

# Alumni Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 29/04/19

**Time:** 17:30-20:00

**Location:** US.4.15 University Square Stratford Campus

**Facilitator:** Charlie Werren (Alumni Advancement Manager), Kamile Hudson (Senior Alumni Advancement Officer), Joan Saunders-Reece (Chair) and Jacqueline Malcolm (Vice-Chair)

## **In Attendance**

Alumni Advisory Board Members, Paddy Reilly (Chief Executive Officer, UEL Student Union).

## **Item one: Overview of students Union**

Paddy Reilly, joined the Alumni Advisory Board Meeting to discuss what is happening with the Students Union, changes that have occurred since he took his position and the vision for the future of the student Union. Paddy informed the Board that they have a number of vacancies which they wish to fill with people who wish to challenge the norm and be progressive to get the best possible outcome for students. Paddy further expressed how he sees the SU and Alumni Team working together for the benefit of students.

**Actions:** Paddy to invite a few board members to a round table discussion to discuss ways to collaborate.

## **Item two: Chair and subcommittee reps updates**

The Chair and subcommittee reps provided updates on what has been occurring in the different subcommittee meetings.

Joan started by providing discussing the allocation of budget and the need to put together a business plan in order to obtain budget for ideas. Joan also spoke about AAB members attending the upcoming graduation ceremonies taking place on July 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Subcommittee reps provided updates on what they have been doing in respective subcommittee groups.

Jaasir Ali- Subcommittee rep for 'Alumni Communications' spoke about the alumni website and the need for improvements, Jaasir proposed ways that the website could be more attractive and beneficial for alumni. He further expressed the necessity to have an AAB presence on the website. Jaasir further discussed the alumni social media pages and how the AAB could be more involved in not only generating interesting content but also for sharing content on their personal pages to further promote the alumni team activities. He promoted the WhatsApp group- the joining code is included in the presentation. He then detailed ideas around having an UEL Alumni app with features including: discounts, employability aid and messaging. For further information, the presentation is attached to the email.

Jacqui Bashford- Subcommittee rep for Alumni Give Back, spoke about creating a mentoring circle. The mentoring circle is a digital way for members to connect, get support, mentoring and advice from anywhere in the world. Each circle typically lasts for 8months and is a great opportunity for members to tap into different talent pools. Circles cover a range of different

topics, the audience does not necessarily have to be limited to alumni only, and students could get involved.

Jacqueline Malcolm spoke on behalf of Sambuadi Loango – Subcommittee rep for Alumni Celebration of Success, spoke about the UEL Alumni Power List 2020. This will be a list of around 100 successful alumni. We spoke about what success looks like and the need for categories that represent all areas of success including; longevity, commitment to one's community etc., it was agreed that determining someone as a power list 2020 candidate should not be decided on the basis of money/ earnings. Nominated candidates will be featured on the website to showcase and highlight their stories as a way to inspire future students but also to raise pride in alumni.

### **Actions:**

- Board members to Join the WhatsApp group
- Board members to provide Bios for website
- Chair and Vice- Chair to confirm dates for the next subcommittee meetings and members to confirm which they would like to be a part of, if they haven't already.

### **Item three: Alumni Engagement Office Update, Charlie Werren**

Charlie Werren, presented an update on what the alumni team has been up to since the last meeting.

Charlie displayed her plans for the website and informed the board that the delay on getting the AAB a presence on the website is due to IT problems. She gave an overview of the upcoming Celebration of Alumni Success campaign. Charlie invited the board to attend graduation and informed them of the success of the recent breakfast roundtable event and plans for upcoming events including: networking night, alumni awards and summer social. For further details on these activities please see attached presentation.

### **Actions**

- Charlie to meet with subcommittee heads
- Kamile to circulate dates for Graduation Ceremonies and board members to state if they would like to attend and if so to which ceremony

### **Next meeting**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 5:30pm – 8pm, University Square Stratford.