



## MTF Board of Directors Meeting

December 7, 2022

In Person/Zoom Meeting

9:00am-1:00pm

Hancock Center

Meeting Minutes

- I. Meeting Call to Order- Curt Boak at 9:08pm
- II. Roll Call
  - a. Present: Curt Boak, Dan Mausolf, Scott Rettmann, Brad Lazroff, Eric Davey, Jeff Holmes, Christian Koval, Mitch Hooten, Craig Moore, Carey Mitchelson
  - b. Non-Present: Matt Gaver, Dan Lucas
- III. Consent of Agenda (Motion/Second)
  - a. Motion made by Brad Lazroff to approve agenda.
  - b. Motion seconded by Jeff Holmes and carried.
- IV. Approval of past board meeting minutes (Motion/Second)
  - a. November 17, 2022
  - b. Motion made by Jeff Holmes to approve Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.
  - c. Motion seconded by Eric Davey and carried.
- V. Student Turf President Report- Connor McBride
  - a. Fundraising events and updates presented.
- VI. Treasurer's Report: (Brad Lazroff) (Motion/Second)
  - a. Merrill Lynch transfer has taken place and invoices have been created for research checks.
  - b. Founders Society- Spending Guidelines
    - i. Brad Lazroff proposed new spending guidelines to be established by the board and reevaluated every three years. The previous guidelines were established in 2013 with a threshold of \$400,000. Due Vargas donation, Founders account is currently around \$450,000. Lazroff suggested a spending amount of \$75,000 (three-year term) and opened the floor to discussion.
    - ii. Interest gains have been less due to the recent market. Pandemic caused slow revenue growth.
    - iii. Eric Davey recommended not changing the threshold amount and proposed waiting on interest to build the Founders account back up. By lowering the threshold and interest gained, we would diminish the overall ability of Founder's Society in the future. Lazroff stated this would make the Founders stagnant and not allow for spending. Jesse Sholl has a current request of \$9,000 for Triplex mower.
    - iv. Carey Mitchelson commented that the substantial Vargas donation came from funds that were raised by previous board members. The silent auction and golf outing revenue went to Founders in the past, but is now used to fund graduate students. Stated that the graduate student fund has been stable and suggested possibly redirecting fundraising events towards Founders.

- v. Selling membership pins is the only current source of generating funds within Founders.
- vi. Eric Davey emphasized the commitment of donating a million dollars towards the Vargas Endowment. Professors were in favor and communicated the importance of the Vargas Endowment to board members. Davey believes the Founders minimum should be \$500,000 to prepare for future spending. Craig Moore reiterated the validity of long-term planning.
- vii. Curt Boak questioned navigating the communication of restricted spending guidelines to professors and Hancock Center when board receives donation requests. Eric suggests honoring the current donation request of \$9,000 for Triplex but inform professors that the Founders account has been driven down and time is needed to rebuild. Lazroff agrees the decision to limit Founders spending needs to be eloquently communicated to all affected. Carey Mitchelson states he has no recollection of denying a request while being on the board.
- viii. Jeff Holmes suggests the line in the sand should be drawn at \$550,000 for Founders. Holmes acknowledges if board lowers the threshold and the account doesn't grow within three years, the board will reface this same situation. Notes the need to take advantage of the interest-bearing opportunity.
- ix. Suggestion of funding Jesse's current donation request from the general fund. Eric Davey acknowledges the importance of equipment requests and credits Jesse's diligence in securing half the funding. Suggestion of funding Triplex from TT4T revenue.
- x. Dan Mausolf doesn't disagree with building Founders back up, however precaution is needed when pulling from the general fund for requests as it is the foundation's fail-safe. TT4T revenue has carried the shortfall of other events the past two years within operating funds.
- xi. Board agrees that building funds back up within Founders account is vital, however funding Triplex mower is currently essential.
- xii. Principal to be at \$441,000 and \$9,000 is available for three years.
- xiii. Motion made by Eric Davey to hold current value of Founders Endowment at \$441,000, with \$9,000 to be expensed to Hancock Center in reference to Triplex mower and establish a 3-year evaluation with Merrill Lynch regarding Founders endowment.
- xiv. Motion seconded by Craig Moore. All in favor and carried.

## VII. Executive Reports

### a. President's Report: (Curt Boak)

- i. Vargas Update
- ii. Concerns of MSU not raising funds. Spoke with Horgan November 28<sup>th</sup> and received similar feelings. Plan is to replace Joe's position in January of 2024. Needs approval from Dean, process to start in January 2023. Can start as a professorship, if funds are being raised it can lead to an endowed chair. Meeting scheduled with Vargas Committee and MSU scheduled Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Indicated Jeff will be lead MSU person.
- iii. Rebrand turf program, who is willing to do online program. More information is needed by Brian Horgan. How does he intend the turf program to run? Establish vision.
- iv. Follow through movement with GAM. Willing to give MSU a list of their donor list and identify GAM members/MSU
- v. Establish nationwide data/status of other turf grass programs.

