

EAC Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2023
Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chair JoAnn Donovan. JoAnn led the opening prayer.

All members were in attendance: Barb Atteln, Connie Diekman, JoAnn Donovan, Nancy English, Joan Falk, Lucy Hahn, Joan Kelly, Ruth Ann Kerr, Susan Lenihan, Barb Stroer, Kathy Tanner, Wendi Valenti and Mary Lee Walter.

Agenda and Consent Agenda: JoAnn Donovan

Consent Agenda Item b Treasurer's Report 11/30/22 was modified to 10/31/22. The revised agenda and consent agenda were approved.

Reports on action items implemented since the 12/14/2022 EAC Meeting were discussed and plans were made for additional action items.

Membership Committee – Alumni Board of Directors Meeting Presentation 01/05/23

Chairwoman Joann Donovan and Membership Committee representatives

Lucy Hahn and Connie Diekman attended the Alumni Board Meeting to discuss FCC and the Alumni Board's relationship with the FCC. Lucy and Connie summarized this presentation:

- The vision/purpose of FCC since its founding in 2008 by five women Fontbonne graduates was provided. The attendees were visibly impressed by the total award amount since FCC's beginning - over 200 projects totaling more than \$1.2 million.
- In order to further its connection with the Alumni Board, the FCC is offering a one year fellowship (January to December) to a woman member of the Alumni Board courtesy of the FCC. The fellowship covers all the benefits of FCC membership including attendance at Executive Advisory Counsel (EAC) meetings and quarterly FCC newsletters.
- Alice Bell and Barb Stroer, also members of the Alumni Board, shared their reasons for joining the FCC and how it is a way to stay connected to FBU meaningfully. Alice described Fontbonne as a "gem" that few in the broader St. Louis community are aware of. The importance of Fontbonne to the St. Louis community and beyond can be accomplished through efforts between and within our two groups.
- Women were advised to stay on zoom after the meeting if they were interested in applying for the sponsorship. More than one expressed interest. Since not all board members attended this meeting, Wendi sent an email on 01/09/23 to all members explaining the FCC's sponsorship offer including that FCC would encourage the fellow to participate in the March roundtable discussions to determine funded projects and possibly serve on a committee to help shape the interconnectedness of the FCC and Alumni Association. If interested, instructed to email Alumni Board Vice Chair Sharon Hunter huntermvoice5@gmail.com by January 20th. The info from the presentation was included in the recording of the Alumni Board meeting that was attached.
- During the EAC 01/11/23 discussion of this presentation, Barb Stroer shared that a position on the Alumni Board of Directors is only for a maximum of 4 years (Two 2-year terms). A connection between our members is a way to encourage additional involvement with Fontbonne. Membership in both the Alumni Board and FCC can be simultaneous.

Update on Annual Meeting – Saturday 04/22/2023 10-11 a.m. CT

- Susan Lenihan reported that this will be a hybrid event. Start time at 10:00 a.m CT to better accommodate coasts. The space will be reserved for 10-11:30 a.m. to allow time for visiting after the meeting ends at 11 a.m.
- Wendi has the Board Room reserved but is looking for other space to optimize microphone use for this hybrid meeting. Consider a temporary hold on E254 which is being used for the Round Table hybrid meetings and would likely allow for the number of in-house attendees for the annual meeting.
- Light refreshments will be provided.

Round Table Dates:

Weekend - Saturday, March 4, 2023 Time: 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM CT

Morning - Thursday, March 9, 2023 Time: 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM CT

Evening - Wednesday, March 15, 2023 Time: 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM CT

Afternoon - Tuesday, March 21, 2023 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM CT

Planning Ahead

JoAnn opened this time to facilitate discussion of any ideas related to EAC's 4 main themes emerging from the strategic planning meeting on 11/09/22.

- **Increasing FCC Visibility - Director of Marketing**
 - A new Director of Marketing, Grace Elmore, has recently started and Wendi is scheduled to see her today. Wendi will be giving her an overview of what is being done in the Advancement office and will include what the FCC is and FCC's desire to participate in promoting Fontbonne.
- **Expanding Membership**
 - Barb Atteln reviewed the Bylaws and found no mention of Sponsorships in the Bylaws.
 - There are several references to Sponsorship Funds in the Policies and Procedures including its definition and disbursement. The Membership Section states that membership is open to any woman who...
 - Any variations of membership levels or members requires changes to the Bylaws which becomes a long-range plan. Can continue to explore whether and how to change Bylaws for ideas such as membership tiers.
 - The EAC has chosen to proceed at this time with Sponsorship as currently defined. Priority is on full-paying members vs tiers of membership.
- **Getting the Word Out**
 - Joan Gray started a discussion on exploring ways to encourage current members to talk about the benefits and values of FCC. How many more potential members could we recruit if more current FCC members got the word out. Personal contact is important. We may find with Zoom, more out-of-towners would be interested. The following are some thoughts on this topic:
 - Bring a classmate/friend to a centennial event that is face-to-face. Some of the remaining events will not be live-streamed. Send email to FCC members highlighting FCC and Fontbonne community presenters and encouraging "bring a guest." Other thoughts on getting the word out included:

