumni will meet with international faculty. There's also a partnering program, Ecuador and Minnesota alumni clubs will partner. A well established club will be the mentor club for struggling clubs.

There was a round table discussion about the club conversations with the senior alumni and MAN boards. How do the alumni leaders make the connections with MAN and local clubs?

Lou Nanni came and spoke about the campaign. ND is looking at people as people not just dollar signs.

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

NAAND Business Meeting - The board started by reviewing the business meeting agenda and decided to review the goals and accomplishment status.

**GOAL 1: Assist with recruiting of Notre Dame Students.**

**Accomplishments:** The board contacted 100% of the admitted students. Pretty sure the board recorded 100% in the Admissions MAN website.

The board attended AISES conference.

The board will meet with the spring visitation students and write them a card during this meeting.

The board reached 7 out of the goal for 10 students at this visitation weekend. There will be 12-15 more Native American students attending the second and third visitation weekends (per Gil Martinez).

Admissions Statistics - The board did contact 144 Native American student applicants. Last year there were 82. Tom will print out the stats for us. Twenty four students are already confirmed.

**GOAL 2: Assist with the retention of ND students**

The mentorship project has been kicked off. Lakota is working on tracking the connections.

The 2009 student fall retreat is planned for August 29<sup>th</sup> 2009 at the Creek House on campus. The students who attended the retreat this year are still involved in NASAND. Tom will assist with the satisfaction survey. The board is not charged for the service, and it will be set up in July. Lakota will contact confirmed students, current, and invited speakers by May 31<sup>st</sup>. She will invite some important people on campus like Joan and Mickey. Lyndal Fox and Nancy Petty may be asked to help with transportation to the Pow Wow.

The board is planning on getting the graduation video for students. (Later in the meeting, Micky and the students asked for a monetary contribution for the beaded medallion gift rather than the video)

The board hosted the dinner last meeting and invited the students to lunch today.

Karen Putt is putting on an online survey of students and alumni for awareness of efforts on both sides. The alumni office will take care of this initiative with our input.

Student Assistance Fund - Tom will start with Brad for a similar Dorm Assistance Fund format or guidelines. This is not a large scholarship fund like the other boards.

**GOAL 3: Promote participation of Native American alumni in NAAND and ND programs.**

Otak created the Facebook group. The group has 18 members. Our new goal is to invite 50 more alumni.

Elaine has contacted 48% of the alumni with emails.

The board sent letters to all of the alumni last meeting.

Kateri and Elaine are thinking about bowling in Denver this summer.

How to increase participation to five Native alumni mini-reunion weekend? Tom suggested online or electronic advertisement. The board could post it on Facebook. Maybe the board could target new grads (3 years out), the same group the board invite for Facebook. The board will focus on a package to possibly stay at Sacred Heart Parish center. Maybe Nancy could host. Elaine can work on the Facebook posting.

Amanda Schreiber is interested in doing the internship for our website and newsletter. Kateri will work with her and Bryan to get that started. The board does have \$1200 in the budget for newsletters. The board can use this to pay her. Elaine and Lakota will forward pictures of the retreat to Kateri. The board can scan in old newsletters or get electronic copy from Bernadette. Kateri made a motion to hire a student

to bring the website and newsletter up to date, Elaine seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

Tom informed the group that 76% of living Native alums have email addresses in the system.

**GOAL 4: Operate an efficient and fiscally prudent board.**

The board approved the 3/25/09 proposed budget. Melissa made a motion and all were in favor.

**GOAL 5: Assist the university in achieving the founder's commitment to Native American education.**

Wilda gave an update on the historian piece. Ben Secunda's dissertation is very tribal specific. Will our readers be interested in the story of the tribe or the story of the tribe and the University? How is the board going to use this as a tool? The board wants to use it as an education for ND. Kateri said that she would like to see it in ND magazine. Use it as a basis for a multimedia presentation. Maybe Benford Begay could use it as a student project. Karen in the Film Department may be interested in helping. The archives in the library, Charles Lamb, would be excited. Joanne Mack in the Snite Museum of Art does recent Native American history and art.

**2:54 pm:**

Admissions – Gil Martinez

Tom gave a statistical handout. The numbers are up all around. The University is on track to get 23-27 Native American students in the freshman class. Gil attributes this to QuestBridge and the Royal search system. He asked that the board continue to keep in contact with the students. Please contact the admitted students. Notre Dame is competing with Dartmouth and other prestigious Universities. In November and December, the calls about the application are important.

There are some more Natives coming to the Spring Visitation #2 and #3. There will be 12-15 native students among visitation 2 and 3. Board members asked if the board can contact the parents about spring visitation. Gil suggested sending the student an email first to give them time to prepare for the phone call. Gil will look at the list of students for weekend #3. That is April 16-19<sup>th</sup>, the Blue and Gold game weekend.

