

**SAGA Executive Meeting
Room 2D21 Agriculture Building
Tuesday, Feb 06, 2018**

PRESENT: Mayson Maerz (chair), Keith Head, Dennis Ewanus, Vern Racz, Carson Jorgensen, Raelene Petracek

by phone: Tanya Napper, Lucas Ringdal, Billy Brown, Ewald Lammerding, Irene Ahner, Paige Newton

Regrets: Bryan Harvey, Louis Bossaer

1. Call to order by Chairperson Mayson Maerz at 7:00 pm
2. Adoption of Agenda as amended (add SAGA concern and Communications position to New Business)
 - **MOTION:** K. Head CARRIED.
3. Adoption of minutes from February 2018 meeting
 - Minutes were distributed electronically prior to the meeting
 - **MOTION:** V. Racz CARRIED.

4. Business arising from the Minutes
 - Scholarship Committee – K. Head.
 - Report provided:

The Scholarship Committee was originally charged with the task of determining the feasibility of SAGA setting up a scholarship for students in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. A SAGA sponsored scholarship was approved at the AGM in January. The Scholarship Committee is now investigating its establishment.

The Committee met on January 29. Present were Mayson Maerz, Vern Racz, Carson Jorgensen, Keith Head, and Hamish Tulloch, College Development Officer.

To date the Committee has made 3 decisions:

1. The scholarship should be set up through the University system. The University would receive the funds and issue tax receipts. It would also receive applications for the scholarships and select the suitable recipient(s). The recipient(s) would be announced at the annual Bean Feed.
2. The scholarship should be set up outside the endowment fund to allow more flexibility.
3. The SAGA website would have a direct link to the University donation website.

The Committee is now considering how to fund the scholarship and the Terms of Reference for the scholarship.

FUNDING

It is anticipated that the scholarship will be funded by donations from SAGA members. Several options for promoting the scholarship to the membership are being discussed:

1. **Reunion Giving** – Reunion Year Chairs would solicit donations from their classmates. This is generally quite a successful promotion, particularly if there is a bit of competition among the Honour Years.
2. **Part of New Life Memberships** – 50% (\$50) of a life membership would go to the scholarship fund and the new life member would get a tax receipt for half of the cost of a Life Membership. As of November 2017 there are about 200 members that pay annual memberships. These funds would, in effect, be coming out of SAGA revenues. This would need to be a “one time offer”.
3. Life Memberships purchased by new grads would go entirely to the scholarship fund. Again these funds would be coming out of SAGA revenues so would also have to be offered for a limited time.
4. **Electronic promotion** – e-mail sent to all members promoting the benefits of a SAGA scholarship. The e-mail would contain a direct link to the University donation web page. Announcements on Twitter, Facebook, SAGA Newsletter, SAGA website.
5. A distinct and immediate follow-up to thank donors for their gifts is important.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

It is important to get the Terms of Reference for the scholarship correct as once in place it is virtually impossible to change them.

The Terms of Reference depend, in part, on the level of funding available. Consequently, it will be necessary to collect funds into an account that is held in “suspense” until the terms are finalized. This will make it possible to ensure that the terms of reference reflect the level of funding. It should be noted that even though the Terms are not finalized at the time a donation is made, the funds are locked in and cannot be refunded. If the scholarship cannot be fully funded, funds in the suspense account can be given out as scholarships.

Under the current administration, academic scholarships are awarded almost entirely on academic achievement as a means of reducing the administrative burden associated with the scholarship system. Students with 90% or higher averages are totally funded in terms of tuition fees. The remainder of the scholarship funds is distributed to students with averages below 90% with the amount received decreasing as the average decreases until the funds are depleted.

Currently about 7% of the students receive awards.

The Committee is not entirely comfortable with using academic achievement as the only criterion for the SAGA scholarship. Many B & C students are quite involved in the social aspects of college life and as a result often have very successful careers that involve significant community involvement. It is felt that there should be some additional requirements for the SAGA scholarship that recognizes those student qualities.

In order for SAGA to have as high a profile as possible among the students there should be as many \$1000 scholarships as possible awarded each year. Apparently \$1000 is the level below which students don't think it worthwhile doing an application. Also, the more scholarships awarded the higher will be SAGA's profile at the Bean Feed and among the students.

As the scholarship fund grows it will be possible to increase the size of the scholarship to reflect increasing student costs as well as raise awareness of SAGA among the students. ***Note, however, this option will need to be addressed in the Terms of Reference.***

SAGA scholarships should be awarded to continuing undergraduate students and *include both Degree and Diploma students.*

NEXT STEPS

1. Continue efforts to develop a campaign strategy that can be implemented as early as possible. This may require the services of someone with expertise in fund-raising.
2. Work with Hamish to set up the necessary infrastructure within the University administration so that donations can be received on behalf of the SAGA Scholarship Fund.
3. Work with Hamish, and perhaps Dr. Walley, to develop terms of reference for the Saga Scholarship

TIMELINE

Applications for academic scholarships are submitted prior to June. Recipients are selected in June and the scholarships are awarded at the Annual Bean Feed in October.

It is anticipated that the first recipient(s) of the SAGA Scholarship will be selected in June 2019 and the Scholarship(s) awarded at the 2019 Bean Feed.

