The first CUAA Council meeting for the 2017/2018 school year was held on September 9, 2017 in room LL101 in the New Academic Building (NAB).   27 Council Members and 3 guests attended.

At 6:15 PM, CUAA President Paul Nikulin CE’06 opened the meeting and welcomed the new officers, council members and guests.

Paul Nikulin gave a presentation summarizing the CUAA Council Retreat held in July.  At this retreat, council members participated in a workshop facilitated by Rachel Appel A’13 and Lynn Lander ChE’60.  The workshop allowed participants to discuss CUAA goals for the year and identify the goals that should be given more time and energy during the coming year.   The goal that emerged from the discussion as most important is finding and employing ways to increase alumni engagement.

Next, Paul Nikulin mentioned that he had had a discussion with Chair of the BOT, Rachel Warren concerning the best way to communicate board activities to the council. He explained that it was decided to try something new this year -- the Alumni Trustee Report for Council meetings will be a written Trustee Update Report distributed at the beginning of the meeting.  Questions were voiced about whether this will be replacing in-person reports from the Alumni Trustees, and whether there will be any Alumni Trustee Forums.  Paul said that this will be tried in lieu of an in-person report during the council meetings.   It is not a substitute for the Alumni Trustee Forums, which have not been discussed yet.

Next, Paul Nikulin gave a reminder that all council members are expected to participate in the Annual Fund and participate on council committees.

Rachel Appel A’13 gave a short demonstration on Robert’s Rules of Order.

**Committee Reports**

The committee reports began at 6:40 PM.  Past President, Nils Folke Anderson A’94 gave an update on the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) committee.The MOA Committee will conduct research and present its recommendations to the CUAA as we work with administration members to develop a new agreement outlining how these bodies interact with one another.  The goal for this committee is to get a new MOA signed by Rachel Warren for the Board, Laura Sparks for the School Administration, and Paul Nikulin for the CUAA by January.  He hopes this process will be transparent and inclusive.  The MOA committee is presently doing research on both best practices and governance history via past CUAA presidents.  Nils welcomes new members to the committee.  At this point the following council members volunteered for the committee:  Ron Vogel ChE’01, Brian Rose A’79, Scott Lyne ChE ChE’92/MChE’95.

Annual Fund Chair, Carol Wolf A’84 reported on the activities of the Annual Fund Committee. She said that the committee will have a meeting during this month or next, and she welcomes new members. At this point the following council members volunteered for the committee: Kelly Occhiuzzo Zack A’90, Darryl Low EE’89, Rachel Appel A’13

VP Student Faculty Liason, Darren Rogers AR’05 summarized a recent meeting held with the CU Career Office and the CU Student Affairs office.  He indicated that a few new initiatives were discussed.  They include more CUAA interaction with the Joint Student Council and a possible new mentoring program for new students.  He also mentioned that a group of alumni have suggested a discussion with the Regis high school alumni association leaders on the topic of alumni giving.

Director of Alumni Engagement, David Minder spoke about Mock interview Night which will be held on October 5th.  Alumni are encouraged to register as soon as possible.

Ron Vogel ChE’01 introduced himself as the new Communications Committee Chair and asked for volunteers to write, to help with technology and to help with design.  He mentioned that when he sent an email to 70 alumni living in the hurricane Harvey affected area, 15 alumni read the email within the first hour. At this point the following council members volunteered for the committee: Hope Wade A’87, Susan Shaw A’72, Mark Vasquez, ME’88.

VP Student Activities, Kelly Occhiuzzo Zack explained that we are still looking for someone to chair the Events Committee.  Hope Wade volunteered.   The next big event will be the CUAA Founder’s Day Block Party which will be September 23, 2017. Other events that are being planned are:

* Holiday party during the second week of December
* Thanksgiving Harvest Feast for Cooper Students in November
* Peter Cooper’s Birthday celebration at McSorleys in February
* Pop-up Events

At this point the following council members volunteered for the committee: Hope Wade, Mark Vasquez.

Casey Gollum A’13 gave an update on the plans for the Block Party to be held on September 23rd.  The committee includes Victoria Sobel A’13, Claudia Giordano Lasky A’76, Mina Greenstein A’56. The Block Party Theme is “Mission Means Union.” The committee is cooperating with Astor Alive who will have a complimentary event on Astor Plaza that will have a stage and sound system. Astor Alive will have performances that include the Blue Man Group. So CUAA will not have music. A large number of school groups have signed up to have booths. The street on the west side of the Foundation Building will be closed beginning at 8 AM. Casey announced that volunteers are needed to help with setup and breakdown. VP Student Activities, Kelly Occhiuzzo Zack suggested that the 2018 Block Committee should begin their planning on Sept. 24th, right after the 2017 block party.

Susan Shaw said the Nominating committee will have their first meeting in bout 3 weeks.

Carol Wolf introduced herself as one of the co-chairs of the Augustus St. Gauden’s Committee.  Bill Wolf is the other co-chair.  Hope Wade volunteered to be on this committee.

Ed Abaid CE’76 introduced himself as head of the Gano Dunn Committee.  Mark Vasquez volunteered to be on this committee.

Wes Rozen AR’05 introduced himself as head of the John Q. Hejduk Committee. Margaret Matz AR’83, volunteered to be on this committee.

Mary Lynch ChE’82 introduced herself as chair of the Public Service Award Committee.  The following council members volunteered for this committee: Kay Nordstrom ME ’77, Mark Vasquez, Scott Lyne, Kelly Occhiuzzo Zack A’90.

All four award chairs said that they welcome new members and nominations.  Nomination forms 2018 Founder’s Day Awards will be accepted until November 15, 2017.

Jim Liubicich ChE’83 gave an update on the 501(3)(c) committee.

**Other Business**

Paul Nikulin mentioned the passing pf Judy Seigel A’54 who was a CUAA Council Member and Adrian Jovanovic BSE’89 who was an Alumni Trustee.  He also mentioned the passing of Diane Lewis A’73 who was a professor in the Architecture School.

Paul Nikulin said that the school and the CUAA are jointly planning a memorial service for Adrian Jovanovic, and asked for suggestions for the service. Mark Vasquez, ME’88 suggested that the school and the CUAA make a proclamation document to give to Adrian’s parents. Mary Lynch ChE’82 suggested gathering photos from alumni. She will reach out to several alumni. Claudia Giordano Lasky A’76 suggested contacting Toby Cumberbatch and Mike Essl and asking them to say a few words at the memorial.

Scott Lyne ChE’92/MChE’95 asked if there are any plans on the horizon for releasing minutes or summaries of BOT meetings. Paul replied that the minutes for the next BOT meeting being held in September will not be approved until the following meeting in December, and he doesn’t know if there are plans for releasing minutes. We are going to have a written Trustee Update Report for the next council meeting.

Carol Wolf mentioned that there are some BOT issues remaining from last year.

Paul asked attendees to send questions for the board to himself.

MOTION TO ADJOURN was made by Mark Vasquez and seconded by Mina Greenstein. Motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for 11/16/17 from 6 to 8:30 PM.

The meeting ended at 8:30 PM

Minutes prepared by: Mary Lynch, CUAA Secretary