

**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
Saturday, February 6, 2010
8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
Laukka Room, 200 McNamara Alumni Center**

Board Members Attending

Adams Loyd, Susan-phone
Anderson, Jan McKenzie - phone
Beniak, Judy
Blissenbach, Henry-phone
Carlson, Margaret
Carthaus, Marcia – phone
Cheung Ho, Yvonne - phone
Cunningham, John
du Bois, Jim
Finsness, Lisa
Givens, Archie
Goldstein, Steven
Himle, Karen
Horsager, Kent
Joselyn, Bernadine-phone
Lanphere, Jane
McDonald, Daniel - phone
McLeod, Mary
Mooty, Bruce
Newell, Rich
Omlie, Jo Ann - phone
Pinkney, Beth
Reed, Maureen
Schott, Patrick - phone
Stein, Robert
Thacker, Kipling
Tuzcu, Ertugrul - phone

Welshons, Bonnie - phone
Williams, Todd
Zwieg, Ted – phone

Board Members Unable to Attend

Brus, Leah
Hallin, Gayle
Johnson, Susan
Kremers, Kristi
Lahammer, Mary
Lichty, Marshall
Lucas, Peggy
Malkerson, Becky
Meyer, Janice
Mulder, Jim
Oakes, J. Michael
Page, Alison
Peterson, Debra
Reichl, Lorna
Schultz, Martin
Strain, Paul
Thompson, Paul
Ulsaker Wiese, Sandra
Williams, Todd

UMAA Staff Attending

Coffer, Curtis
Isaak, Ruth
Rader, Bruce
Shortridge, Julie

President Archie Givens thanked board members for attending the specially called meeting. He noted that it was a milestone day and the culmination of a process that began almost ten months ago when the CEO search process began. He thanked the search chairs, Maureen Reed and Bruce Mooty, and the committee for their dedicated work, participation in many meetings and commitment of a huge amount of time.

Search Committee Report

Search Committee Co-chair Maureen Reed thanked the Search Committee, noting that they were a diverse, dedicated group. Search committee members were Mooty, Reed, John Adams, John Finnegan, Ann Huntrods, Peggy Lucas, Lakeesha Ransom, Patrick Schott and Ertugrul Tuzcu.

Reed said that the national search for a new CEO had yielded an excellent pool of candidates that had been carefully considered by the search committee, followed by a first and second round of interviews.

Reed then introduced the search committee's recommended candidate – Phil Esten. Esten is currently the Associate Athletics Director for the University of Minnesota. He manages the overall strategic plan for intercollegiate athletics, which includes 25 sports and 225 employees. He was the point person for the TCF Bank Stadium, serving as the intercollegiate athletics liaison for all design, construction, operations and management of the \$288.5 million project. Esten was a key player in the stadium fundraising, an effort that included more than \$45 million in funds for academic programming for the University.

Esten was also instrumental in the combination of men's and women's athletics in addition to being the lead person in the transition from the Metrodome to the new TCF Bank Stadium.

Reed said that the search committee looked for the following skills and experience in a candidate: strategic leadership, relationship building, advocacy and diplomacy. Following the interview process and reports from references, Esten received excellent marks in all four areas.

Search Committee Co-chair Mooty said that Esten is a University of Minnesota alumnus with a Ph.D. in Kinesiology. He has taught graduate level courses as an adjunct professor in the University's kinesiology department. Mooty said that Esten had met with President Bruininks, who also gave him a strong recommendation.

Search Committee member Ertugrul Tuzcu noted that the process, although intense, was excellent. He thanked the chairs for their extraordinary leadership. Tuzcu noted that he was very pleased with Esten as the recommended candidate and believes that Esten would be an excellent leader. Search Committee member Patrick Schott concurred with Tuzcu's comments.

