



UNIVERSITY of  
ST AUGUSTINE for  
HEALTH SCIENCES  
ALUMNI

**USAHS Alumni Association Advisory Board Meeting Summary**

Saturday, March 19, 2022

Noon-3:00 PM Eastern Time

Virtual Ring Central Meeting

**Attending:** Morgan Beard, Stephen Elam, Gabrielle George, Scott Hollander, Rebekah Jarrar, Cristine Johnson, Christopher Long, Jane Min, Chelsea Montes, Molly Patel-Desai, Sara Story, Steve Weyandt (President), Polly Crabtree (Staff)

**Guests:** Deborah Zimic (USAHS General Counsel)

**Absent:** Kevin Breuilly, Gregory Dean, Paige Funderburk, Wendy Larkin, Tomika Lowe-Lopez, Craig McGhee, Deveshma Maharaj, Ryan Wooley

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 PM and all board members went to their assigned committee meetings in virtual breakout rooms.

Deborah Zimic, USAHS General Counsel and Senior Vice President for Compliance, provided the Advisory Board with an update on the USAHS Foundation. The University started the process to create the foundation approximately one and a half years ago. The Foundation will have an independent board of directors. We currently have two board members and are looking for a third. The Foundation has received IRS approval for its tax exemption status, and a bank account has been established. The Foundation can now start the processes for funding scholarships, securing research grants, hosting pro bono clinics, and other donation-based activities.

Each of the committee chairs reported for their committee:

**Advocacy Committee**

VP/Chair: Rebekah Jarrar

1. Continue to seek out faculty, alumni, and students who perform advocacy roles for healthcare related organizations
2. Members of the committee have been assigned to organizations to report out important information and issues, openings for organization volunteer positions, and upcoming events and activities
  - a. APTA: Ryan Wooley
  - b. AMA: Christopher Long
  - c. ASHA: Scott Hollander

- d. AOTA/COTA: Paige Funderburk
- e. AOTA/FOTA: Rebekah Jarrar
- f. TOTA: Gabrielle George (on Alumni Engagement Committee but volunteered to assist)
- g. Nursing Organizations: Polly Crabtree (will ask Nursing team to help identify important organizations)

### **Alumni Engagement Committee**

VP/Chair: Jane Min

1. Clinical placement/geographic mentor support: all committee members will sign on to be Geographic Mentors for student who are starting clinical placements in new/unfamiliar geographic locations, and will encourage the full board to participate
2. Social media presence: all committee members will join the appropriate social media groups and will encourage alumni from their cohorts to join
3. Testimonial: all committee members will record a testimonial for the University to be posted to the website and social media channels; for those wanting assistance, Polly Crabtree will schedule and record a virtual meeting to capture the testimonial
4. Career services assistance: will invite the new Director of Career Services to attend the September 17, 2022, Advisory Board meeting to share ideas for alumni participation in the career services process
5. Alumni Referral Scholarships are being introduced this spring, first professional students (DPT, residential OTD, MOT, and MSSLP) who are referred to the University by an alum, are admitted to the University, and enroll in a first professional program, will be eligible to receive a \$5,000 Alumni Referral Scholarship to be payable in equal distributions over the established duration of the student's degree program. The full Advisory Board will engage in a friendly competition to see who can provide the most student referrals (prize to be determined). Students must not have applied, been admitted, or enrolled in a USAHS program prior to the referral. The Advisory Board will be notified when the program becomes available.

### **Governance Committee**

VP/Chair: Stephen Elam

1. Bylaws: The Governance Committee has worked diligently to update the Alumni Association Advisory Board Bylaws.
  - a. Motion made by Stephen Elam to approve the drafted bylaws with two amendments
    - i. To Article II: **Add** "All records of The Alumni Association will be maintained by the USAHS Director of Alumni Engagement.
    - ii. Change Article V; Section II; Bullet point 2: "As many as twenty-one (21) members at large (including officers)
  - b. Motion seconded by Steve Weyandt. The motion carried by a unanimous vote of all attending board members.
2. Self-Evaluation of the Advisory Board
  - a. Each committee will review the effectiveness of their committee
  - b. Between March and September, the committees will meet to establish how success will be measured for each of their goals

- c. The self-evaluation process will commence during the fall meeting of the Advisory Board, and will be completed by 12/31 each year

### **Future Topics and Other Business**

The Advisory Board members brought up the following future meeting topics:

1. Traditions – What are the traditions that occur on each of the campuses? What can we build on to create unity among our alumni and each of the campuses?
2. Networking and Meet-ups – Where are the central locations for both students and alumni? How can we bring all alumni together, regardless of program, for social activity and networking?
3. Can we bring back Alumni Weekends?
4. Can we maintain sensitivity around the subject of donations? How should alumni be approached for fundraising. Gabrielle George agreed to serve on a USAHS committee to discuss this subject and bring information back to the Advisory Board.

The meeting concluded with a virtual campus tour of the St. Augustine campus conducted by Student Ambassador Kelsey Griffiths (a third-term residential OTD student here on the St. Augustine campus).

The next meeting of the USAHS Alumni Association Advisory Board is on Saturday, September 17, Noon-3:00 PM ET.