

QUEST Honors Program

Alumni Board Meeting – Riggs Alumni Center, University of Maryland, College Park

December 8, 2011; 4:00pm-5:30pm

Present:

Joe Bailey, Brian Bender, Kyle Bodt, David Chesney, Josh Davis, Debbie Feinberg, Dmitriy Fotiyev, Kylie Goodell, Yana Jmourko, Joel Liebman, Alexandra Petrenko, Andie Rauta, Kevin Schoonover, Dulany Wagner, Aaron Wertman, Amy Zhou

Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order at 4:15 by Andie
- Self-introductions
- Kylie provides welcome and overview of meeting schedule
- Kylie moves to accept minutes from September Board meeting
 - Minutes are approved
- Joe discusses current QUEST initiatives
 - Build community within QUEST and among alumni
 - Improved relationship with CMNS
 - Grade from “C” to “B”
 - 20 Years of QUEST celebration
 - Want to increase contact with alumni
 - Need Board’s help with this
 - Did not receive NSF funding
 - Still increasing collaboration with other schools and efforts of standardization / codification
 - New “Incubator” Project
 - Normative and forward looking process – how companies *should* look at things or approach problem
 - Open source, process experts
 - Work with student teams
 - Need alumni help moving forward
- Andie reviews 2011 QAB accomplishments
 - Addition of QSO Alumni Liaison
 - Dulany Wagner, present at meeting
 - Student / Alumni dinners
 - Great success, want to continue, try different formats?
 - BBQ, Tailgate
 - Continue to piggy-back off of QUEST events
 - Alumni Happy Hours
 - Continue to have these to build alumni community
- Debbie provides overview of Program Focus Team efforts
 - Mission: support QUEST administration in program efforts
 - Increase collaboration with Alumni Focus Team?
 - Curriculum Review Committee
 - Help review / approve new QUEST courses, map QUEST electives
 - Refine QUEST’s value proposition
 - “Sell the QUEST story”
 - Assist with Spring scoping class

- Guest speakers from QAB / general alumni community
 - Look at list of where alumni are working
 - Connect these alums with students, program administration
- Open floor for discussion
 - Send spreadsheets of all cohorts to all QAB
 - Reach out for networking, sponsorships, or re-engagement purposes
 - QUEST has all names, will need to use extended network to expand active alumni community
 - Kylie will send spreadsheets and other information in the next week
- Kevin / Yana provide overview of Alumni Focus Team efforts and goals
 - Team will be looking for new communication leads for 2012, looking for new members
 - Mission: add value to both students and alumni
 - Status checks to discuss alumni events
 - Happy hour in DC
 - Successful – over 30 attendees
 - Happy hour in NYC
 - Still working toward this (in the Spring)
 - Pilot mentor program
 - Surprised by amount of interest (almost 40 alumni)
 - Work with Kylie, Student Focus Team to match alumni to students
 - Phased roll-out so can have manageable size without turning people away
 - Subcommittee? Labor-intensive at the start
 - Alumni database
 - Still working to develop something
 - We have LinkedIn, growing use / popularity
 - Develop maintenance plan
 - More status check meetings to bring team together
 - Happy hours in DC, NY, Baltimore quarterly
 - Now that one has been successfully executed use this as a template to plan more events
 - Develop communication plan
 - Highlight events, encourage involvement
- Open floor for discussion
 - Subcommittees – on all teams? Specifically designated?
 - People take ownership as interested / needed
 - Leverage people who have shown interest in mentor program for other alumni activities
- Brian provides overview of Student Focus Team efforts and goals
 - Mission: increase interaction and networking between students and alumni
 - Accomplishments:
 - Student-Alumni dinners
 - Engaged different alumni
 - 1 dinner / semester moving forward
 - Status meetings good for deciding / assigning ownership of discrete tasks
 - Need to do a better job of this in the future
 - Working toward a better partnership with QSO
 - Tailgate
 - Well attended by students, alumni, QUEST leadership
 - Approximately 40 attendees (70% students)
 - Cost-effective way to build community
 - Goals:

- Work with alumni team on mentor program
 - Hold more resume review events
 - Had one, want to make a “series”
 - Alumni involvement with QUESTpedition, 20th anniversary, orientation
 - Board members or general alumni community
- Open floor for discussion
 - Limit attendees to newly engaged alumni?
 - Take everyone until too many want to get involved
 - Need lead time to plan for future events
 - Alumni help in gearing QUEST orientation more toward professional development than “summer camp”
 - Can also use orientation for strategic planning meetings for alumni
 - Thursday / Friday orientation dates make it difficult for alumni to attend
 - Can attend for one day / a few hours
- Future board initiatives
 - Kyle discusses relationship with University Alumni Association
 - Not eligible yet (need 2 years existence)
 - Drawbacks
 - All QAB members must be due-paying members of UMD alumni association
 - Decreased flexibility for Board
 - Need to compete for money which is given by school
 - Benefits
 - Funding from UMD alumni association
 - Earlier efforts to create relationship between QUEST and UMD alumni association resulted in data sharing – no benefit for QUEST
 - QUEST is not good with individual giving
 - Need to get better or outsource to alumni association
 - Next step is to conduct analysis of benefits / drawbacks of pursuing relationship
 - Kevin and Kyle will research, present information to Board for review
- Open meeting is adjourned at 5:05
- QUEST Alumni Board photo
- Current QUEST Alumni Board Members review candidates for Board, Chairperson
 - Period for a closed vote

Future Business:

- Status check next week to welcome new members
 - Friday, 12/16
 - Invitation to be sent early next week
- Next board meeting Thursday, March 8
 - If your company is interested in hosting contact Andie or Kylie
 - If no venue sponsored, meeting will be held at UMD
 - Agenda will be sent out one week prior to meeting.

Minutes submitted by Kylie Goodell.