

Department of Public Health

Alumni Council Meeting

August 2, 2006

5:30-6:30 p.m.

Minutes

- 1) Welcome & Introductions – *Jon Barada, Joan Henkle and Barbara Van Der Pol were in attendance*

- 2) Strategies to involve alums
 - a) Promotion of website: Jon’s office and Joan’s office- emails, include in the newsletter, others.
 - i) *Jon suggested a quarterly letter from the Chairman’s Office. We discussed whether this would be better via e- or snail mail.*
 - ii) *Joan said she would discuss with Carol inclusion of an Alumni section in Department newsletter.*
 - iii) *Bobbie suggested e-mailing the newsletter to the alums.*
 - iv) *Continue to include a conference option for alumni to participate in quarterly alumni council meetings.*

 - b) Soliciting feedback from alums regarding what activities are of value to them? Email format vs. snail mail letter from me? Include list of activities that we have been involved in lately- such as presentation to students, networking event (social events), creating an alum directory (online vs. hard copy), presentation of “Distinguished Alumni Award” etc.
 - i) *We agreed that e-mail is usually the most effective. In order to promote this, Joan is going to cross reference the department’s list serve with the information in the Alum database*
 - ii) *A brief survey should be developed and sent to alums (both those in the database and the rest). Jon suggested using www.surveymonkey.com, a free service that can be linked to an e-mail asking for the info. Topics should include preferences for communication, feedback about events and whether they would want to receive an alum directory (paper is probably best here).*
 - iii) *The e-mail with the survey should also include solicitations for people 1)join the mentoring database, or 2) update their info if they are already listed*

- 3) Discuss participation in upcoming student orientation
 - a) *Joan is going to use the slides (and print tri-folds, resources permitting) for the alum site at the orientation. It was agreed that the students tend to be overwhelmed at orientation and may not get as much out of this as they do from the February presentation.*

- 4) Meeting format: promote the availability of telephone call-in to the alums- Jon's office/Joan's office
- 5) Other issues
 - a) *The website info (including the password) should be added to the paper directory given to students each year.*
 - b) *Jon had a great idea about a long-term project that could involve alums, students and local & regional health departments. Although it's still in the "vague" phase, thoughts ranged from a public health forecast to report card to needs assessment that could be performed on several levels. A précis will be put together summarizing the thoughts (no one committed to this!) and it will be presented to the Chairman to determine if the department is interested in pursuing it. In brief, the idea is that a student could develop indicators and measures of those indicators in key areas of public health. The data would be collected by working with the health departments and alums in fields of interest. A summer project could involve collection of this data each year once the indicators and measures are established.. The alumni assoc. would then participate in public forum presentations of the findings on an annual basis.*
 - c) *We need to discuss elections at the next meeting*
- 6) Adjourn