

**Marshall University Alumni Association  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 26, 2020**

**I. Call to Order**

Max Lederer called to order the virtual meeting of the MUAA Board of Directors at 5:30 p.m. on April 26, 2020 via ZOOM.

**II. MU President Report**

Marshall University President Jerome Gilbert addressed the group with updates concerning how the university is conducting operating procedures in light of COVID-19. One of the biggest goals of the university is to ensure the university is in good financial shape through restructuring but not at the risk of providing services to students and faculty. At this point in time, the university is moving its courses to online and continues to monitor COVID-19 rates.

Dr. Gilbert highlighted that refunds have been issued to students for unused services and canceled classes because of COVID-19. The university is also expecting nearly \$9 million in CARES Act funding for assistance. These funds will go directly to benefit students.

May Commencement has been postponed to later in the summer. The Athletics department is preparing for schedule adjustments and they are hopeful that things can be resume to "normal" in the future.

**III. Foundation Report**

Dr. Ron Area went over how the Foundation has been responding and operating under COVID-19. He reported that alumni across the country have reached out to see how they can be of service financially to the university and the students during this time. Some of these include collecting donations for the student emergency fund, donations for need-based scholarships and collecting items for the campus food pantry.

The Marshall Rises campaign continues to work despite COVID-19 interruptions. More than 150 new relationships have been established since March 19<sup>th</sup> when the university and Foundation closed because of COVID-19, and Dr. Area explained how over 800 phone calls have been made to donors as "wellness checks." He anticipates that donations will continue to come into the university during COVID-19 response.

**IV. Election of Officers**

Mark Hayes presented the following names for consideration for the Election of Officers:  
President - Mikala Shremshock

VP 1 – Jimmie Black  
VP 2 – Jessica Wintz-Adams  
Secretary – Jane McDaniel  
Treasurer – Mendy Aluise

Ben Sandy moved the motion to approve the list of nominees, Irv Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**V. Treasurer Report**

Treasurer Mendy Aluise presented the financial report and the report is available for viewing on the HerdAlum website. She also went over details concerning the Endowment Fund. The Executive Committee would like to have 100% participation from all board members to donate to the MUAA Endowment Fund that helps fund events and activities put on by MUAA Board. A thermometer will be used to chart the board's progress and will be made available to members on a monthly basis. No set amount for donation has been set; it is more important to have all board members to give no matter what amount.

**Committee Update:**

Events – Because of COVID-19, the Alumni Awards Banquet has been moved to April 10, 2021. The awardees for this year will be recognized at next year's dinner. At this time, there are no plans concerning Homecoming 2020 because of COVID-19.

**Discussion of Future Meetings:**

Because of COVID-19, the MUAA Board of Directors has decided to host its Summer meeting to be a virtual meeting to be held on July 9, 2020. There may be consideration of an on-campus meeting, but until things are more certain, future meetings will remain to be hosted virtually. These meetings will be held on Microsoft Teams.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.