

Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors (as approved on April 17, 2005)
March 20, 2005
Location: Florence Nightingale Health Center, New York, NY

The following directors were present and constituted the quorum: Julie Chan, Shari Gruber, Gerald Halpern, Gia Malka, Donna Manion, Tanya Odom and Craig Slutzkin.

The following guests were also present: Erin Kormann (Class of 1999) and Shirley Stergiou (PTA).

- I. Tanya Odom and Craig Slutzkin called the meeting to order at 10:10 A.M. and welcomed the Directors.
- II. Mr. Slutzkin asked that we have a moment of silence for two long-time Board members who recently passed away, former President Lester Friesner and Professor Alvin Dobseavage. Mr. Halpern asked if we routinely send correspondence in these situations, and Mr. Slutzkin said that we do, and that alumni were very present at the memorial services for Mr. Friesner.
- III. Executive Committee Report.
 - a. Mr. Slutzkin went to the Florida Chapter Annual Breakfast in Boca Raton. He met with approximately 75 alums and their wives, and was very well received.
 - b. Eileen Gunn submitted a letter of resignation to the Board.
 - c. Ms. Odom reported that THAM is still progressing, perhaps a little more slowly than would be preferred. In acknowledgment of the substantial amount of time that it takes to put an issue of THAM together, Ms. Odom suggested that we consider outsourcing this publication. There seem to be two concurrent concerns: creating a productive pipeline for article submissions, and physically producing the publication. Donna Manion suggested that we ask people before events to be responsible for writing up the event, which would address the current difficult situation of writing up articles on events several months after they happen. Ms. Manion will also send out a blast to all alumni to ask them for submissions, as we know that folks are out doing very interesting things. Ms. Odom also pointed out that the publication turns out to be very Northeast focused, and we certainly have globetrotting alumni who could tell a tale or two. Mr. Halpern asked if we thought about expanding the role of the part-time person we hired to do database work to include publication production, and that may be looked into.
 - d. Mr. Slutzkin reported that the Association's Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance has been renewed for another year, and that the premium was not raised.

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- e. Mr. Slutzkin and Ms. Malka reported that they spent Saturday, March 19, cleaning out the Alumni/ PTA office at the school. Several items need to be archived (photos, memorabilia, etc.), but the office is now much more functional. Mr. Slutzkin shared a memo with the group that was written on July 25, 1983 by former Alumni Association President Henry Shereff that outlined the desire and a plan to reopen the school.

IV. Treasurer's Report.

- a. Mr. Slutzkin reported that the Association made \$122,000 on investments between September 1, 2004 and February 28, 2005. In order to give us some flavor for where all of the money is allocated, Mr. Slutzkin provided a breakdown of the allocation of all of the Association's funds, and will continue to provide this report to the group in his larger report going forward (See attached Treasurer's Report.)
- b. Mr. Slutzkin also said that a service charge of 2% is taken from each of these lines as an administrative cost, and he said that in the future we could perhaps create a tiered system to weigh the administrative costs for each of these lines. Currently, we do not tell people that the Association charges this fee; Mr. Halpern suggested that we at least tell the big donors that the Association is doing that.

V. The minutes from the November 14 meeting were ratified at this point, as we reached quorum when the seventh Board member arrived.

VI. Communications/ Publication Report.

- a. The Board continued its discussion of THAM. Shari Gruber noted that many people did not receive the last issue of THAM, and asked if we could look into a way to correct that for the next mailing.
- b. It was also suggested that we put up a PDF version of THAM on the website, and perhaps the Association can find a way to do that with The Classic.

VII. Events Committee Report.

- a. There is an upcoming social on March 24 at No Idea Bar.
- b. Ms. Chan suggested that the Association look into doing more professional events, as the mixers are not that well attended.
- c. One idea that was mentioned was to get Lani Guinier to guest speak. Mr. Halpern is going to approach Maury Paprin to inquire about her availability.
- d. Donna Manion mentioned that NY Cares has an opportunity for groups to do community service on April 16 (Hands on NY Day) for free. Shari Gruber was interested in coordinating THAA participation for the Fall 2005 NY Cares event, and

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- Ms. Manion will call Adam Stonehill to see if anyone at the school is interested in being a team leader for April 16.
- e. Educators Event. Ms. Malka is still trying to see if the school can host the event in May, and she is looking for four panelists (two teachers, two administrators). She is also looking to see how to get this event paid for.
 - f. Career Day. Ms. Gruber reported that there are enough speakers for Career Day, and she will confirm that there is enough diversity amongst the speakers with respect to their occupations.
 - g. Reunions. Ms. Malka reported that there are two volunteers for the five and ten year reunions, and one person volunteered to work on the fifteen year reunion. She is looking for more volunteers. (It was suggested later on that we try to gather all of the class reps for a meeting at the Penn Club, and Mr. Halpern and Ms. Odom will follow up on that).
 - h. There will be an attorney alumni event annually, held each Fall.

VIII. School Report.

- a. Mr. Slutzkin reported that over 7,000 students applied for the 300 spots in the Fall class.
- b. Mr. Slutzkin also shared with us a report from The New York Times that displayed how well Harrisites did on Regents exams. Mr. Slutzkin said that Newsday correctly reported that 100% of the class of 2004 received Regents diplomas, but seemingly incorrectly reported that only 18% of the class went on the four year colleges or universities. Mr. Cunningham is working with Newsday to correct that.
- c. Ms. Odom said that David Herszenhorn is very interested in discussing the admissions process, which the Board will do at the next Board meeting.

IX. PTA. Shirley Stergiou noted the following:

- a. The PTA/Student/Alumni program was tentatively scheduled for April 17.
- b. The PTA thought that it would be a good idea to get copies of the Men of the Century award for the library, as well as the Henry Shereff medal.
- c. Ms. Stergiou asked if the Florida group can put up a plaque about the award they give annually to the top athletes. The concern would be that there are many awards given annually, and there is perhaps not enough space in the building for a plaque for each award/scholarship.

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X. Other Business.

- a. Mr. Slutzkin said that Eugene Lang is giving a scholarship in the name of Ted Peck, and that he is currently working his way through the specifics of this.
- b. Mr. Slutzkin said that the school still needs a new van, and there is some money left in the van line from the previous van purchase.
- c. The stipend that Ted Peck receives was discussed, as well as a way to phase in more fund-raising help and allow Mr. Peck to step back. Ms. Odom said that Mr. Herszenhorn is going to convene a meeting of the Committee on Public & Private Partnerships to discuss this.
- d. Dues notices. It was felt that the dues notices should not go out until THAM is mailed. The Board then unanimously voted on raising the annual dues to \$10 for recent graduates (first four years), and \$25 for everyone else. A discussion on lifetime memberships began, and was tabled. The general consensus was not to have lifetime memberships.
- e. Annual Meeting. Ms. Manion will be organizing this event, and we are looking into having some events after the official meeting, such as a co-ed basketball tournament (which Julie Chan will have someone she knows look into organizing) and a poetry slam in the Largmann Library. The proposed date for the meeting is May 14 (at the school).

There being no other business, the Board adjourned at Noon. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for April 17 at 10 A.M. at Townsend Harris High School.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Manion