

SLUH Alumni Board Meeting

Thursday, September 15 (via Zoom)

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

Tom Erman '71 , Sean Agniel '96

Alumni Board President Tom Erman '71 opened the meeting, enthusiastically talking about the plans for the year and goal of revitalizing the Board and the alumni community as a whole in the new-normal as COVID becomes an accepted part of life.

VP, Advancement Sean Agniel '96 shared a reflection and prayer.

2. Updates: School Year, Advancement, Go Forth

Agniel

a. Academic School Year

- i. The school year is off to a strong start. Teachers and students are adjusting to a new rotating block schedule that differs from the COVID-block schedule. It features hour-long class periods and a predictable bell schedule.
- ii. Enrollment is very strong, with a freshman class (Class of 2026) at 270, which is the largest class in some years.
- iii. It was just announced that SLUH has ten National Merit Semifinalists this year, a tremendous achievement for these young men and a huge number compared to peer schools.
- iv. Fall athletic teams are competing hard, with soccer and cross country off to particularly good starts.

b. Advancement Office, Go Forth

- i. The \$70 million Go Forth campaign is fully-funded, with the opening of the Dill Center for Academic Success as the latest achievement. The campaign has made noticeable improvements to the physical plant – Dill Center, Costigan Innovation Lab, renovated science classrooms, new roof on the main part of the building – but the

most significant investment has been in growing the endowment. This growth has allowed SLUH to grow its financial aid offerings with the pace of tuition.

c. Current Searches: [Principal](#), [Alumni Relations](#)

- i. Last spring, Principal Fr. Ian Gibbons, SJ announced that this academic year would be his final year at SLUH. A search committee, chaired by science faculty member Mary Russo and former Board chair Tom Santel '76, began work immediately and is progressing with the search. The current timeline aims to select our next principal in early 2023.
- ii. Also last spring, Chris Buerke '09 discerned that his future at SLUH was in college counseling. He departed the Alumni Relations Coordinator position – which he had filled famously well – on June 30. Travis Meyer '10 has taken a temporary, part-time role in the Advancement Office through the end of November to help with reunions and St. Louis U. High Day. We are actively searching for a full-time replacement and invite you to share the position. (Note: the job posting is temporary down so that we can repost and 'bump' it to the top of job post timelines. In the meantime, you can [see the job description here](#))

3. Help from the Alumni Board

John Penilla '99

- a. Urgently need a few more Reunion volunteers
 - i. Register online at www.sluh.org/alumni/volunteer/alumni-board
 - ii. Save the Date(s) – St. Louis U. High Day(s) – Nov. 10-12

4. Previewing October Meeting

Erman

- a. Tuesday, October 11 @ SLUH

The first in-person Alumni Board meeting is less than a month away and we are looking for a big turn out.

We will start with cocktails in the Si Commons, then move through the school for a walking tour of the Dill Center for Academic Success, a look at the progress on the new student media center and, finally, to the SLUH Chapel for a preview of what's coming in the complete renovation of that space. After the tour, we'll have dinner and other Alumni Board updates.

It was noted by multiple Alumni Board members that the ability to join meetings remotely/virtually was greatly appreciated – either because the alumnus lives out of town or is unable to attend in-person. SLUH Advancement Staff will work to have a hybrid option for meeting attendance moving forward.