Alumni News

Southern Illinois University Alumni Office

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Alumni News
Southern Illinois University

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Board Boosts Research

Coal research at SIU has all the makings of a great program, especially with the $600,000 boost granted by the SIU board of trustees.

This recommendation, an addition to the University's 1976-77 budget request, was sent on to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). If approved by the IBHE and General Assembly, the SIU Coal Extraction and Utilization and Research Center will have $632,300 to expand its research and training activities next year.

Of the amount requested, $282,000 will replace a grant from the Illinois Business and Economic Development Commission. The center has operated this year with that grant plus a $55,000 allocation of internal University funds.

About half of the money requested—$350,300—will go toward the purchase of analytic equipment and to fill five faculty positions to be associated with coal research in different departments throughout the University, according to Russell R. Dutcher, director of the coal research center.

Dutcher said equipment to be purchased would include instruments for characterizing coals with regard to mineral content and to study the surface structure of coals.

Alumnu Named Assistant

A 36-year-old research specialist in Southern Illinois' School of Agriculture has been given the job of "enhancing faculty vitality and development" throughout the University's academic ranks.

SIU vice president for Academic Affairs and Research Frank Horton welcomed James A. Tweedy '62 to the position of assistant vice president for academic affairs and research, in charge of administration, on January 1.

Tweedy reports directly to Horton, who selected him for the job from among six finalists in a campus-wide search.

"Dr. Tweedy is a solid researcher who also has been working for the past year and a half to encourage and develop research programs in the School of Agriculture," Horton said. "His experience in research administration is extremely useful in helping us develop concepts and ideas for faculty vitality."

Horton described Tweedy's position as "very important," and said duties also cover such academic affairs assignments as report planning, minority recruitment, review of Civil Service appointments and serving as a contact person on appointments, tenure, promotion and other faculty matters.

Tweedy, a native of Southern Illinois, was a professor of plant and soil science prior to accepting this position.
Alumni Association Goals and Objectives

This statement of the Goals and Objectives of the SIU-C Association of Alumni and Former Students is based upon the fundamental premise that the Association has two major constituencies to which it must be of constant service. These constituencies are the University and all graduates and former students of the University. This commitment places the Association in a position uniquely capable of aiding each in its search for ways to be of service to the other.

The University has changed remarkably during the past five years. The days of plenty have passed and it finds itself being asked to accomplish a larger mission without proportionate increases in state funds. Enrollment is down and increasingly larger proportions of the student population are graduate and professional school students. These, and a variety of other pressures, have made it necessary for the University to ask for more aid and support from the Alumni Association. The Association has, in turn, begun to inquire as to whether it is maximally serving the needs of the University during this period of transition. This statement of goals and objectives is one of the products of this inquiry.

On the other hand, the needs of alumni are also changing. The job market for young graduates, and older ones alike, is more difficult. As of this date, well-trained, educated persons are out of work in increasingly large numbers. Those who remain employed find that the need for adaptation and change is now greater than ever as the concerns for which they work must be increasingly adaptive. It would, therefore, seem that special opportunities now exist for the University to be of aid to its graduates.

In fact, the needs of the University and the needs of alumni have changed so dramatically that this document calls for the forging of new relationships designed to enhance the quality of the contribution that each can make to the other.

The following statement of goals and objectives apply to the period 1975-1980. It will be reviewed at least once annually. Adopted July 26, 1975. Amended October 24, 1975.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES (1975-1980)

I. The Alumni Association should strengthen its support of the University's basic functions of teaching, research, and service by:

A. Continuing to give its Great Teacher Award and considering ways to extend this successful idea to other kinds of recognition for outstanding pedagogy;
B. Encouraging and aiding academic units in their attempts to obtain faculty and course evaluations from graduates on the assumption that an instructor or course may be evaluated differently after a few years have lapsed.
C. Writing letters of congratulations to and publicizing all winners of teaching awards campus wide;
D. Continuing to make research grants available for purposes consistent with the goals and objectives of the Association and publicizing great research accomplishments on the part of the University faculty;
E. Using alumni to aid the University in defining and evaluating its service function, particularly in Southern Illinois, Chicago, Springfield, and in other localities where there are large numbers of graduates and former students.

II. The Alumni Association should be more active in its efforts to aid the University in the recruitment of students by:

A. Extending the University Ambassadors program or a similar program into all regions where there are alumni chapters and perhaps into other areas as well for the purpose of
   1. Contacting personally every student in every high school in Illinois who indicates an interest in coming to SIU, and
   2. Launching a nationwide search for excellent students to be planned in 1975 and implemented in 1976.

III. The Alumni Association should strengthen its efforts to gain private, corporate, and institutional funds and support for the University by:

A. Writing letters of thanks to all “major” contributors to the Living Endowment, the number and form of such letters to be determined by consultation with officers of the Endowment and the Foundation;
B. Identifying those alumni who are in influential positions in corporations and foundations who might be of help in securing positions for SIU-C graduates;
C. Continuing to help identify alumni who might be willing to make private contributions to the University;

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D. Identifying and recognizing annually persons who have contributed to the welfare of the University.

IV. The Alumni Association should continue to improve its efforts to aid the University in its relations with the people of Illinois by:
A. Establishing strong liaison with other public relations units on the campus toward the objective of avoiding duplication, reducing costs, increasing audience size, improving the overall quality of the University's communications effort;
B. Using alumni as sounding boards for new initiatives prior to or during their implementation.

V. The Alumni Association should improve its efforts of promoting the interests of the University by:
A. Opening channels of communication with state government to create a better understanding of the education, research and service needs of the University.
B. Using alumni publications to call special attention to state government's responsiveness to the educational, research and service needs of the University.
C. Considering the establishment of recognition awards to officials and employees of state government who have exemplified an understanding of the needs of public higher education, and of the University in particular.

