

Senate Alumni Relations Committee

Year-end Report

April 22, 2011

OUR MISSION: Enhance the Lifelong Connection to Alumni

When Dan Libby and Jerry Sherwin began their term two years ago as co-chairs of the Senate Alumni Relations Committee, it was agreed the objective of the Committee is to consider, and in some cases reconsider, policies and programs that enhance the lifelong connection between alumni and the university. Certainly in an age when the university is seeking to deepen its commitment to an almost inexhaustible list of academic initiatives and simultaneously expand its reach around the globe, the university needs its alumni base as never before. In talents, experience, energy and resources, the alumni constituency represents a significant underutilized resource of the university.

In 2009-2010, their first year in leading this committee, the emphasis in pursuit of this mission was to focus on enhancing the alumni career services and education efforts. Not surprisingly, in survey results from our alumni we learn they value this nascent service more highly than any other we could provide them. In partnership with the Office of Alumni Relations, an Alumni Career Services Task Force was formed with alumni career officers from across all of the schools of the university. Messrs. Libby and Sherwin, the co-chairs of the Senate Alumni Relations Committee, sit on this Task Force and attend all of its meetings to provide valuable input from the alumni's point of view. These Task Force meetings have been very productive and are ongoing. The Senate Alumni Relations Committee presented its findings on this initiative in its presentation to the Senate Plenary in April 2010.

MEETINGS: 2010 – 2011 Term

This year the Committee has continued to meet with administration officials who hold positions of impact on alumni affairs. An abbreviated description of these meetings is as follows:

- Alumni Career Education and Services
 - Donna MacPhee, VP for Alumni Relations
- Alumni Development / Capital Campaign
 - Fred van Sickle, EVP for University Development and Alumni Relations
- Alumni Regional Clubs
 - Michael Griffin, Assoc. Dir. Alumni Regional Clubs (meeting April 29, 2011)
- Global Centers (two meetings)
 - Ken Prewitt, VP for Global Centers
- University Alumni Events
 - Ken Catandella, Sr. Exec. Dir. University Events and Programs
 - Ilene Markay-Hallack, Exec. Dir. University Events and Programs

- University Leadership and Direction
 - Richard Witten, University Trustee
 - Lisa Carnoy, University Trustee (meeting May 10, 2011)

FOCUS AREA: Columbia Global Centers

One of the most exciting emerging university initiatives is the University Global Centers. While the initiative is evolving, there are several aspects to Columbia's novel approach to globalization that are becoming clear. For example, the following is a brief list of ready opportunities that come to mind for our faculty and student bodies via the Global Centers.

- Faculty opportunities
 - Research
 - Teaching
 - Consulting
 - Public Speaking and Outreach
- Student opportunities
 - Study abroad
 - Internships (for-profit & non-profit)

CONCLUSION

In considering these opportunities it becomes clear; for faculty and students to have as full of an experience abroad as possible, the Senate Alumni Relations Committee believes broad alumni engagement must play a central role. The Committee believes alumni represent the "third leg of the stool"; together with student and faculty involvement, these three constituencies can enhance most any program designed to be operated through our Global Center(s). Grass roots alumni located globally must be engaged and can assist in engaging other (non-alumni) groups and organizations.

NEXT STEPS: 2011-2012 Senate Term

The Senate Alumni Relations Committee will continue its broad-based work discussing with various administration officials ways to further our Mission as described herein. The Committee will focus with particular emphasis on ways in which alumni can empower the Global Centers initiative of the university.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Daniel Libby '82EN & '84EN

Gerald Sherwin '55CC

CC: Donna MacPhee, VP for Alumni Relations