

REVISED DRAFT

American College Alumni Association

Annual Meeting

Held Online at 2:00pm EDT

September 16, 2021

Attending the meeting:

President: Tuck Grinnell

Vice-President: Dave Norris

Secretary: Tony Bawyn

At-Large: Bob Flannery, John Soares

Staff: Mark Moitoza

Excused: Bill Wegher (Treasurer), Jack Dick (At-Large)

Alumni: Ray Collins, Chris Fusco, Bill Weiskopf, Charles Haskovec, John DeSocio, John Rok, Ed Nightingale, Frank Manning, John Kleinwachter, Al Tate

Mark Moitoza organized the meeting via Zoom.

Tuck opened the meeting with a prayer at 2:05pm EDT. Thirteen persons were present at the beginning; three persons came online during the meeting.

Agenda:

- Introduction of Participants
- Recent History of the Association
- The Damien Community and Scholarship Fund
- How to Donate to the Damien Scholarship Fund
- Financial Report
- Upcoming Reunions

Introduction of Participants

Tuck invited all participants to say a bit about themselves.

Recent History of the Association

Tuck gave a brief history of the past few years highlighting the recent decision to start winding the Association down. Two goals from the Orlando meeting

(January 2019) are: 1) Can the Association keep having reunions? 2) How long can the Association keep supporting the Damien Scholarship? One of the signs of decline, he thinks, was the special request for donations to the scholarship fund that came up short of the goal. Another sign was the reduced use of the website. A survey sent out to the Alumni resulted in (only) 55 responses indicating little interest in hosting and continuing reunions. Interest was higher in paying dues and supporting the scholarship fund.

The Board decided to continue a commitment to the scholarship fund and try to host two final reunions: one in the United States in 2021 and one in Leuven in 2022. Because of the pandemic both reunions were postponed by a year.

The Damien Community and Scholarship Fund

Ray Collins directed this part of the meeting and invited Mark Moitoza to read two letters on the topic of the Damien Community and the Damien Scholarship Fund.

The first letter [see attachment #1] was sent to the Association by Aristel Skrbic who highlighted the current demographics of the Damien Community living at the American College. He expressed gratitude to the Association for their support. Ray explained that travel restrictions have kept US students from being able to go to Leuven. The Community is maintaining its religious and academic aspirations including an annual retreat and the hosting of an annual lecture. He added that there are three students in need of financial help whose applications the committee is currently reviewing.

Mark then read the second letter [see attachment #2] containing the criteria for administering the scholarships which was prepared by Ray Collins and Jack Dick. All present approved the adoption of the criteria with one cosmetic change. These criteria will be presented to the committee as the “mind of the Association” encouraging its future use.

How to Donate to the Damien Scholarship Fund

Tony then indicated how one can donate to the scholarship fund. Currently, one can donate via the Association in either dollars or euros; however, those donations are not tax deductible. It is also possible to donate via Amici Lovanienses, which is a recognized non-profit organization in the United States

capable of receiving tax-deductible donations in US dollars. Although one can designate the Damien Scholarship, this organization does not guarantee that it will honor the request. The Board will continue working with the Faculty of Theology to determine the best way to donate to this scholarship fund in the future.

Discussion then ensued about the lack of tax-exempt status of the Association, how this came about and the difficulty of reestablishing it. Ray will share with the Alumni the wording he was advised to use in his will for making a donation to the scholarship fund in this way.

Financial Report

In Bill Wegher's absence, Mark read the financial report Bill submitted in advance. Line items and amounts for revenue, expenses and the balances in the accounts are listed in the attachment [see attachment #3].

Comments included:

- New wording is needed for the title of the scholarship fund to satisfy requirements of the IRS
- Alumni wondered why funds earmarked for the scholarship were not identified as restricted funds in the financial report, and they encouraged the Board to correct this by having either separate bank accounts or separate line items in the general account
- Tuck clarified that as the Association moves towards dissolution all existing funds will be directed to the scholarship fund
- Bob asked if Jack could clarify from which account(s) funds were derived to pay for the history panels on display in the American College
- Chris advised that accounts be more accurately named and funds listed in more detail going forward. Dave proposed that a CPA may be needed to provide the kind of report necessary for reestablishing the tax-exempt status and for ending the Association
- Tuck asked that a sub-committee be established to help with restoring the tax-exempt status and sharpening the financial statements with the help of a forensic accountant. Ed Nightingale volunteered to help.

Upcoming Reunions

Bob announced that because of John Tuohey's retirement, he will not be able to host the 2022 Reunion in Massachusetts. Dave stated that volunteers are welcome to plan and host a final stateside in-person reunion next summer. Responses should be forwarded to Tuck.

Plans for the last reunion in Leuven in 2023 are ongoing. Bob will coordinate the 2023 Reunion in Leuven which is projected for August 9-12.

In view of this change Tuck asked if anyone on the Board was willing to organize a stateside reunion in 2022. No one stepped forward. Tuck and others spoke positively about organizing one or more virtual events in 2022. Bill Weiskopf spoke about a retreat or series of webinars that could be led by KU Leuven professors.

Tuck asked participants to recommend someone or even themselves to be a presenter. He invited all to reply by sending an email to "secretary" and Mark will refer the names to Tuck. Dave asked Mark to put on the website both the cancellation of the 2022 Reunion and the invitation to propose names of those who could present a virtual seminar. Tuck will ask Jack Dick if he wants to present a talk about his new book. Ray recommended Professor Benedicte Lemmelijn to speak about the Old Testament. Ray will also talk with Aristel about Damien Community members who may welcome an opportunity to give a lecture.

Dave offered a concluded prayer and Tuck ended the meeting at 3:56pm EDT.

Minutes prepared by Tony Bawyn on September 16, 2021 and revised on September 21, 2021