

Board Corner/Annual Report- June 2020

Dear Friends:

May would normally be the month that the Faculty Club holds its annual meeting. Unfortunately, we could not gather together as a group to report the year end information, such as the Treasurer's report and the election of club officers. The Board met virtually on May 6th to wrap up and conduct this business without the benefit of member input. I am writing to report what was discussed.

Members present: Alison O'Grady, Heather Forman, Patrick Quinn, Kelly Kervan, Diana Brooks, Jack Leavey, Mary Pfister, Gillian Sciacca

Members absent: Bruce Dumouchel, Cecilia Chang, Haydee Lindo, Veronica Bosley, Carl Samuelson

March Board meeting minutes were approved.

President's Report

The President noted that Gillian Sciacca will be leaving the Board and thanked her for her excellent contribution to the Faculty Club's efforts during her term. The President made note of College and State restrictions that have eliminated gatherings of the type the Faculty Club holds, with the future of these activities unknown at this point.

Treasurer's Report

Club Treasurer Kelly Kervan presented the financial report for the club. The Treasurer reported that the Club ended 2020 solvent. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Officers

The Board agreed that we are all facing extraordinary circumstances due to the Covid crisis, and it was decided that with the exception of Gillian, all Board members will remain on the Board for the 2020/2021 year. Alison O'Grady will be in the 2nd year of a two-year term as President, Kelly Kervan has agreed to remain as Treasurer, and Diana Brooks has agreed to remain as Secretary. Mary Pfister was nominated as Vice-President to assume the vacant position. All proposed officers were approved by the Board. Thanks to all who agreed to this nomination and extensions.

Other Business

The Board discussed membership dues for the 2020/2021 academic year. It was decided that billing to community members will be postponed for the foreseeable future, depending on the college's decisions on allowing public gatherings. All members will receive the benefits of membership such as the Newsletter and Reciprocity with more than 100 national and international clubs through the Association of College and University Clubs (ACUC). Hopefully we will soon see a return of the Club's other membership benefits including:

- Lunch at the Faculty House, Monday through Friday from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.
- Friendly Fridays – a gathering of members, generally on the 1st Friday of the month, for complimentary hors d'oeuvres and/or buffet offerings (see monthly offerings under the Events section on the Faculty Club website for menus)

- Lecture series offerings.
- The Bowling league – weekly, late November through March.
- Discounted pricing on food and beverages at Club events.
- Facility rental for all your social events.

This said, the Faculty Club will keep chugging along until we discover the new “normal.” We will wear masks, social distance and respect the health and well-being of our community. I have been working from home since March 17th, and work a full day. Work/life balance has been increasingly fuzzy. It has taken a kind of mental toughness to get through this trying time, it is the new normal for so many of us for now.

The Faculty Club needs to rethink who we are and what we do as an entity, but will still exist as an important part of the Williams community, especially as new ways of engaging with each other are discovered during this time of uncertainty. The Faculty House has been on this campus for more than 100 years. The Club has withstood two World Wars, the Great Depression, and even the Spanish Flu, to name a few extreme crises of the past century. You get my point—the Club and the institution will survive, and may end up the better for it.

Again, many sincere thanks to the President’s office for all of their generous support, without which the Club could not have supplied the excellent programming provided over the past few years. We are in a good place for now, but hope the future will be better. Our hearts go out to the students who are still on campus and those who are unable to go home, as well as a lot of others experiencing uncertainty about what the new school year will bring. Please stick with us, my friends, as we try to figure this all out. Take care of yourselves, keep your family and friends dear, wash your hands and wear your masks. Together we will take care of each other. The future may be different than what we’ve had in the past, but will no doubt be bright indeed!

Stay well! Until we meet again.

Alison

Alison Roe O’Grady
President, Faculty Club Board of Governors

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