**Ross University Veterinary Alumni Association Action Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**May 19, 2023**

**Miami Graduation Meeting**

**Declined: Brian, Dianne and Kim will attend via remote Teams Meeting by Alex.**

**A quorum being present, the AAC Meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm.**

**Members Present: Mark, Mickey, Erik, JP, Nisha, Alex, (Nejla, Brian, Kim, and Dianne by phone at 12:38 pm)**

**Members absent:**

**Guests preset: Dean Callanan, Erik Peterson**

**Graduation attendance: Mark, JP, Mickey, Nisha, Alex,**

1. **Approval of minutes:** April 3, 2023

1st Mickey 2nd Alex

1. **President’s report**: Primary goal of this meeting was for the AAC to meet and catch up with Dean Callanan as well as review and update the By-Laws.

1. **Committee Reports:**
2. **Dean Updates:**
   * Adtalem Senior team reorganized except for CEO (Steve Beard)
   * Lisa Waddell moved onto board.
   * HR, Finance, Marketing, and communications all with new leadership, new VP of communications
   * Alumni Relations moving from marketing to communications.

-Working to fill Colleen’s position, won’t be done until VP of communications is in place (~3-4 months)

-Ross Alumni email currently going to Erik

* + New Alumni relations team to focus on database and communications to Alumni overall.
  + Data showing new Ross students comes from recommendation of Ross Alumni or student rather than marketing.
  + Ross graduated 390 students for past year (9% of all annual veterinary graduates)

***Events and Chapters Committee:*** Mickey, JP, Dianne Mickey is chair.

Update of alumni events:

-**Funky Brewery** in Ft. Lauderdale April 23, 2023, at 2-5 pm budgeted for 25-30 attendees with food and drink. Sponsorship by Heartland.

-20 rsvp’d with a very small actual turn-out, only 3 vets and 10 people showed up. Will rethink on how to promote and have open tab in future for payment.

-**Everglades excursion** originally scheduled for early June and sponsorship committed by Idexx Laboratories, will plan to do in Sept/Oct instead after Funky Brewery poor turn out.

-JP (and Dianne) to plan a Gainesville event (similar to Funky Brewery) with open tab. May have a “Bring your dog” aspect with a water bowl and other giveaways.

-Mark and NYC VMA to engage Ross involvement in the NYC Vet Show in November and an associated Alumni event as well.

***Leadership Committee:*** Mark, Alex, Kim Alex is chair.

Further discussion about the platform for the mentorship program being used ensued being an Adtalem platform and Ross being one part of the program. Mentor/mentees communication still using e-mails, instant messaging, texts, etc rather than the platform itself being and easier way.

The Leadership committee still to meet up separately and discuss further plans for 2023 once the details are cleared up.

* Mapped out 3x yearly matching programs.
* Programs open one month prior to graduation.

***Engagement and Awards Committee:*** Nejla, Brian, Nisha Nisha is chair.

-Moses’ award, still to be delivered by Erik.

-Scholarship applications review update.

* Waiting on answer from Susan on the number of awards
* Awards applications will be reviewed March and October

-Social media templates still need to be renewed and further discussions/contact with the Ross social media team need to be made, but they/it remain to be not easily contacted or engaged.

The AAC consensus is that social media is not being made a priority with the school and that Ross must do a better job because it is one of the most important ways to engage the alumni both with Rossie and Alumni Facebook pages.

* Potential to increase raffles at WIVC to include free attendance or vendor tables.

4.  **New Business:**

NYC Vet Show in NYC at Jacob Javits Center November 8-9, 2023, Erik Peterson schedules events and work with the Ross events team. Katie Heitzig (Kathrine.Heitzig@adtalem.com) and Cheryl Schumacher (cschumacher@adtalem.com).

* Board reviewed and updated Bylaws.
* All AAC members and Erik are in favor of bylaw changes.

1. **Old business:**

* Continuing to work with admin on Ross Alumni Facebook site.

1. **Next Meeting:**

* Potential to create Alumni council driven social media site.
* 8/21/23 at 8 PM

1. **Adjournment:**

* 2:15 pm Alex 1st, Nisha 2nd

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra Quarti

Secretary