Esten stated that as a candidate, the search process had been exciting. He thanked Bruce Mooty, Maureen Reed and the entire search committee for their efforts, as well as the team from Spencer Stuart, the search firm. He thanked Karen Himle, Margaret Carlson and staff. He said that he has spent a great deal of time in higher education because he loves students. Although the alumni association position is a move to a scale much broader than students, he would look forward to growing the footprint of the Alumni Association.

He went on to say that his stadium experience involved a great deal of collaboration with many groups working toward a common goal. His involvement with projects such as the TCF Bank Stadium and Homecoming has allowed him to build strong relationships across campus, and he would rely on those relationships to advance the goals of the alumni association.

Esten hopes to build membership and reach out to an even broader alumni base. Alignment with the association's vision and values would be critical to the new CEO's work with the board, he said, and there are challenges ahead with the upcoming transition to a new University president and changing financial models for public education.

Esten thanked the board for the opportunity to meet with them about his candidacy for the CEO position.

Staff and Esten were excused to allow for board discussion. After board discussion, the following action was taken;

MOTION: Hire Phil Esten as the Chief Executive Officer of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Esten and staff returned to the meeting. Upon announcement of the board's action, Esten thanked the group, noting that it is a great opportunity and he is excited to begin.

Margaret Carlson congratulated Esten, saying she was thrilled with his appointment. She presented Esten with a ceremonial baton in recognition of his future role as Chief Executive Officer of the Alumni Association.

The search chairs told board members that the announcement would be public as of Monday, February 8, with a press release (attached).

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Ruth Isaak
Senior Director, Board and Special Events

For

Kent Horsager, Secretary-Treasurer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Bruce Mooty 612-840-4437
Maureen Reed 651-491-8052

University of Minnesota Alumni Association Names New CEO

Minneapolis, MN – February 6, 2010 – The University of Minnesota Alumni Association announced today that Phil Esten, Ph.D., has been named chief executive officer. Esten, who is an associate athletics director at the University, succeeds Margaret Sughrue Carlson, who announced plans to retire from the Alumni Association last May after 25 years of service.

Esten, who has a doctoral degree in kinesiology from the University and has taught graduate level courses as an adjunct professor of the University's Kinesiology department, was chosen through a national search process that began last August. "Margaret Carlson set a high bar for Big Ten alumni association leadership, and Phil is uniquely qualified to carry that leadership forward," said Bruce Mooty, immediate past president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and co-chair of the search committee with former Board of Regents Chair Maureen Reed. "Our 60,000 members will benefit from Phil's extensive knowledge of the University, his proven ability to turn alumni into ambassadors for important University causes, and his passion for the role that school spirit plays in connecting today's and tomorrow's graduates to their alma mater."

As an associate athletics director, Esten manages the overall strategic plan for intercollegiate athletics, which includes 25 sports and 225 employees. He was the department's point person for the University's new on-campus football stadium, TCF Bank Stadium, serving as the intercollegiate athletics liaison for all design, construction, operations and management of the \$288.5 million project. Esten also was instrumental in stadium fundraising, an effort that included more than \$45 million in funds for academic programming for the University.

"Now more than ever, major universities around the country are realizing the immense importance of building strong relationships with their alumni," said Bob Bruininks, University of Minnesota president. "Phil is a proven leader who brings out the best in people in pursuit of a common goal. I'm looking forward to working with him in support of this great institution."

Esten will be the seventh CEO in the Alumni Association's 106-year history. His first official day with the organization is March 15. Retiring CEO Margaret Sughrue Carlson expressed her enthusiastic support of Esten's appointment. "I'm delighted to pass the maroon and gold baton to Phil, who has been a superb ally of the Alumni Association for years. I'll be cheering for him, as will 400,000 alumni around the country who cheered me along for the past 25 years." Carlson will be embarking on a part-time consulting career, providing guidance to higher-education institutions and non-profit organizations throughout the country.

About the University of Minnesota Alumni Association

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association is a 60,000-member organization whose members are ambassadors for the outstanding teaching and discovery that happens at the University every day. For more information, visit www.MinnesotaAlumni.org.

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