

EAC Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2022
Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Chair JoAnn Donovan. Mary Lee Walter read the opening prayer.

Those in attendance were Barb Atteln, Connie Diekman, JoAnn Donovan, Joan Falk, Lucy Hahn, Joan Kelly, Ruth Ann Kerr, Susan Lenihan, Barb Stroer, Kathy Tanner, Wendi Valenti, and Mary Lee Walter. Nancy English was not in attendance.

Agenda and Consent Agenda: JoAnn Donovan

The Agenda and the Consent Agenda were both approved.

The entire agenda for this meeting was to assess the results, set goals, and devise an action plan to start implementing at the January 11, 2023 EAC meeting based on the four main themes arising from our strategic planning session on November 9, 2022:

- 1. Expand Membership: Remove Impediments to Membership**
- 2. Increase FCC Visibility: In the Community and Within FBU**
- 3. Awards as the Reflection of Our Mission**
- 4. Stewardship of Current Members: Engagement and Leadership**

Expand Membership: Remove Impediments to Membership/Increase FCC Visibility

- Lucy Hahn reported that membership has been stable at approximately 75. Is a goal of 100 members feasible in the next year?
- If the membership number has remained stable, how is FCC maintaining members if we lose individuals because of death, financial reasons, or other personal reasons. There have been no obvious trends or reasons why members leave. Mary Lee Walter reported that when she co-chaired the Membership Committee she reviewed members who had left for at least the previous 10 years before she was even a member. She found that about 2/3 of members had been active but as they grew older, they could do less and the meetings were in person at that time. The other 1/3 dropped out due to some family crisis.
- How to attract new members
 - If FCC wants to grow, how does the organization do things differently? There is always attrition, so it is important to maintain at least the current membership level. Only a certain amount of money can be awarded each year and that amount would need to be revised as necessary. Can we do more for FBU by offering different types of memberships? Ideas were shared on how to increase membership.
 - Consider financial impediments when attracting new members by offering different types of memberships. Examples discussed follow:

- Associate memberships – for those who admire FCC’s mission but do not want to be a member or voting member. Such memberships could be offered for a reduced amount, perhaps as low as \$300 (arbitrary).
 - “Entry” level memberships – consider lower dues to become an FCC member, e.g. \$750 for three years with a commitment of full membership thereafter.
 - Continue to offer sponsorship money for assistance. There are individuals such as teachers or single parents who may not have the money to join but could be sponsored by other members. There have been instances when members have sponsored other members or FCC has offered to sponsor for a specified amount with the person paying the balance.
- Consider attracting younger members by targeting a department that has recently received an award. Let graduates of this department know FCC would like them to be involved and, perhaps, any other alumni or members in their field who may be interested. Connie related this had been unsuccessfully attempted with the Dietetics Department in the past. It was only a one-time shot without a comprehensive implementation plan. Some of her concerns centered around how does the FCC make itself more visible on campus and what does the FCC offer in addition to funding Awards to attract students and alumni. It is important to start meeting with students and the Alumni Board and hearing and listening to them. Thoughts on what the FCC has to offer in addition to funding awards included a sense of belonging and camaraderie, support during difficult times in one’s personal life and a valued connection to FBU.
- Student Government Association incentive – nominate a sponsor for one member of SGA. Help them to define their dream and work with the FCC in the Awards process.
- It was agreed that the FCC would remain a women’s giving organization. There may be supporters, both men and other individuals, who believe in FCC’s cause and would support it financially without being actively involved.
- At the Lyon Society December Mass and Brunch Nancy Blattner reported that, for the first time in Fontbonne’s history, the freshmen enrollment has more males than females. This is likely due to the collegiate sports programs that are offered. There may be a mechanism for these programs to generate funds to support FBU.

- Joan Kelly shared her thoughts on extending FCC's charter and what we could look like. Do we want to be an organization that helps alumni stay connected to the University community and contributes to its continued growth. Speak with students ahead of time and let them know that sponsorship funds are available. Changes can be made incrementally, and, perhaps, consider men at a second stage.
- Susan Lenihan restated the vision of the FCC has been to fund dreams. Anyone can contribute to the operations budget, but the FCC decides on funding dreams proposed by faculty, staff and students through Round Table discussions. The Covid pandemic changed the perspective of our organization over the past 2-3 years. We can now focus more on funding dreams than necessities and have more in-person activities.
- Tier memberships were briefly discussed with models mentioned such as, the Junior League, St. Louis Zoo, the Botanical Gardens and Country Clubs. These will continue to be explored.

ACTION ITEMS

- Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting on January 5, 2023. JoAnn, Lucy, and Connie will present the purpose of the FCC and our desire to develop a kinship with the alumni. Barb Stroer and Alice Bell are also members of the Alumni Board. In order to allow a way for alumni to stay connected to the university, FCC is offering a 1 Year Fellowship from January – December 2023 to a woman selected by the Board. This fellowship will include all benefits of FCC membership. The details will be worked out with Wendi Valenti and the executive committee of the Alumni Board.
- Barb Atteln will review our current Bylaws and Policies & Procedures documents on the topic of sponsorships.
- On February 15, 2023, the Career Development Center and the Networking Committee of the Alumni Board are sponsoring an event with a Networking Reception from 5:30 – 6:15 p.m. This would provide an opportunity for EAC members to have casual conversations with alumni. The reception will be followed by a panel discussion with 5 Fontbonne Alumni. Wendy will send the information to EAC members.

OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS

- Joan Falk requested clarification for Nina Bryan's Memorial Brick wording. Each line maximum is 20 characters including spaces. The brick has already been approved to be taken from the FCC Operations Budget.
- In regard to the theme to Increasing FCC's Visibility in the Community, Susan inquired about the status. Wendi let us know that the current

Director of Marketing has left Fontbonne and a new one is to be announced. We will need to wait for that to occur.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

I only had information for the following reports.

Officer and Committee Reports

- **Recording Secretary: Barb Stroer**

The revised minutes from the 10/12/2022 & 11/09/2022 were approved.

- **Treasurer's Report: Kathy Tanner**

Kathy sent a modified report on 12/14/2022 reflecting the amount allocated to the 2022/23 awards. The amount available to-date for the coming awards went down to \$50,572.

- **Awards Committee: Susan Lenihan and Mary Lee Walter**

Barb Stroer and Sr. Mary Carol Anth are working on FCC signage for projects we've funded. We are working on guidelines for faculty/staff who are FCC members, on how not to be overly directive during Round Tables.

An email was sent to the VP's reminding them that they are required to approve the applications in order for the projects to move forward.

We discussed the Strategic Planning Meeting for the benefit of members unable to attend.

Discussed the need to give talks or share video of some FCC projects to make staff, faculty, and students more aware of FCC and what it does.

- **By-Laws Committee Report – Barb Atteln**

Nothing to report.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Stroer, Recording Secretary on January 10, 2023