NOTE: No part of these activities of the Alumni Association shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, or participating in, or intervening in (including the publication or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

VI. The Alumni Association should increase its support for the University's extra-curricular activities by:
A. Promoting vigorously the sale of athletic tickets to area alumni, especially for football games;
B. Educating alumni as to NCAA and Missouri Valley recruitment rules and encouraging them to take a more active role in the recruitment of scholar/athletes;
C. Taking group trips to out-of-town games when practical;
D. Supporting, when possible, other extra-curricular activities with professional, social, or service orientations.

VII. The Alumni Association should continue to aid the University in the establishment of long term goals and objectives and remain in constant two-way communication with the administration and the Board of Trustees by:
A. Continuing to respond promptly to all requests from the administration for input;
B. Having a member of the Board of Directors present at all public meetings of the Board of Trustees for the purpose of reporting back to the Board of Directors the actions taken which would affect alumni;
C. Requesting that a copy of the agenda and minutes of the Board of Trustees meetings be sent to the Executive Director;
D. Requesting, on an ad hoc basis, permission to appear at meetings of the Board of Trustees in order to present statements of interest on behalf of the Board of Directors;
E. Continuing to serve on search committees.

VIII. The Alumni Association should continue to improve the quality of its record keeping and data retrieval function by:
A. Seeking funds to implement Phase II of the computerized record keeping data retrieval system, especially in light of the anticipated increase in the informational needs of clubs, constituent societies, student groups, etc.;
B. Continuing to work through other University units to keep files up to date and continuing to use maximally the U.S. Postal Service for the return of undeliverable mail.

IX. The Alumni Association should strongly support new University initiatives in Continuing Education by:
A. Encouraging the development of constituent societies and, in turn, encouraging them to identify, with Association aid, the special educational and training needs of their members;
B. Undertaking a broadly based study to determine the educational needs of all alumni and seeking innovative ways for meeting them;
C. Reconsidering the vacation and learn program which failed a few years ago;
D. Reestablishing the summer camping program with continuing education potential;
E. Holding a Woman's Day on campus for the purpose of helping the Association and the University better understand the unique needs of contemporary women.

X. The Board of Directors should take immediate action to enhance the Association's visibility and viability by:
A. Establishing internal criteria for Board of Trustee appointees and advocating the appointment of persons who meet the criteria;
B. Sending a representative to appear on behalf of recommended trustee appointees at legislative hearings, whenever appropriate;
C. Sending a representative to appear before selected other committees concerning other legislation action relevant to alumni interests;
D. Sending a member of the board to every meeting of every local club for the purpose of explaining board actions and seeking input;
E. Establishing a procedure for the board and staff to determine if agreed upon objectives for that year have been met;
F. Making nominations to the Board of Directors more representative of alumni at large;
G. Reinvigorating annual alumni leadership workshops by informing alumni leaders of the Board and staff...
actions and soliciting formal and informal feedback to all major policy initiatives;

H. Reevaluating Association structure and bylaws, including such matters as class reunions, legislative council, board committee structure, and composition of the Board;

I. Continuing to give the Alumni Achievement Awards;

J. Increasing the amount of publicity the Association receives when new officers are elected, new members come on the Board, special task committees are formed, etc.;

K. Moving the Association toward the elusive goal of economic self-sufficiency;

L. Beginning to develop programs for retired alumni;

M. Considering changing the names of local clubs to Southern Illinois University clubs and expanding them to include more friends as well as former students and graduates.

XI. The Alumni Association should begin a national drive to recruit more members by:

A. Studying the reasons why so many graduates and former students are not members and seeking ways to remedy this by improving or changing alumni services in a way which will maximize membership;

B. Continuing to add to the list of alumni privileges;

C. Developing a service program for non-members so as to encourage membership at some future date;

D. Raising the visibility of and enhancing the image of the Alumni Association among students now on the campus by:
   1. Scheduling a brief speech by the President of the Board at each commencement;
   2. Co-sponsoring, with student groups, trips to athletic events;
   3. Publishing in the Daily Egyptian at least once each semester and during the summer a list of alumni services to students, being sure to include the mention of loan and scholarship programs;
   4. Continuing support for alumni scholarship and loan programs;

E. Seeking ways to provide employment counseling services via the Placement Service for graduates;

F. Participating in “New Student Week” activities.

XII. The Alumni Association should accelerate the activation of constituent societies by:

A. Selecting a representative in each academic unit to provide internal impetus toward developing constituent societies, and to improve communication between the Association and the unit;

B. Especially encouraging early development of constituent societies by law and medical school graduates so as to understand early their specialized needs;

C. Encouraging the development of professionally oriented alumni publications by constituent societies;

D. Encouraging the development of specialized education programs by constituent societies;

E. Soliciting the support of the Faculty Senate in efforts to gain faculty support for constituent societies.

XIII. The Alumni Association should continue to explore new sources of income to support its internal operations by:

A. Continuing to develop a viable program of tours which make money for the Association and hopefully provide alumni with educational opportunities they would not otherwise have;

B. Considering an expansion of merchandising;

C. Investigating health, accident, and life insurance programs.

XIV. The Alumni Association should evaluate its formal publications by:

A. Determining what alumni need and want in their publications;

B. Improving the quality of the service being performed, but at reduced costs;

C. Establishing an editorial policy;

D. Considering the publication of special issues of the magazine or tabloid each year written by alumni, but designed for a student audience and providing advice on the job market, descriptions of professions, etc.;

E. Considering the use of the magazine as a forum for discussion of significant campus related issues in order to increase alumni understanding of issues which were not prevalent when they were at the University.