Financial aid for diversity students is getting very aggressive. A good number of these kids will be getting no-loan packages. The university is listening to the argument that for financial aid, ND needs to compete. A minority, Catholic, engineering student needs to get no loans. Hopefully this will help with yield. Notre Dame loses a lot of students to Dartmouth, Cornell, and Stanford. Before spring break there was a scare about applicant numbers, but over 6000 students applied three days before the deadline. Gil said "Thanks" for all our work. Charlene noticed our contributions.

**3:22 pm:**

Micky Magnuson - MSPS (Multicultural Student Programs and Services)

Micky handed out the Native American Heritage Month poster from November 2008. MSPS sent two students to the AISES national conference. This week is the AISES regional meeting. The graduation gift will be a beaded medallion with the NASAND logo. NAAND will contribute \$100 toward the effort in place of the previously offered graduation ceremony video. Tom told Micky about the NAAND website student worker.

Tazbah Shortey (Tazi) will be the new president of NASAND, the treasurer will be John, Secretary will be Kara, and Dana will be the AISES rep. She will graduate next year.

Ben made the "Dana" film to help younger students with their production films. Ben is applying to World Teach which is a Harvard volunteer program for people who want to teach English. He wants to teach in China and has been taking Mandarin.

#### **4:30 pm:**

NAAND Board Vacancies – Nebeesh is very busy with her kids and family and decided to resign from the board. Otak is doing the two-person job of recruitment. Kateri spoke to Tamera about the open student recruitment position. Kateri made a motion to elect Tamera to the student recruitment position, Lakota seconded, and all were in favor. When does the board start talking about elections? For the 5 alumni who have responded to the survey, they can help with the newsletter and website. Our positions expire June 2010. In fall 2009, the board needs to get the slate for the general election. The nominating committee needs to start getting prospects.

Agenda for tomorrow:

Get emails for all regional directors from the National Board. The board will do this tomorrow.

Write articles for the newsletter. The board will write something on the prospective students.

The board will write notes to the spring visitation students tomorrow.

The board will write cards to the accepted students tomorrow.

The board will transfer \$100 to MSPS for the graduation gifts, the bead medallion. The board may transfer more money, if available.

Tom gave us all a copy of a drafted MAN board alumni survey. He asked for input.

Otak gave the board a basic training on Facebook.

#### **Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

#### **8:30 am:**

NAAND Business – Tailgater – The board started discussing the NAAND mini-reunion/tailgater on September 5<sup>th</sup>, the Nevada game. Otak and Lakota will be at the game. Tickets are \$65, parking is \$35(4-6 people), \$60/night for Sacred Heart Parish Center. Availability is slim. The board can offer a special rate for Comfort Suites. With the shuttle, not sure how close they can get to the game. Need to let people know far in advance. The board has 30 tickets to work with. Last year the board put conditions that those who bought tickets in the past could not get them. Now, the board will take the condition off. May 15<sup>th</sup> is when the ticket lottery applications are due. The board should send a marketing email to all alumni, NASAND, and all past presidents. The board will put it on Face book. The board will need to get word out. The board can set up a general lottery for all Native Alumni. The package can be given to two groups of four on a first come, first serve basis. Need to get 8 pep rally passes \$0, Tom can give a press box tour, free tailgater food and drink, rooms at Sacred Heart without parking pass would be \$150 package, and the ticket with parking pass at \$75. Otak will try to stay at Sacred Heart. On Friday, there would be a pizza social with a showing of Dana’s movie and \$1 per pizza. The rest of the tickets are open to anyone. Maybe students and their parents could be offered tickets. The board will reserve three pairs for the parents. The board can make it a lottery to apply by a certain date. Elaine will send an email to current students about ticket availability for parents. Alumni will RSVP through Facebook. Students can email Tom that they are interested in the tickets. Eight people are the max for the press box tour. Families will get the pep rally tickets. Pep rally tickets are out of the alumni package. Families cannot access the tailgater with their students. Otak needs to send Elaine the Freshman Admit list and Elaine will get the current student list from Mickey.

**9:45 am:**

Working Meeting - The board wrote out Congratulation cards to the graduating seniors.

The board wrote out Congratulation cards to the Spring Visitation students & other accepted students.

**10:35 am:**

Kateri assigned two to three Alumni Board regional directors to each NAAND board member to contact by email. Tom sent their contact information to the board by email.

Benford stopped by to show the board the “Dana” movie.

**12:00 pm:**

Admission Luncheon with Prospective and Current Students at the Morris Inn

**2:00 pm:**

Working Meeting – The board finished writing notes to seniors and accepted students.

Future Conference Calls –

- Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> 9pm EST
- Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 9pm EST

Phone Tree Reminder: Kateri – Elaine – Melissa – Otak – Wilda – Tamara - Lakota - Bernadette