



FDMSAA – President’s Message 03 Open Discussion on Definition of FD Alumnus

07 November 2018

Brothers,

Over the past few months, I have spent a good amount of time talking with different stakeholders, both formally and informally, about some concerns they have regarding the definition of an FD alumnus. More so, I have met with our Principal, Mr. Ismael “Temo” Perez and some of his supporting counsel, and he has given me his blessing to proceed with the open discussion on the topic based on the process I presented to them.

Here is the process. On **Tuesday, November 20th, the FDMSAA will hold an open meeting for all alumni. This meeting will take place at 6:00pm at the FD Phoenix Center.** I am asking that at a minimum, one (1) representative from each and every class be present. More are welcome, but I want to ensure that each class is physically present to hear the discussion and give input when necessary, and be educated enough on the topic(s) to pass along to their respective classes. The current definition of an alumnus, as stated in our by-laws and verified by the school administration is (1) FDMS diploma, (2) two full years of attendance, or (3) granted an honorary status. The discussion will revolve around the latter two definitions. During this meeting, we will openly discuss the pros and cons of keeping the status quo, increasing the minimum attendance to three years or more, or reducing it to less than two years. In addition, we will need to properly define the honorary status, who or what body can grant it, and the length of time it is in effect. Currently, our by-laws state that honorary status is only for a period of 5 years, unless otherwise noted.

Once the discussion is complete, the goal is come up with the top three (3) “arguments” on what defines an alumnus of FDMS. After that, each class will have roughly two months to discuss amongst themselves what they feel best defines an FD alumnus. After the two months have passed, we will then hold a second meeting, which will be an official election of definition. Each class will receive one (1) vote, and we will democratically vote on what that definition will be.

EXAMPLE: the top 3 are: (1) status quo, (2) diploma, 3 years minimum, honorary status unlimited, or (3) diploma, 1 year minimum, honorary status to 10 years. Each class representative will vote for one of the three choices.

Once the votes are tallied, the results will be counted and this definition will then be presented to the school for approval and amended into our alumni by-laws and constitution, if necessary. A list will be updated and generated for every class based on this agreed and voted upon definition. However, this definition will not be all encompassing, and I anticipate a handful of individuals who do not fall within whatever the definition is, but whom their class feels should be considered an alumnus as well.

The next step is to form an “Alumni Board” made up of individuals who do meet the agreed upon definition. Each “decade” will have anywhere from 3-5 representatives from different classes. So, 1969 and below, 1970-1979, 1980-1989, 1990-1999, and 2000 and on. Five different age groups, each represented by 3-5 different classes. For all those individuals that do not meet the agreed upon definition, but whom their class feels should receive the same honor and privilege, it will then be up to the class to compile the information necessary and make an argument before the Alumni Board (at a later date) on WHY that particular individual should be given the same right and privilege as those who do meet the definition. The Alumni Board will hear all arguments for all the individual(s), and then deliberate and

decide on a case by case basis who makes the cut. Once the board decides on an individual, that individual can be no longer be brought up for discussion. The APPROVED names will then be submitted to the FDMS Administration for approval and inclusion in aforementioned list.

Bottom line: my intent is to put the responsibility on your class to argue and garner support for your views.

I know this is a lot of information to take in. The important thing to remember is step one -- the meeting on **Tuesday, November 20th at 6:00pm at the FD Phoenix Center**. If your class is not present or does not vote at the later meeting, then you can never say you weren't given an opportunity to give input and decide. For many years, we have debated this issue. It has caused a lot of negative perceptions and even a divide amongst us. As I had mentioned in a previous message, my goal is put this issue to rest once and for all, but I cannot do it without the valuable input of all classes from all ages. Together, and only together, can we truly unite and do what is best for our school and our organization. We may not all agree, but we will feel valued and confident in whatever we decide.

I look forward to meeting you again in the next few weeks.

Fortes in Fide,



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