



State Bar Association
of North Dakota

SBAND Board of Governors

Canad Inns Destination Grand Forks
ZOOM Conference Call

February 5, 2022
2:00 PM

Minutes

Members Present: Judge Doug Bahr, President; Jennifer Albaugh; Carrie Francis; Rob Manly; Judge Daniel Traynor; Dean, Michael McGinniss; Tonya Duffy; Brady Pelton; Debra Hoffarth; Taylor Olson; Ted Sandberg; Jordan Selinger; Joshua Frey; Paul Myerchin

Members Absent: Katie Schmidt

Staff Members Present: Tony Weiler; Jeanne Schlittenhard

President Bahr called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM.

UND Provost Dr. Erik Link updated the Board on the dean search for the School of Law. He explained the process involved in the search and the role of the Search Committee. Ultimately the Search Committee interviews the final candidates and forwards the acceptable candidates to the Provost who will meet and have dinner with the candidates. Dr. Link thanked Taylor Olson for her significant role in representing SBAND on the Search Committee.

Dr. Link stated he welcomes the great opportunities that lie ahead to work together to continue to strengthen the School of Law.

Taylor Olson, member of the Search Committee, updated the Board on the timelines set for receiving applications and schedule of interviews. It is anticipated the announcement of the new Dean will be April 2022.

Meeting Minutes November 12, 2021

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2021 meeting minutes as written. [D. Traynor / M. McGinniss] Motion carried.

Financial Statements and vouchers October and November 2021

Secretary-Treasurer Manly and Executive Director Weiler met prior to the meeting to review the financial information for October and November 2021. No areas of concern were identified.

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to receive the financials. [T. Sandberg / J. Albaugh] Motion carried.

Board Appointments /Reappointments / Recommendations to the Court

Judicial Conference

The Board considered two individuals for two openings on the committee: Haylee Cripe (eligible for reappointment) and Kylie Oversen.

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to reappoint Haylee Cripe and appoint Kylie Oversen to the Judicial Conference. (D. Traynor / J. Frey) Motion carried.

Federal Practice Committee – United States District Court, District of North Dakota

The Board considered one individual for the opening on the committee: Ted Sandberg (Grand Forks)

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to appoint Ted Sandberg to the Federal Practice Committee. (D. Traynor / B. Pelton) (T. Sandberg abstained) Motion carried.

Pattern Jury Instruction Commission – one opening

The Board considered eight individuals for the opening on the committee: Lynn Boughey (Mandan); Derrick Braaten (Bismarck); Chris Edison (Bismarck); Ryan Hestbeck (Fargo); Robin Johansen (Grand Forks); Ariston Johnson (Watford City); Angela Lord (Fargo); Andrew Schultz (Minot).

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to appoint Ariston Johnson to the Pattern Jury Instruction Commission. (D. Traynor / T. Olson) (R. Manly and P. Myerchin abstained) Motion carried.

Parenting Investigator Review Board – one opening

The Board considered one individual for the opening on the committee: DeAnn Pladson (Fargo) who is eligible for reappointment.

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to reappoint DeAnn Pladson to the Parenting Investigator Review Board. (D. Traynor / J. Albaugh) Motion carried.

Investment Policy

Executive Director Weiler identified the financial institutions in which SBAND and NDBF money is held. Measures for securities on these funds are in place.

Written Investment Policy documents are being requested from other state bar associations to be used to assist in creating an SBAND Investment Policy.

The Board will task the Investment Committee to present a proposal to the Board. The Investment Committee will consist of two current Board members and three SBAND members who have practiced ten or more years, preferably licensed with investment law interest. In addition, financial experts / advisor could be consulted to make recommendations to the Investment Committee. Membership terms suggested at 5 year terms with additional 5 year reappointment term.

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to approve the formation of an Investment Committee with a membership consisting of two board members and three practicing attorneys with ten or more years of practice as described above. [J. Albaugh / D. Traynor] Motion carried.

Clerk of Court Working Group

Executive Director Weiler was asked to serve on the Clerk of Court Working Group.

Recommendation / Conclusion: Board members discussed the importance of this working group to address issues affecting the judicial system because of the disunion of the clerk of courts (state employed and contracted services). The Chief Justice is tasking the working group to propose a plan for reunification of the clerk of courts to include necessary draft legislation. The Board members agreed there is no consistency from court to court regarding the clerks of court.

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to designate Executive Director Weiler to serve as the representative for SBAND. [T. Sandberg / M. McGinniss] Motion carried.

ABA Report from Hon. Daniel Traynor

- Judge Traynor reported resolutions for the House of Delegates (February 2022) includes elder law, criminal law, social justice, and Uniform Law
- Board members should encourage attorneys to consider serving on ABA Committee(s). He noted that Judge James Hill, North Dakota's State ABA Delegate has been appointed to the Appointment Committee

Action: No action taken.

Law School Update from Dean Michael McGinniss

- The Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Certification Program is now launched
- Four new faculty members starting Fall 2022
- The VandeWalle Court Room renderings are progressing according to plans
- Dean McGinniss reported on fundraising activities and projects
- The family of Wayne Stenehjem is creating an endowment in his honor to fund law school scholarships

Action: No action taken.

SBAND President's Report

- President Bahr thanked the Board members for attending the Grand Forks meeting and for the support during his time as President

Action: No action taken.

Executive Director's Report

- Annual Meeting planning is underway. Still undecided about including a hybrid option
- Reminded SBAND Board that at the April 22nd meeting, 2022 award recipients will be chosen
- SBAND has contacted retired members offering them to continue receiving News from SBAND emails and *The Gavel*. To date 35 have replied.
- *Pro Bono* Update: launching website / Jennifer Hauge administrator of website
- President Bahr and Executive Director Weiler have scheduled visits to local bar associations
- Taylor Olson was recognized for her work with the Rural Justice Program. The Supreme Court is taking applications for attorneys interested in participating in the program.

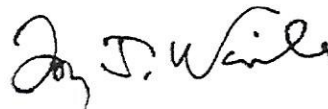
Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanne Schlittenhard
Associate Director



Tony J. Weiler
Executive Director