- vi. ACTION ITEM: send all feedback, notes regarding Vargas Endowment. Confirm who from the MTF can attend.
    - b. Executive Director's Report: (Carey Mitchelson)
      - i. GCSAA – Request of grant support directly to Turf Team.
      - ii. Direct donation to fund specific research project.
      - iii. Would allow MIGCSA to review and select projects. Davey noted that publishable research cannot be declared by the donor as time is the main factor along with establishing willing professor and graduate student.
      - iv. Propose offering their board member a spot on the research committee. Define the start date.
      - v. GCAM- Apprentice program presented. Funded through Dept. Of Labor. Highly regarded within the state. MGCSA/Jada will coordinate clubs and registration.
      - vi. David Smitley- Update with Green Project.
- VIII. Turf Team Update: (Connor McBride)
- a. Fundraising events with review presented by president of Turf Team.
  - b. 22 club members confirmed 5 teams for the quiz bowl.
  - c. 10 scholarship applications. Board requested input on encouraging more applicants. Possibly make deadline before Thanksgiving. Interview date remains. Word document defining requirements. Print and place physical copy in hands of students.
  - d. Requesting donation funding for Orlando. MIGCSA donated 1k to club. Deadline of January by conference. Lodging is booked. This donation will subsidize the travel expenses of flights for students.
  - e. Club will have a booth available and walk around halftime show selling 50/50 raffle tickets.
  - f. Eric Davey made a motion to make a donation of \$1,000 to MSU turf club to attend GCSAA and SFMA Conferences.
  - g. Motion seconded by Curt Boak. All in favor.
- IX. Standing Committee Reports
- a. Nominating Committee: (Dan Lucas)
    - i. Differed
  - b. By-Laws Committee: (Dan Mausolf)
    - i. Differed
  - c. Awards Committee: (Dan Lucas)
    - i. Meritorious Award- Presented by past president, Doug Johanningsmeir to recipient, Jim Bogart.
  - d. Long Range Planning: (Dan Mausolf)
    - i. Differed
  - e. Founders Society Committee: (Brad Lazroff)
    - i. See Treasure's report.
  - f. Endowment Fund Committee: (Curt Boak)
    - i. Update within President's report.
- X. Ad Hoc Committee Reports:
- a. Communication Committee: (Curt Boak)
    - i. Mailed fall edition of NewsNotes. Sent extra copies to turf school. 793 issues printed, 500 issues printed in summer. Expenses increased to \$6,000 from \$3800 due to membership growth. 6k from 3800. Curt Boak states advertisements have been confirmed for next edition to subsidize the increase in cost.
    - ii. Paying for sponsor ad within Facebook.
  - b. Conference Committee: (Curt Boak)
    - i. Vendor Show- 28 booths registered. Total of 60 booths available.
    - ii. Five silent auction items compared to 17 last year. Send google form via website.

- iii. 102 registrants in relation to 345 total registrants last year.
    - iv. ACTION ITEM- Seek an MC to guide the halftime show. Responsible to promote silent auction and turf team 50/50. Suggestions of Ken Dubusher and Rob Plyar
  - c. Field Day Committee: (Dan Mausolf)
    - i. Differed
  - d. GAM Relationships/Liaison Committee: (Eric Davey)
    - i. Differed
  - e. Graduate Student Assistantship Committee: (Carey Mitchelson)
    - i. Interview committee. If anyone is interested in. 8:30 at December 14<sup>th</sup>. Zoom link to be provided.
  - f. Lafontaine Golf for Grads Committee: (Dan Mausolf)
    - i. Differed
  - g. Membership: (Dan Mausolf)
    - i. Honorary Service Membership category presented. By-Law update completed April 2022.
  - h. Michigan Turfgrass Student Relations Committee: (Eric Davey)
    - i. Differed
  - i. Tee Times 4 Turf Committee: (Scott Rettmann)
    - i. Has drafted card to place in lanyards at conference.
    - ii. For non-golf organizations request a donation. Verbiage needed.
  - j. Turfgrass Research and Educational Committee: (Craig Moore)
    - i. Fall research checks have been cut.
    - ii. Letters of support for Dave Smitley
  - k. Joe Vargas Chair
    - i. Update within executive reports.
- XI. Old Business
  - a. No old business.
- XII. New Business
  - a. No new business.
- XIII. Adjourn
  - a. Motion made by Jeff Holmes to adjourn meeting at 11:40pm.
  - b. Motion seconded by Craig Moore and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Britney VanderKodde  
 Executive Secretary