

Executive Committee Meeting
USNA Class of 2003
June 10, 2020

In Attendance

President John Reeves
Vice President Fernando Reyes
Treasurer Megan Barnett
Secretary Heather Selig
Correspondence Secretary Kenneth Michel
Class Member at Large – Lisa Cordonnier

Meeting Opened at 2105

Open discussion to talk about Board of Trustees

Overview of racist remarks by Jacksonville Board of Trustee member

AA called emergency meeting for today 6/10/2020 at 1300

All class of 2000 presidents met on Sunday 6/7/2020

Majority of Presidents participated: What is the discipline for individual? What training will occur? How to prevent another incident happening? What will be the repercussions going forward?

Board of Trustees is appointing a special committee to investigate the incident.

What was submitted on behalf of 2003? We, as a class, would like to see what was submitted and discussed at council of class Presidents.

We as a class must discuss systemic racism.

What do we do for prevention? The Alumni Association needs to have a concrete plan

The original AA statement missed the mark by not specifically calling out the words of CAPT Bethmann as racist.

We must ask hard questions and have time for self-reflection

We need to be better

The messaging from ADM Locklear missed the mark

Where is the statement of Byron Merchant, CEO and President of USNAAA?

We cannot do this in a vacuum – we must gather support from the class

Emphasize to the class our disappointment with the BOT's follow-up statement. Still need to look at the details closely.

Lisa Cordonnier contacted Naval Academy Minority Association on her own.

Lisa's original note to NAMA through FB Messenger late last night:

Me: Members of the Class of 2003 want to support NAMA. I have created a Twitter account to call out the omission by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. He failed us in leadership by not calling CAPT Bethmann out by name nor by calling his actions racist or emblematic of racism itself. We look forward to learning from you and supporting your efforts. I just learned today that this organization existed. Appalled by CAPT Bethmann's comments and his reference to your leadership - we are here to serve. (And I shared the first post from the class page - won't copy here).

NAMA's response: Thank you so much for your support. Racist actions and words must be called out and named so that those that spread them can be held accountable. Timidity or equivocation at a time like this will only send a signal of passive aggressive disapproval when it must be direct, pointed, and specific. Again, your support means a great deal. Together, we will navigate these challenging times.

Me: Well said. We hope to influence the USNAAA leadership to acknowledge the racism inherent in CAPT Bethmann's rant and perceptions as well as force them to acknowledge the need for resignations in leadership and organizational restructuring. Their credibility is lost and unsalvageable. And racist by omission in our view. Thank you so much. Looking forward to the path ahead. I have shared your statement with my class and to our Twitter audience. We hope the leadership follows your stellar example.

Recommendations for concrete actions:

- 1) Could we get a petition started to ask ADM Locklear to step down from his position? Recommended by Kenneth Michel
- 2) Recommend to fund minority support organizations for the Naval Academy outside of the Alumni Association as a class. Fundraise for a broad swath of organizations. Ask class for suggestions of organizations. How can we engender participation in a meaningful way?
- 3) Send a letter of alumni association stating that we will not be sending funds to them but rather to minority alumni organizations.
- 4) Ask for representation on the special panel that is being convened by the AA
- 5) Put a statement into Shipmate for next edition – what our plan is going forward; Can also craft an Op-Ed to place into various print publications

Campaign plan for change – become allies that are anti-racist

Meeting ended at 2149