

# CE&CF BOARD MEETING -- August 19, 2016 at KCC

**Present:** Bill Giesler, Eric Haines, Jerry Lang, Jim Sparrow, John Strohbach, Barry Wanninger and guests, Dick Fenstermacher and Tom Cuni

Minutes of the May 13, 2016 meeting were approved.

## President's Report – Bill Giesler

### Active Chapter -- Christian Przewdziecki, Active Chapter President

The summer semester has been a successful period for the Alpha Xi Chapter as we continue to build off of the momentum from our successful 2015-2016 year. After spring graduation, with a large number of brothers going alum, we currently sit at 151 brothers and all of them are extremely eager and hungry to begin this upcoming school year and make it one of the best our chapter has ever had. Our executive board has spent a large portion of this summer coming together to plan for the upcoming fall semester and ensure that our chapter is properly prepared to have our strongest year in recent memory.

The biggest priority and focus for our chapter throughout the summer semester has been keeping the bloodline of our fraternity strong through recruitment. Recruitment chairman Anthony Durso has done a tremendous job in leading our chapter in the recruitment of dozens of potential new members who are entering their first year at the University of Cincinnati. Durso has overseen the recruitment committee, which consists of nearly 70 brothers who are extremely committed to recruitment, and has held weekly meetings since April. These meetings consist of name generation, weekly event planning to get recruits to the Nester Home, in-depth discussions on notable recruits, and many other topics that ensure we continue to win the recruitment battle. I have been thrilled with the amount of potential new members, particularly honors students, who have consistently been at the house and with the large number of brothers who have been brought into recruitment. It is clear that PIKE has the reputation amongst incoming students as the premier chapter at UC and we have used that to our advantage. With rush week taking place in just under two months (September 16<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>), it is clear that we have the upper hand over other chapters for many sought after recruits and I strongly believe we will build on this momentum and once again have the strongest pledge class with the most best men come the fall.

Internally, our chapter has continued to stay committed to growing closer as brothers and becoming better men. Our summer scholarship program, run by scholarship chairman Ben Schloss, is in full swing. The program is marketed to incoming students and has led to a large number of applicants. Interviews, led by a number of brothers, are set to begin within the week and will provide students with the opportunity to prove how they fulfill the pillars of SLAG. Top students will be selected and chosen as finalists for the awards and the winners will be selected at our scholarship dinner in September. The program shows incoming students how our chapter is committed to upholding strong academic standards and also helps to identify several high-quality incoming students who could potentially make great PIKEs for our recruitment committee. Several brotherhood events, including our first ever crawfish boil, have been held throughout the summer that has allowed brothers to stay close despite many living off-campus during the semester.

Internal Vice-President Brad Chamblin and his cabinet have already begun the planning of several key fall events such as homecoming, semi-formal, and many more to ensure our fall is enjoyable for brothers, alumni, and families.

Externally, Alpha Xi continues to hold the best reputation both on and off campus amongst fraternities. We have held several successful social events throughout the summer that have been both fun and safe for our brothers and friends. Successful events such as Summerfest made it clear that Alpha Xi remains to be the socially preferred chapter amongst sororities. Alpha Xi has also continued to serve our community during the summer with over 30 brothers volunteering in June at the Neurosurgery Fitzpatrick Chiari Research Fund 5k race. Philanthropy chairman Mike Huber is also planning several events for the fall, including the annual PIKE Spike charity volleyball tournament that will take place next month. As always, our chapter continues to maintain a strong relationship and reputation

amongst the UC Greek community. External Vice-President Nate Kunkel and his cabinet have done a terrific job this summer and have made all of our brothers extremely excited for what is to come this year.

Currently, our executive board is working extensively to prepare for the upcoming year. Our second executive retreat of the summer is planned for Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. At this meeting we will finalize the fall calendar for the chapter, set final goals for the semester, and assess our progress thus far. Our two biggest goals continue to be building stronger respect for the house and strengthening brotherhood. The cleanliness of the house, particularly in common areas, has improved tremendously since last year. This improvement is thanks in large part to House Manager Nick Wessels; however there is certainly room for even more improvement. The completion of the basement renovation has our brothers excited to begin utilizing it shortly and affords us the opportunity to keep the rest of the Nester Home in top condition at all times. Exec has already had a few opportunities to swiftly punish individuals who have disrespected the house and we believe it has set a new tone amongst AC that they must all treat the house with more respect than in years past. We are eager and excited to meet with UCPHC on August 15<sup>th</sup> and highlight the progress we have made with the house and to discuss AC affairs. In conclusion, though there is room for improvement, our executive board believes Alpha Xi is in the perfect position to have its strongest year in recent history going into the 2016-2017 school year.

### **SHA -- Mark Wood, SHA President**

Not a ton going on for SHA during the summer months. We continue to recruit new members as Patrick Carr transitions off the board. So far, Brad Sierer and Ryan Boggs have joined the crew and are planning this summer's golf outing. Sierer may be a short term member depending on his future roles within Alpha Xi, so we are grooming Boggs to take over full control of the outing next year. As of right now, we are in discussions with Hickory Woods golf course in Loveland. Price for golf/dinner is landing around ~\$65.

