Members Present: Melissa Gavin, Ron Bonlender, Dan Avenarius, Tom Gunderson, Doug Ducklow, Ben Schnelle, Vicky Crawford, Kate O’Conner, Lucky Pataky, Brianna Ramirez, Lisa Repp, Wayne Ellinghausen, Beth Bland

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm CT

I. Announcements
   • Members should have received an invitation to graduation this weekend.
   • PM Conference has been cancelled due to low enrollment. There hasn’t been any discussion about doing another one.
   • 35th Anniversary Celebration: Started in 1978 as print based courses and around 2000 the online courses began. Working to invite distance alumni to Platteville for homecoming weekend (October 5th). November 11-15 is National Distance Education Week and UWP is going to do things to raise awareness on campus and in the community about the distance programs.

II. Old Business
   • Any changes to the January minutes? Doug made a motion to approve the minutes, Kate seconded, motion carried.
   • Goals: part of our January “homework”. What do we want to see happen as a Board?
     o Executive Board—work on the bylaws and vote on them
     o Wayne noted that before we get going on the homecoming reunion for the distance alums that hotels in the area will fill up fast.
     o Most of the subcommittees have been working on their projects.
   • Committee Updates
     o First Year: Working on communications with the alumni. A suggestion was to have the First Year Committee try to engage alumni right before they graduate. Some confidentiality issues have come up. An alumni database was discussed, as well as LinkedIn, and a career database.
     o Melissa discussed Alumni Ambassadors to assist alumni moving into a new city. This is a work in progress.
     o Mentoring: Composing a form letter offering mentoring services, and making them program specific. Planning to get the letters out in the next two weeks.
○ Excellence: Looking at the ideas other alumni groups have used and seeing if they can be applied at UWP.

III. New Business

- Constitution and Bylaws reviewed by Executive Committee. Some information is out of date such as frequency of meetings and group size. Melissa re-sent the e-mail sent out earlier today to be sure everyone received the attachment.
- Doug mentioned honorary members. While they’d have no voting rights, they could help get our name out and support our mission. Dan noted we should clarify who votes for honorary members to join the board.
- Membership is currently open to anyone associated with UWP. It was suggested we “close” it to non-distance alums. Dan observed that in Article IV we already address this point. Discussion followed.
- Melissa will tweak the Constitution and Bylaws based on tonight’s discussion.
- Alumni Newsletter: the DLC has re-vamped Pioneer Connection. An alumni version, similar to the student version, is in the works. It would go out to alumni quarterly but would need to focus more on alumni needs.
- One thing to support this idea is to write articles for the newsletter. Melissa asked the board for feedback and ideas. Ron noted this is a goal for the Excellence Committee. Melissa also suggested tips and tricks for alumni such as job searching or moving to a new area, or a “Where Are They Now” section. Would anyone like to submit an article and/or update? Frequency? Start quarterly and go from there.
- Dan mentioned the 35th Anniversary publication recently sent out to alumni.

Meeting adjourned 7:25pm CT

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Bland, Secretary