



MSL CAUCUS

A newsletter for and by Maryland Student Legislature Alumni members

Number 5

October 2002

MSL Alumni Bylaws Passed

By a 7-1 vote, the Board of Directors authorized the implementation of the Maryland Student Legislature Alumni Association Bylaws on August 25th.

The document, over sixteen months in the making, outlines the basic tenets, principals, and operation functions of the Alumni Association.

The most important aspect of these bylaws set of requirements, duties, and expectations for the four officers who will join the President of the Alumni Association in comprising the Alumni Committee. These four directorates, for Alumni Relations, Communications, Development and Finance, will set the course for the continued growth and evolution of the Alumni Association during the coming years.

Additionally, the President of the Alumni Association (formerly referred to as the Chairman) will serve as a member of the Board of Directors during his or her two year term.

The Alumni Steering Committee deserves a lot of the credit for getting this document completed. Kristen Fraser, Peter Smith and Matthew Burger were tremendous assets in sculpting the

final draft of this document. We are excited about its implementation and look forward to seeing the organization grow with help from you, our constituency.

Regards

Brian C. Griffiths, WMC '00
President, MSL Alumni Association
WMC Class of '00

About "Caucus"

"Caucus" is a quarterly newsletter published through the Maryland Student Legislature Alumni Office.

The "Caucus" editing staff welcomes your submissions. Any submissions may be edited for length, clarity, or relevance at the discretion of the editorial board.

Submissions may be sent to the following address:

Maryland Student Legislature
Attn. Alumni Association
222 Main St. Suite 140
Annapolis, MD 21401-2005
www.msl.org/alumni

President Announces Appointments

MSL Alumni Association President Brian Griffiths is pleased to appoint Peter Smith as Acting Director of Communications and Matthew Burger as Acting Director of Development.

The Communications Director is tasked with the publication of the Caucus, upkeep of the Alumni Database, publicizing MSL events and providing content to the MSL Alumni Website.

Mr. Smith graduated cum laude from Salisbury State University in 1999, where he was named most outstanding senior in political science. He was a member of MSL from 1997-1999, where he served as president of Salisbury State's MSL delegation, and later as MSL Governor. After graduating, Pete continued his service to MSL as a member of the Alumni Steering Committee. Currently, Pete is a regulatory program analyst with the United States Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, DC.

The Director of Development is tasked with two major objectives; encourage growth through continued alumni and corporate giving, and disseminating information in an effort to promote and grow the organization.

Mr. Burger was a member of MSL from 1997-2001 and graduated with a degree in Political Science from Western Maryland College. He served as the Governor's Chief of Staff during the term of Jeremiah Kelly. Matt works as the Development Research Director at

Mount Saint Mary's College in Emmitsburg, MD.

Pete and Matt will see their terms expire when new Directors are elected at our annual Alumni meeting at the State House in Annapolis, MD, held in conjunction with the MSL Annual Session

MSL Alumni Association on the Web

The alumni association is now on the web! Visit our website at <http://www.msl.org/alumni> for all the information you need to stay informed regarding MSL Alumni Association news and events!

2002-2003 MSL Council of State

Governor- Timothy J. Daly(UMCP)
Lt. Governor- Jamie Goewey(UMCP)
Attorney General- Seth Kleiner (UMCP)
Secretary of State- Danielle Sartwell (Frostburg State)
Speaker of the Assembly- Seth Schraier(UMCP)

Upcoming Events

October 20th - Leadership Training Institute at McDaniel College

November 23-24th- Interim Assembly at Morgan State University

More details as they become available!

Governor's Message

Timothy Daly(UMCP), Governor

To say the summer went well for the Maryland Student Legislature would be an understatement. Instead, after hours of hard work by more than 25 dedicated students and a reinvigorated Board of Directors, the students of MSL have begun what we think will be one of the most successful years of the organization, if not the best!

Let me begin by first giving you an update as to what great things have already happened! Already we have started delegations at Johns Hopkins University, Washington College, and have rejuvenated delegations at UMBC and Towson!

In addition we are already well underway in planning for our major events of the fall, the Leadership Training Institute at renamed McDaniel College and the Interim Assembly at Morgan State University.

Also, for the first time in a long time, it looks like we will be having a two day LTI/IA in the spring at Mount St. Mary's college leading up to our premier event of Annual Session in Annapolis.

But more importantly, with the membership recruitment plan the Lt. Governor and I have put together, we are confident more than ever, that the elusive 100 MSL members at one event feat will be met this year! In fact, we are going so far to even suggest that it will happen at the Fall IA at Morgan State!

However, with the increased membership also come the financial burdens of any growing non-for-

profit organization. In years past, our creative budgeting and minimal fundraising has been able to suffice. However with increased demands as a result of intensive growth, our creativity in budgeting must now be directed towards fundraising.

In lieu of this however, after consulting with former MSL leaders, other non-for-profit executives and professional fundraising personal, the students have put together a finance plan that will not only generate enough income for this year, but in addition put in place the fundraising infrastructure to continually return to.

But our fundraising initiatives will not be successful without the unwavering support of the program's students, the board of directors, and even you as alumni! In fact, we need your help!

All in all, this year will prove to be a breakout year for the organization. With a steady flow of available income, an ever growing number of delegations and members to the organization, and a refocusing of the organization, will undoubtedly pay off in big ways for our current members in the form of the education they take away from this experience, the friends they make, and the contacts they establish

So, I hope you will stick around and monitor our progress. Because without your commitment, both as when you were a student, and now as an alumni, I would not be able to report the great position we are in now.

