

**Minutes**  
**Auburn Alumni Band Board Meeting**  
**June 27, 2022 via Zoom**

Deborah Dickerson, President, called the meeting to order at 7:35pm ET.

**Attendees:**

Deborah Dickerson, President  
Mary Monk-Tutor, Vice President  
Rob Cothran, Treasurer  
Sidney Keywood  
Jeffrey Rowser  
Betsy Logan  
Christiania Morris Jordan  
Traci Ash  
Alison Slade  
Paul McCracken  
Scott Wright  
Richard Martin  
Gillian Ash Johnston.

**Reading/Approval of previous minutes:**

The minutes from the July 19, 2021 Zoom meeting were emailed to the board in two installments – a combination of Jill Warbington starting and Taylor Nails finishing. Deborah noted that on Jill's portion, under list of attendees Rob Martin should be Rob Cothran. The minutes were approved as amended.

**Committee Reports:**

**Bylaws Committee:** Deborah noted that the proposed updates/changes to the Bylaws were approved by vote of the general membership at the September 25, 2021 reunion. Copies of both the original Bylaws and the proposed changes were in the files portion of the Facebook page, but she will make sure the updated Bylaws are also posted there.

**Audit Committee:** Betsy Logan stated that she and Kathy Silvestri reviewed our financial records during the September 25, 2021 reunion, and all was in order. Betsy Logan and Alison Slade volunteered to do this year's audit at the September 24, 2022 reunion.

**Nominations Committee:** Deborah stated that we will need new committee members to solicit/review applications for new board members. Sidney Keywood, Jeffrey Rowser, Betsy Logan, and Christiania Jordan will be rotating off the board after the September reunion. Alison Slade and Gillian Johnston volunteered, and Deborah said she would like Gerritt Keaton on the committee one last time before his term as Immediate Past President ends. This committee will need to have a meeting in August to prepare an email to solicit interested members, and again in September to select from the applicants.

**Social Media:** Several who were on this committee have now rotated off the board. Scott Wright, Alison Slade, and Christiania Jordan volunteered to be on the committee. Discussed Instagram again – you can post simultaneously to both Facebook and Instagram, but Instagram is more for pictures than discussion. Deborah brought up the webpage, which we are unable to do much with updating as it was

started and maintained by Jef Holbrook, a friend of then-president Steve Scott, and he is not really accessible to us anymore for updates. In recent years Richard Martin has been able to do basic updates for the reunion each year, but we are limited in what we can do and much on the webpage is out of date. Scott Wright said that he works with webpages as part of his business, and would be happy to take it over. Rob Cothran noted that we pay Jef Holbrook in late summer each year for the website registration, so if we want to make a change to in-house control it should be soon so we don't have to pay for another year. Deborah will contact Steve Scott for Jef Holbrook's contact info and pass that to Scott to see if we can make that happen.

**Promotional Items Committee:** Deborah stated that Gerritt Keaton has what remains of our current inventory, but he is on vacation and unavailable for today's meeting. We need to get started on this soon for this year's reunion. Scott Wright, Mary Monk-Tutor, and Christiania Jordan volunteered to be on the committee (and Gerritt by default until the reunion). We would like to bring back clothing items, which we did not pursue last year because of pandemic supply chain issues. It was noted that we need more of the white hats, as we ran out last year. Sarah Ferguson orders these locally in Auburn, so we will need to let her know the number we want. Suggestions discussed for the committee to consider were the possibility of having a different t-shirt every year, and maybe anniversary items since this is the 125th anniversary of the Auburn Band and the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alumni Band.

#### **Old Business:**

**Virtual Reunion:** Deborah reviewed the virtual reunion we held last year on November 6, 2021 for those who couldn't attend our September reunion, or still felt uncomfortable attending large events in person because of COVID-19. Fewer people participated than we'd hoped – about 30 – but we received good feedback from those who attended.