Respectfully submitted,

Vern Racz, Ewald Lammerding, Carson Jorgensen, Mayson Maerz, Keith Head
SAGA Scholarship Committee

Discussion:

- will need a committee chair
- may need some professional help
- need an ongoing source of funding, not just at reunion
- question: how much does the U of S require us to need? It is up to us, we can go year by year or try to have enough to endow it. We want the Terms of Reference to allow us to change the amount of the scholarship going forward.
- will put something about it in the June newsletter.
- suggestion: increase the annual membership to \$20. Would give us the opportunity to define it and what it is for.
- need to do:
 - figure out the campaign strategy
 - work with Hamish to set it up
 - develop the Terms of Reference
 - Dennis to look back and see how many annual and life memberships have been purchased in the last few years. It would give us an idea of how much would be going to scholarship.

MOTION: The present scholarship committee seek a Campaign Chairman and the Committee along with the Chair look at a suitable promotional campaign strategy and Terms of Reference for the Scholarship. V. Racz and I. Ahner – CARRIED

MOTION: Increase the annual fee from \$10 to \$20. D. Ewanus – CARRIED

5. Correspondence

- none

6. Financial Report – D. Ewanus

- financial report was electronically distributed by D. Ewanus prior to the meeting
- The refunds that were returned, will just sit until the Scholarship is set up.

MOTION: accept Financial Report, D. Ewanus - CARRIED

7. Committee Reports

ASA - C. Jorgensen

- Bedpush is focus
 - Several fundraisers in the next month
 - \$500 raised at Banquet
 - All events/fundraisers will be posted on Facebook
- Range Team won 1st place, one student placed 2nd (out of 250)
- AGM is 27th
- ASA is looking at name change
- SAGA Banquet
 - Thanks for sending 8 ASA members
 - Carson did survey before and after Banquet, before 2 of the 8 would pay for SAGA memberships, after banquet all 8 said they would. Grads doing cheer, Harold speaking helped to close gap
- Friday night – may want more a few more students there
 - Between Friday night and Sat they sold \$1800 of ASA swag

Reunion – M. Maerz, T. Napper

- Tanya sent out survey (reunion chairs, exec and some that contacted her), 94% response rate
- Since Friday Night is becoming popular we need to push and tie it into SAGA weekend (tie us and college together more)
- Dennis will talk to Steve about adding something once they have registered, list of things available to do.
- Tanya has 4 confirmed reunion chairs for next year.

Banquet/Mixer Report - Ewald L.

- Typo in program – Exec list should be for 2017 not 2018, correct for archive copy.
- Table for the ASA was good
- Issues from last year were fixed
- Compliments on meal at banquet
- Honoured guest table – make it Hon Life etc, was unclear where they were to sit – suggestion: have a host/hostess walk them to their table
- Question: were the three vendors busy enough to make it worth their while? They will tell us if it is not worth it for them.
- Ewald comments:
 - waiting for invoice for deposit for next year
 - thought TCU did a good job for us

- good comments on the WDM pictures etc
- bills are all paid
- biggest problem is people showing up at the last minute

Friday Event – Tanya N.

- All covered already in Reunion report

Hockey – Billy B.

- Rink is booked for next year
- Will do year end writeup and photos for newsletter

Newsletter – Ewald L.

- Deadline is May 15

Development Office and Alumni Relations Report – Tanya N.

- Tanya will be sharing the results of the survey, will look at it again in 3 mos – survey tool worked really well

Crop Production Week – K. Head

- AGM in April, will get final numbers then

Membership/Website – Vern R./K. Head

- All new memberships being inputted
- Service where two members can contact each other on the website works well
- Lots of the pictures are up. Keith needs help identifying people.
- Will change the homepage, remove reunion for the first part of the year and use more current
- Suggestion: live Twitter feed?

Hall of Fame – no report

MAL – I. Ahner/ P. Newton

- Irene has pictures of the older grads

Vice President – M. Maerz

- Looking for new Vice-President and reunion chairs. Pass any names along to Mayson

Past President – L. Ringdal

- Nothing else to report

President Report –M. Maerz

- Going peachy so far

MOTION: Accept reports: D. Ewanus - CARRIED

8. New / Other business

SAGA Concern – V. Racz

- Concern arises from failure to change name. SAGA was unnecessarily picked on – membership was not necessarily against name change but were concerned with not enough Ag content.
- Note: SAGA and SIA are not on the College Advisory Board
- Comment from Carson – there are three core classes in Ag that are required for all students.
- SAGA needs to be aware, do we need to agitate to be on the advisory committees?
- We need to be cognizant of it and it is impeding us. We may need to take a stand in the future
- Question from Carson: What do we think the Grads are missing? The students are in meetings with the College to discuss what we think is missing
- Comment: we need to be aligned with the students – they are our future. Students will be the ones to suffer as they are the ones not getting the info they need. They may find they are not prepared for Ag jobs.

Communications position- M. Maerz

- Possibly as a MAL. He has a person in mind to ask

9. Date of Next Meeting

- Tues March 13 at 7:00

10. Adjournment – 9:00pm V. Racz