- Asking comfort level in reaching out, would members like to have some information about membership, the dreams of award submissions and awards given.
 - Ask members to stay a few minutes after the Round Tables to ask their experiences sharing information about FCC and any needs for helping find information and/or implementing it. Survey questionnaires have not been successful in the past.
 - Lucy Hahn will send a Valentine message to the membership and work with Joan Falk on the wording. Want to recognize that each individual's membership and generous support is valued.
 - Nancy English found some previously used picture boards featuring Awardees and Projects. Some are still current, e.g., Center for Bosnian Studies, Pergola, and Racoon Study. There are boards that might be able to be reused. These boards could be set up outside a meeting area near the registration desk so that attendees could view some of the work that FCC does.
- **Gala**
 - Some of the arrangements for the Gala were discussed and opportunities to promote the FCC at the Gala were brain-stormed
 - Reserving tables for FCC members
 - Reaching out to FCC members to ask if they would like to join an FCC table or be in close proximity
 - Displaying some of the picture boards
 - A small flower corsage to ID FCC members
 - Wendi will check with the Gala organizing committee re: FCC group recognition and other possibilities to include/promote FCC at the Gala.

Concluding Comments/Action Items

JoAnn asked that the EAC members think about the 4th Strategic Planning theme – Stewardship of Current Members: Engagement and Leadership.

- Is there more we could do to encourage enthusiasm in recruiting members?
- What is hindering members from reaching out?
- Advocates to help members with ideas on how to prepare for conversations with prospective members.
- Have members reached out and what have been their experiences?
- Pre-Covid some people had coffee at their homes or met elsewhere, but the environment has changed now so are there ways to adapt reaching out?

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Officer and Committee Reports

Recording Secretary: Barb Stroer

The minutes from the 12/14/2022 EAC Meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy Tanner

As of 12/30/22, \$62,481 is available for future awards.

Corresponding Secretary: Ruth Ann Ker

Does not have a listing of members who renewed for January 2023. Sent a note to new member, Juli Nieman, since had her contact information. Will have to wait for the official notification for the newest member, Delah Jones.

Communications Report: Joan Falk

No report other than to say assignments have been made and excellent articles are coming in for the upcoming FCC Newsletter, to be issued approximately 02/01/23.

Archives Committee: Nancy English

Continue to work on the archives. This seems like a broken record, but there just has been a lot of work to do. Soon I will be at a point where the archives will begin to be posted to Griffin Share, but not quite yet.

Awards Committee: Susan Lenihan and Mary Lee Walter

The Awards subcommittee (Sr. Mary Carol and Barb Stroer) have been figuring out the signage for various FCC projects. An update will be given at the EAC meeting.

Events Committee: Joan Kelly

There is nothing to report.

Membership Committee: Lucy Hahn and Connie Diekman

Pam Kanter, a new FCC member, hosted a gathering of alums in Kansas City. Invitations were sent to 15, 6 attended. Pam gave a strong push for joining the FCC. Wendi followed up by sending each of them membership applications. Connie and Lucy contacted each to answer any questions. A second attempt will be made to contact them now that the holidays are past. At the last EAC meeting it was decided to use FCC funds to extend a fellowship with a full membership to a female member of the Alumni Board. Last Thursday, JoAnn, Connie and Lucy made a presentation during the Alumni Board meeting with that offer. Both Barb Stroer and Alice Bell gave their testimonies about FCC membership. Several expressed an interest. The board will vote in the next week. So, we should know soon who that person will be. We think it will be in the best interests of the FCC and the university for the Alumni Board and the FCC to work more closely. We hope to find other opportunities in the next year to do that.

ByLaws Committee: Barb Atteln

There is no Bylaws Committee Report for January 2023.

Advancement Liaison Report: Wendi Valenti

Wendy sent her report separately to EAC members on 02/07/23.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Stroer, Recording Secretary on February 6, 2023