

Maia Hinkle '05 Statement of Purpose

I consider it to be a privilege to serve on the Board of Directors for the NCAA and it is my hope that this statement of intent will persuade you to extend that privilege another three years. First, let me tell you that I had very little idea what it actually took to serve on the NCAA Board but I quickly found out as the Trespassing/ Alumni ID Card debacle came to a boil right about the time I was diving into my duties on the Board. During my first year of service I spent countless hours working with the Board, the Student Body President, Student Affairs, Office of the President and the Police to come up with a policy regarding Alumni presences on campus that would work for everyone. That was certainly a huge topic to take on with little experience on the Board. That same year I attended the 50th Reunion and I also hosted an alumni event at my home. I certainly enjoyed spending time with my New College family outside of Sarasota!

During my second two years on the Board I was more active but less physically present. I moved to Savannah, GA, which made travel a bit more expensive, and then we started a family, which made travel near impossible. During this whole time I only missed one Board meeting (a one-hour phone meeting when I was in the hospital having my baby). I have not been able to attend a meeting in person in almost two years. I am very aware that it is an expectation of the Board that members attend at least one meeting in person each year and I fully intend to be more present during the next three years.

During my service on the Board I have participated by serving on several committees including the Governance Committee, Student Research and Travel Grants Committee, Committee to Re-Think Reunions, Special Events Committee and the Young Alumni Involvement Committee. On the Governance Committee I work with other Board Members to develop tools to help the Board continue to be transparent and to hold its members accountable for their own participation/development. This past year we took on the task of changing the bylaws to reflect the Board's decision to move from an election to an appointment based system. If reappointed, I will continue to serve on the Governance Committee. In the few years that I have been on the committee we have turned from a reaction based to an action based committee which is definitely in the Board's best interest. From time to time we might overthink things but we take our duties very seriously and want to make everything as transparent and functional as possible.

My time on the Student Research and Travel Grants Committee has been the most frustrating and enjoyable experience on the Board. If reappointed, I will definitely continue on this committee for as long as they will have me! This Committee is of particular interest to me because it is what allows students with a strong research proposal to conduct their research that might not otherwise be doable. I read each proposal completely and offer my opinion and feedback in the comments prior to the Committee meeting. Without being on the committee, it is difficult to explain how far this committee has come (thanks Jeanne!) in the past 3 years. The meetings would be endless and we would go round and round on intangible topics such as "Does this art project deserve funding more than this biochemistry project?" During my time on the Committee we

have been able to come up with better guides for critiquing and appointing funding for these projects such as; is the application complete and filled out in a detailed manner; does the student have a strong academic background; are the letters of recommendation persuasive; is the project achievable; will the project benefit NCF? Because I work in the non-profit and largely grant-funded world, I feel that I am particularly helpful and critical of these proposals. Even with the proposals that do not get funding, I make sure I provide feedback with WHY they didn't get funding. The grant world is very critical and has specific requirements. I feel that my feedback on these proposals might be the most important way I can give back to the NCF community.

My job also requires that I understand fundraising and event planning (not just balloons vs. streamers). The initiative to get young alumni involved is very important to the school and the overall health of the Association. This Committee is very new and I feel that I can help a great deal in improving the number of gifts given, the amount of money raised and the overall continued participation of young alumni in events such as the Reunion and Parent's Weekend. I also plan to help the staff responsible for the annual gala to develop a strong sense of how to approach major sponsors and to establish this event as a premier fundraising event for the Foundation and Association.

I realize that this letter of intent is largely a recap of my activities on the Board for the past three years. I hope that the committee reading this realizes that I intended to show how much the success of the NCAA means to me as demonstrated by my past three years of service. I hope to use my knowledge of fundraising, event planning, major gift donation, organization and attention to detail to help the NCAA in every way possible. My time on the board has been a growing and learning experience for me as well! I feel that I am just hitting my stride within the organization and I hope that you will allow me the privilege of serving on the Board for another three years.