



**ECU Alumni Association Spring Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
April 24, 2020  
Virtual Meeting**

**Board Members Attending:** Michael Aho, Sheridan Barnes, Neil Dorsey, Keith Frazier, Ralph Finch, Dr. Karen Correa, Phil Houston, Dr. Karla Jones, Adam Keen, Dr. Shannon Minges, Tom Robinson, Christy Wallace, Jonathan Russell, Bianca Shoneman, Robert Cherry, Rich Spain, Linda Thomas, Sue Ann Forrest, Tim Willis, Dr. Val Tarte (joined close to the end of meeting)

**Absent Members:** Jason Tomasula

**Emeritus members attending:** Glenda Moultrie, Dave Englert

**ECU Alumni Staff attending:** Scott Francis, Tammy Gatling, Shawn Moore, Mary Medina, Caroline Tait, Jeremy Perry

**10:15 am Call to Order, welcome:** Chair Michael Aho called the meeting to order. No roll call but will use participant list.

**Motion by Tom Robinson to approve Winter Board Meeting (1/24/20) minutes, Second by Michael Aho. No corrections. Approved.**

**Current Business:**

- **Board of Directors & Officer elections:** Dr. Karla Jones presented a report and reviewed the election process. There were 6 candidates for the Board, all were interviewed and vetted. 5 were presented for election to the Board. Dr. Jones turned the election process over to Scott Francis and a vote was taken. **The following were elected: John Archibald, Jamie Deaver, Gregory Hedgepeth, Eric Rivenbark, and Shawn White.**
- **Officer elections** process was presented. Dr. Jones removed herself from the process as she had been nominated for an Officer position. Sue Ann Forrest conducted the nomination process. The election process was conducted by Scott Francis. A vote was taken on each position individually and the following Directors were elected following this process: **Sheridan Barnes, Chair; Rich Spain, Vice Chair; Tom Robinson, Treasurer; Dr. Karla Jones, Secretary.**
- Other Board members were elected to serve another term by electronic vote prior to today's Board meeting. Tim Willis declined another term. **Elected to another term were: Karen Crawford; Dr. Karla Jones; Dr. Shannon Minges; Tom Robinson; and Rich Spain.**

**Chair's Report: Michael Aho.** Congratulations was offered to those elected and Michael noted he looks forward to our in-person meeting in June to say thanks and honor those who have served. Chair Aho reviewed the past 2 years and congratulated ECUEA Staff for all they do,

and the engagement with our Alumni during these times. The Pirate Nation Gives scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup> was cancelled, and there are plans to reschedule. He joined Scott Francis in thanking those that did take part in the VIP giving prior to the cancellation. Chair Aho addressed ECU's plans for fundraising, the budget for ECU, and the overall UNC system. He mentioned that the entire UNC system and General Assembly are looking at the fiscal health of the UNC system and State. Capital projects have been halted at this time. The ECUEA budget is being worked on and will be the major Agenda item at our June 5, 2020 (tentative) Board meeting. He has also sent congratulations to the Alumni Award winners, and he expressed appreciation to the Awards and Nominating Committee and Shawn Moore for their hard work. He also thanked the Scholarship Committee and Shawn for their work on the Scholars program and selections made for next year. The ECU Chancellor Search and UNC System President Search have been delayed; prior to the pause, there had been more than 60 applications for the ECU Chancellor position. Chair Vern Davenport and President Bill Roper have indicated the goal remains for the Search Committee to make a selection before the Fall 2020 semester, but this may be ambitious. Chair Aho discussed the ENC Alliance, given Steve Weathers was named this week as the new (and first) President/CEO. He has been invited to our next Board meeting. The Alliance is looking at the economy of Eastern NC and ways to support it, and ECU is among the entities supporting and providing money to this Alliance.

### **President's Report: Scott Francis**

(Please refer to attachments for details) Scott expressed his appreciation and thanks to the ECUEA Staff for their dedication and work during these troubling times. Their use of virtual connections and communications has been outstanding. Thanks to Caroline and Kelly for their work in these areas.

Scott Francis presented a slide presentation covering a number of issues (attached). They are looking at a potential June date (June 7) for Pirate Nation Gives. Our Pirate Alumni Road Race for our Scholars has been rescheduled to the Fall or may be a virtual race in June. The PCI Directory program is on target: PCI will collect information about our alumni and share with the ECUEA. They guarantee us \$25,000 in return, with a bonus of \$2,500 if an agreement is signed by 3/31/2020 and \$2,500 if launched by 5/29/2020. An Attitude survey will be conducted after the PCI program. The Budget process is beginning. Staff have met with the ECU Foundation on the Budget.

ECUEA continues to engage with ECU Faculty and Career programs. There will be virtual career related webinars and other virtual events. Other virtual ideas will be a book club and social events.

Communications programming has increased including 2020 class support stories. There has been outreach to Alumni through social platforms, with appreciation and support of essential personnel through such platforms. Scott expressed his pride in the creative engagement ideas and actions of Staff. Shawn Moore mentioned the Eye In the Sky ENC (Astronomy for Pirates) program for home schooling and other events.

Chair Aho thanked Scott and Staff for a great job in the engagement of our members and community.

Scott provided a Fiscal update. (See attached budget reports). The ECUEA is staying under Budget at this time. Revenue was on track for 2020 until the COVID-19 virus hit. If the pace continues, we may still hit our revenue goal of \$50,000. There will be pledge cards provided at all ECUEA events to make it easier to give. Chair Aho discussed the Budget process and asked

the Board to provide feedback on the Budget in May, so we would be positioned to vote on the FY21 budget in June. Our Investments have suffered as has everyone's due to the Virus impact on the economy.

**Committee Snapshot Reports: (See Committee Reports attached in Meeting package)**

- Vice Chair's Report -- **Sheridan Barnes '86**
  - No Report
- Treasurer's Report – **Sarah Proctor '04**
  - No update, working with Scott on Budget.
- Audit – **Tom Robinson '73**
  - No action at this time.
- Awards & Nominating – **Dr. Tara Parker '99, '02, '06**
  - The awards process will be reviewed by next committee.
- Finance – **Jason Tomasula '00, '03, '10**
  - No report
- Student Government Report – **Colin Johnson '20**
  - Not present/no report.
- External relations – **Rich Spain '10**
  - Looking at virtual efforts for giving.
- Recruitment & Retention – **Dr. Karla Jones '00, '02**
  - Election process has been developed.
- Scholarship – **Dr. Valerie Tarte '98**
  - Dr. Tarte not online at this time. Shawn Moore reported that there were 17 scholars selected and were being engaged.
- Emeritus Council – **Glenda Moultrie '79**
  - Recommendations on the Council included in written report to make Council more effective.
- Rules & governance – **Keith Frazier '94**
  - Referenced approved amendments and they are located n BoardEffect. Bylaws will be reviewed in the Summer. Chairman Aho thanked the committee for its work.

**Adjourn/Concluding Remarks – Michael Aho '02**

An in-person Board meeting is planned for June 5, 2020 at this time. Options for this meeting will be explored. Further information will be provided. The 2020-21 Budget will be the major business of this meeting. Dr. Valerie Tarte joined the meeting and provided a welcome to the Board. Mary Smith discussed the Military Society program that is looking for nominations. There will be a May Executive committee meeting to review the Budget before the planned meeting in June.

**11:30 am      Adjournment**