This past quarter, Alpha Xi was notified that we would be receiving the William R Nester Alumni Association of the Year Award at this summer's convention. We are struggling to find someone from the board to make the trip right now. If anyone has access to a private jet... let us know.

### **UCPHC**

- UCPHC met with AC on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Agenda topics were:
  - Condition and care of Nester House – in relatively good condition –new leases for full house at 28 beds
  - Chapter asked for funds for 2<sup>nd</sup> floor carpet and first floor rugs. AC will get quotes for UCPHC.
  - Expansion of Nester House – cost est. has increased 30% over expected for additional 8-9 beds
  - Digby Property – off the table due to liability risks (See New Business)
- We met on May 18th with PCA Architects to discuss developing design details of the House expansion. Budget for the expansion is \$750,000 but updated cost estimate is over \$1MM. Scope and cost estimates are being reviewed.
- We met with Uptown Rentals on May 26, 2016 to discuss House Management.
- The project to partially open up the basement is completed. Total cost is \$30,000, funded entirely out of UCPHC cash reserves.
- Potential candidates to help UCPHC are:
  - Chris Lee: Finances
  - Jon Doerger House Management
  - Andy Pool House Management

**Treasurer's Report – Jim Sparrow** (Report attached)

## **Fundraising Committee Report – Bill Giesler**

Annual Fund Raising Program (AFRP)

We closed 2015/2016 AFRP with \$28,810 collected from 89 Brothers. The 2016-2017 AFRP will begin in August/September. The AFRP for 2014-2015 resulted in \$17,752 collected from 74 Brothers (\$350 pledged and collected).

We opened discussions with OmegaFi regarding the 3% fee for all donations. This will be discussed at the August Board Meeting. (See New Business)

## **Investment Committee Report – John Strohbach**

The value of the portfolio as of June 30, 2016 was \$776,094. There were \$86,013 contributions and \$38,128 disbursements of which \$15,000 was scholarship awards and \$23,000 was grants to UC Pikes.

The annual income is estimated at \$21,000.

The market performance of the portfolio was -1.2%. This was principally due to the investment in value stocks vs growth equities. Our portfolio is by design conservative and until very recently value stocks did not perform well. The value of the portfolio is currently in the \$800,000 area. The composition is in line with our investment policy and all other elements are also satisfactory.

Since our policy allows a 4.0% use of funds and we anticipate no requirement for grants to UC Pikes the scholarship funds available for Fiscal year 2016-17 will be \$31,000, more than twice the awards in 2015-16.

John expects to have the CE&CF Annual Report ready to distribute in October.

## **Scholarship Committee Report – Barry Wanninger**

We have never heard back from Purcell Marian about a possible Bearcat Scholarship recipient. My suggestion for this scholarship is to eliminate it due to lack of interest and use the funds to support another scholarship or to increase the size of a current one. The Scholarship Committee will also start up again this November for selection of the 2017 Scholarships and Awards. Barry anticipates awarding 25-35 scholarships. The committee will look into the possibility of making a contribution to the UC Scholarship program.

**Communications Report** – Although Bill Hoeb is no longer on the board, he is still helping with Communication.

**Old Business** – None

**New Business** –

**1) Potential gift from Mike Dever** - Mike is considering donating the Phi Delt house and property to CE&CF to rent to undergraduate brothers. The house is in disrepair and would require a minimum of \$250k-300k to improve/bring up to code. Chapter is more interested in their current house expansion than acquiring the Phi Delt property. Tom Cuni warned of the liability of using the separate house. Less liability to donate to UCPHC as LLC and tear down to use for recreation, sports and parking. However, Bill said cost of grading and drainage might be cost prohibitive for the spaces gained. Not accepting the gift means we will be locked-in property wise. Bill will get back to Mike.

**2) Potential gift from and Dave Franecki** – Tom Cuni said the Seller Financed Mortgage package that Dave wants to contribute to CE&CF, while representing no significant liability, could become a problem. Tom is uncomfortable with this in-kind contribution, and would rather that he donate cash so we don't get caught up with these mortgages and notes. Bill will provide Tom with CE&CF's policy on accepting non-cash gifts so Tom can discuss with Dave his offer and other gift options.

**3) Omega Fi's 3% collection fee** - Decision to continue for one more year, but will be looking for other options.

**4) Gifting of Pike pins** – The spouse of a deceased alumni asked if we have a program for donating pins to deserving undergraduates. Bill will get Chapter input before next meeting.

**Meetings:** Nov. 4, (Exec Bd); Feb. 3, 2017 (Exec Bd); May 5 (Full Bd); Aug. 4 (Exec Bd); Nov.3 (Exec Bd);

Jerry Lang – Secretary 8/20/16