**Beat Bama Scholarship Drive:** Deborah reviewed the numbers from this drive we held during basketball season from Jan 11 to Feb 1 between the two Alabama games. Again fewer people participated than we'd hoped, but 10 people donated a total of \$1,675.00 for our scholarship endowment. Traci Ash asked if we'd been able to see what she donated, since it was directly to the endowment through the Auburn University Giving website so that she could get matching funds donated from her employer. Deborah said that we could not, as donations directly through their website are handled by the University, but the amount she donated is included in the above total because we knew about it. Rob stated that there is currently about \$2,000 in the Square account that he will transfer over to our bank account. This includes the Beat Bama scholarship money, plus a few dues payments since the last transfer, and several merchandise sales because items were still left in the Square store following our fall online merchandise sale and Gerritt has mailed out a few orders.

**Commemorative Bricks:** Deborah said that she had asked Sarah Ferguson about the bricks in an email, but had not followed up and needs to do so.

**Regional Meetings:** Traci Ash said she had tried to organize a regional get together for the Birmingham area and no one showed up. There doesn't seem to be the interest that we thought there would be.

#### **New Business:**

**Auburn Alumni Association:** Mary Monk-Tutor presented info from a meeting she had with Melissa Hage and Danielle Fields from the Alumni office. There are things they can do for us, such as providing

“swag bags” for our reunion, contacts with the Downtown Merchants Association for possible silent auction items, scheduling Aubie, Bruce Pearl, university photographers, etc. for our events, and helping with a giving campaign – possibly in the spring – for our endowed scholarship. They seem interested in having us as an official affiliate chapter of the Alumni Association, like regional Auburn clubs. Richard said he is currently trying to revive the Monroe County Auburn Club and is going through this process now. Discussion centered on whether we can retain our autonomy if we become an affiliate chapter. There has been concern in the past from band alumni about sharing their emails with the Alumni Association, and our Alumni Band email list has long been maintained by the band office. We will look into inviting an Alumni Association representative to our in-person meeting in August for an information session. Mary also stated that two new members of the Auburn Board of Trustees are former band members. (Note: Mary later corrected this in an email – they are new members of the Auburn Alumni Association Board of Directors, not Trustees.)

**Membership Survey and Reunion:** Mary had previously emailed, and briefly presented, results from the membership survey that she completed. We had about 300 responses and a wide range of comments regarding reunions. Discussion ensued about improving the reunion experience. Comments ranged from the heat and the possibility of having the reunion at a later, cooler, game, to the silent auction, in which only 25% of respondents indicated interest. If we do something similar again, we need to limit the number of items.

It was decided that there should be committee to head up reunion planning. Richard will chair and Mary will help.

Deborah also read comments that Paul Wright (who was unable to attend today) had sent her. One involved a de-emphasis on the play for money – there are members who would otherwise be interested in participating but don’t want to pay dues/be asked to contribute to the current band program. Rob stated that social is not the sole purpose of the group – our stated purpose is to both promote fellowship among band alumni and to support the current band. The board discussed making it more clear where membership dues go – both to reunion expenses and to our endowment. Paul also asked about the possibility of keeping the practice field open during the game for those who cannot march or leave the game early can go back and visit. It seems fairly definite that we cannot leave the practice field unlocked for liability reasons, but we discussed the possibility of having a tailgate tent open for friends and family to hang out – could we pay for or have someone donate a tent? Deborah will check into the price of the Tailgate Guys tents and let everyone know. We can also look into the Tiger Transit routes (the Vinsons take it from the practice field to the stadium) and make sure people who find walking to the stadium difficult know of that alternative.

**Next meeting:** Deborah stated we usually have our in-person meeting during the last weekend of AUMB band camp, which would be August 13 this year. Several people have conflicts with the Aug 13 date, and it was decided to see if we can instead hold it the middle weekend of band camp, Aug 6. Deborah will contact Sarah in the band office to check that date and will let everyone know.

**Adjournment:** Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mary. All were in favor, none opposed, and the meeting adjourned at 9:30pm ET.