The Five-Year Plan, Part I: A Blurred Vision

Jeremiah Kelly, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors

A little over twelve years ago, Troy Simmons and a few of his colleagues initiated the Maryland Student Legislature. Thankfully, the organization has “passed” the test of time, but many of us can not say “with flying colors.” MSL has had its ups and downs, suffered greatly and greatly triumphed. Using the past twelve years as your criteria, how would one measure the success of MSL? I would argue that MSL would receive average marks, somewhere around a “C” or a “C+”.

Why such low grades you ask? I know your thinking that I am just a pessimist, disgruntled, or looking to fill space in this newsletter. The organization looks much the same as it did 12 years ago (not a good thing for those who like progress and stability). Trust me, I believe in the purpose and mission of MSL as much as the next guy, but having played an active role in the organization as Governor, and now as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, I can see where the blame should be placed: on the Board of Directors, both past and present.

Whose responsibility should it be to ensure that the MSL product is consistent, gains recognition, and continues to grow? Anyone with much sense would be able to tell you that that burden should fall in the laps of the Board of Directors. All of us MSL alumni understand this; students come and go; some are more effective than others; some

students turn things around; some students turn things around in the opposite direction.

One thing is constant with regard to MSL; the Board has always held the key to unlock the door leading to the stairway up to the next level. The Board has had close encounters with this door, even extended the key to its hole a few times, but never able to turn it. We continue to roam the hallway, exploring other doors that have lead us back to the same place, no better off. Why? Two reasons.

The first is very simple. The Board lacks a clear and common vision of the future of MSL. Some Board members think we have arrived, that we must simply improve our operations and things will take off. Others think we are missing vital pieces to the organizational puzzle, and seek to establish those. Others could care less. Can we see why the Board can never get the key turned? We have no consensus on what the correct door is.

The second is common problem facing every organization. The Board is simply human. All of its members over the years really do care a great deal about MSL. They have loved it since their college years and will die doing so. But a funny thing happens to human beings; its called life. Life seems to get in the way of the Board busting through that door and running up those steps. Board members have careers, spouses, and families. MSL is almost never the first priority in their lives (I am just a guilty as the next). We are comfortable when we see an outstanding Governor willing to shoulder the burden of the organization for a year, and

reluctant to pick up the slack when we have a struggling one.

This year, our new Chairman has asked that I begin to draft a Five-Year Plan for MSL. I sat down and thought to myself for a bit. I realized that I couldn't begin. Sure, I had my own goals for MSL and my vision for where MSL was going (what door I would like to unlock for those of you following this metaphor). But without agreement, how far would I get? Would my efforts be in vain? The answer is nowhere and yes! I explained my predicament to the Board in August, and boy did the discussion take off like a whirlwind. I could see the different visions thrown together, it couldn't help but cloud the vision of everyone in the room.

I am happy to report that the Board of Directors was able to meet to hash out these different images for the future of MSL. I think we have reached a level of consensus that will allow all the horses to pull the cart in the same direction (switching images, sorry.) The challenge will continue to be this: can **enough** members of the **Board rank MSL high enough** on their priority list to turn the key and ascend up the steps? If we have now agreed on which door to open, do we have it in us to climb?

I encourage all of you our there in "Alumni Land" to stay tuned for this baby, because its either gonna be really exciting, or the same old thing. If I have anything to do with it, I can promise you all something to be very proud of. If all the pieces continue to fall in place we can get there. I urge all of you, please try to get involved in some

part of MSL, help us get to that next level.

When it comes to the Five-Year Plan, the Board must have a common vision, and lead the charge through the door and up those stairs. Get involved, help is turn the key, unlock the door!

Stay tuned, I will share my progress and insights on the Five-Year Plan in subsequent installments.

Alumni in the News.

2 MSL alums are currently on the campaign trail: Board Member and Chief Operating Officer Dan Zubairi(UMBC '98) is a candidate for the Maryland House of Delegates as a Republican in District 16 in Montgomery County(Bethesda, Potomac and Chevy Chase).

Fellow MSL alum Kevin L. Bruening is also a Republican candidate for the House of Delegates in District 21 in Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties.

Looking for a few Good alums.

The alumni association is searching for candidates to fill the roles of Acting Director of Alumni Relations and Acting Director of Finance. Both of these vacancies will serve terms ending in April 2003.

If you are interested, or know of somebody who might be a good candidate for the position, please contact Alumni Association President Brian Griffiths at briancgriffiths@yahoo.com.

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Brian C. Griffiths, Publisher and Editor-
in-Chief

**Published under the Auspices of
the MSL Board of Directors:**

Ms. Susan McConkey, Chairman

Mr. Jeremiah Kelly, Vice-Chairman

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Mr. Timothy Daly, *2002-2003
Governor of MSL*

Mr. Brian C. Griffiths, *2002-2004
Alumni Association President*

Mr. Douglas Testerman, *Chief
Information Officer*

Mr. Dan Zubairi, *Chief Operating
Officer*

Mr. Michael Berlin

**ATTENTION
ALUMNI!**

**The MSL Alumni
Association is
looking for
Alumni Updates!
Send us your
name, year, and
school. Then tell
us what you're
doing now, where
you're living, how
much you miss
MSL and we'll
print it in next
quarter's edition.**

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