

Minutes from ΘX/BZ Alumni Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 12, 2018

Reported by Stefan Scholl, Secretary

Meeting called to Order by Ken Marlin, President at 7:20 p.m.

Present: Ken Marlin, Ken Bachulis, Ty Damon, John Ringlein, Jim Harvin, Len Brunkey, Stefan Scholl

Absent: Tim Conroy, Gary Schlack

Guests: Wes Wicker, Jack Bachulis, Zack Brown

Motion by Ty Damon, Seconded by Len Brunkey: To approve November 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes. Motion Passed unanimously.

President's Report

- Monthly update on house activities - board agreed to re-instate the undergraduate chapter's social privileges for the ΘXmas event. While there was no interaction with the authorities, the house was cleaned up afterwards and things seemed to go better than usual, there is room for improvement.
- To date, the commitment form acknowledging the requirement to live in-house has been signed by only 46 of the undergraduate members.

Motion by Ty Damon, Seconded by Len Brunkey: Any undergraduate who does not sign the housing commitment form by the end of the Alumni - Active retreat in January should be subject to deactivation.

Discussion: It is extremely important that all undergraduate members adhere to the Theta Chi national bylaw requiring members to live in the chapter house. This is a commitment which must be taken seriously and if undergraduate members are unwilling to commit to live in the house, they should be subject to deactivation. There was concern voiced that the alumni corporation board is not the appropriate entity to be deactivating undergraduate members. Zack Brown from Theta Chi national felt that the most appropriate forum for considering violations of the Theta Chi national bylaws such as this would be the undergraduate chapter standards board.

Motion by Stefan Scholl, seconded by Ty Damon, to table this matter until our next meeting. Motion Passed unanimously. Also, a committee including Ken Marlin, Stefan Scholl, Ty Damon, Jim Harvin and Zack Brown will study this issue and report to the board at a future meeting.

Vice President's Report

- Mandated action items have been completed thanks to the new Executive Committee of the undergraduate chapter. The alcohol education seminar was lively and informative and should be done annually.
- The active chapter leadership conference will be taking place from January 4 - January 6, 2019. The EC and Pledge Marshalls are scheduled to attend.
- The Active - Alumni retreat will take place on January 27 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing.
- There will be an alumni leadership conference in July.

Secretary's Report

- A pre-trial conference for the noise violation has been scheduled for December 20. The officer writing the citation already cut us a break by writing a civil infraction rather than a misdemeanor ticket. The ticket in question will not jeopardize our rental license and therefore it is recommended that the ticket be paid and the matter resolved.

Treasurer's Report

- Approximately 56 alumni have contributed to the capital campaign thus far, donating approximately \$50,000.00 in addition to the gift received from Jack DeBoer. Last year we had 140 contributors so there is room for improvement. 21 brothers have donated more than \$150.00. 121 pieces of the mass mailing have been returned as undeliverable.
- 34 commitments to live in the house next year have been received, which is full capacity.

Chapter Advisory Board Report

- Zack Brown from Theta Chi national reported that he has recruited a full chapter advisory board for Beta Zeta Chapter. The CAB will consist of Mike Janz, Chair, Chris Delusky, Tim Thomas, Rob Klein and Tony Loupo (Graduate of the Oakland Chapter who lives in East Lansing and is involved with the fraternity at the international level). A CAB retreat will be conducted by Zack Brown in East Lansing on the weekend of January 19-20. Jack Bachulis will also attend the meeting. The role of CAB will include working with the alumni corporation and will be beneficial to the alumni corporation by freeing us up to work on the capital campaign and housing related issues. Cab will focus on chapter operations, recruiting, etc.

Active - Alumni Retreat

- The Active - Alumni Retreat will be held on January 27, 2019, at the Kellogg Center. Wes Wicker has volunteered to present at this retreat. Normally this type of retreat is held at the beginning of the academic year and conducted by the Alumni Corporation, CAB & Alumni Association to set alumni expectations as to chapter performance and behavioral standards for the upcoming year. We have very strong traditions with great alumni which need to be communicated to the undergraduates as they are almost a brand new chapter (2 years old) and have lost much of the tradition. We need to try and convey our expectations to the undergraduates and have them set goals and keep our traditions alive. Zack Brown has goal setting materials for CABs which can be used for this retreat.

Alumni Relations Report

- 3 email blasts have been sent in the last 2 ½ months. The response to our fundraising campaign has been somewhat underwhelming.
- Len would like to send out photos of the Alumni - Active Retreat showing our alumni spending time with the undergrads.
- Len stressed the importance of contacting fellow alumni to donate to the capital campaign and again solicited photos for upcoming news letters.

Facilities Manager Report

- Construction permits have been approved for Phase III of the renovation including the study room & guest bathroom on the main floor. Construction will start on Monday, December 17, 2018. In addition to the renovations, some damage will be repaired in other areas of the house. The new under graduate house manager is committed to working to change the culture of the house to include brothers in regular cleaning and to insure that the public areas of the house are maintained, which has not been done and is not acceptable. House cleaning will be a big topic at the Active - Alumni Retreat. The alumni board agreed that part of being part of a brotherhood and bonding together is working together to clean and improve the condition of the house. Jack Bachulis felt that there needs to be a culture change from within the house and felt that the incoming house manager's enthusiasm will be a positive. He suggested that out of house brothers should clean the common areas and in-house brothers the living quarters on the second & third floors.
- Jim Harvin also indicated that plumbing issues are being addressed and that the water leak in the back storage unit will be dealt with next summer.

Columns Fundraising Report

- Wes Wicker would like to send out a constant contact e-blast before year end to facilitate year-end giving. The amount of returns from the mailing were about 10% which is not unusual. The response to the mailing so far has been a little disappointing so we need to make sure we are contacting people on our list and speaking with all of the brothers regarding the capital campaign. Jim and Wes are finalizing the Society for the Preservation of Greek Housing Application which will enable alumni to make tax deductible contributions.

Motion to Adjourn made by Len Brunkey, seconded by Jim Harvin
Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Next Meeting Wednesday, January 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. by phone.