

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MILLS COLLEGE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
February 18, 2015
6:30 – 9:00 PM
REINHARDT ALUMNAE HOUSE

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

President Lucy Do called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. There were 15 members in attendance and 1 in attendance via telephone.

Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were:

President: Lucy Do.

Vice-Presidents: Viji Nakka-Cammauf and Jennifer King.

Board Members: Marge Nicholson, Dawna Williams, Lynette Castille-Hall, Darice Balabanis, Skylar Crownover, Pierre Loving, Lillian Sahagun, Marina Simenstad and Gloria Fangon-Hitz. In attendance via telephone Catherine Ladnier.

Alumna Trustees: Melissa Stevenson-Diaz, Molly Fannon-Williams and Judith James.

Board members absent were: Governors Toni McElroy, Betty Lin, and Treasurer Susan Thomas.

Prior to the start of the meeting the Board of Governors met with college President Alecia DeCoudreaux for an update on the state of the college. DeCoudreaux felt the semester was off to a great start as student retention had improved this year over last. There had been a few changes to the President's cabinet and she is working to fill all positions. She has hired a consultant Jim Langley to look at the Office of Institutional Advancement for possible restructuring. Langley is also charged with looking at how to strengthen the role of alumni within the college. The goal is the strongest Office of Institutional Advancement program as possible. DeCoudreaux announced appointment of Chicora Martin as Vice President of Student Life. DeCoudreaux continues to look for a director for Career Services. DeCoudreaux has appointed Bob Allison interim Director of Finance.

The next guest speaker was Brian O'Rourke, Vice President for Enrollment Management. He brought with him staff members Vala Burnett, Shrim Bathey and Sherie Gilmore-Cleveland. Office of Admissions is not only looking at undergraduate enrollment and cost but graduate as well. 98% of students get some sort of aid, 40% of students are Pell Grant eligible. Vala Burnett spoke about the Admissions Alumnae Representative Program and provided some bullet points for the Governors. Anyone interested in becoming a representative should e-mail aar@mills.edu. Shrim Bethay continued discussing the AAR handout from a graduate perspective. O'Rourke finished the discussion with a focus on International recruitment. Obviously it is more expensive and many colleges have hired agents to do their recruitment abroad. Traditionally students have come from Hong Kong but the Middle East and China has become a new market. The Office of Admissions will subsidize faculty who are traveling abroad if they will spend some of their time recruiting to high schools and colleges.

II. BREAK

The meeting was called back to order at 8:05 pm

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Reports are given to the Governors in advance of the meeting in order to finish the meeting in the time allotted.

Report from Laura Gobbi, Senior Director of Alumnae Relations, taken out of order as Ms. Gobbi needed to leave early.

Gobbi reported that the regional clubs continue to be active. Attendance at events is increasing. Alumnae Relations continues to sponsor Career Conversation events for students to meet alumnae in key fields, March 4th will be the Arts, April 1 will be Business. Contact Nicole Vermeer if interested. Reunion is coming up quickly and representatives are still needed from many of the class years. Nikole Hilgeman-Adams is the point person for reunion.

President's Report. Approval of the minutes of December 10, 2014 Board of Governors meeting. Motion to approve the minutes by Governor Nicholson, seconded by Vice-President King. No discussion, vote taken, motion to approve the minutes of December 10 approved unanimously.

President Do announced that the summit between the AAMC and college has been postponed, hopefully after James Langley reviews the Office of Institutional Advancement for a possible restructure the summit will make more sense.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Susan Thomas was unable to attend the meeting but sent her report via President Do. The financial adviser from Morgan Stanley came to a Finance Committee meeting on February 10th and advised moving some assets out of a fund he had recommended last year, he want to buy into emerging markets. The Finance Committee approved this recommendation. The various AAMC committees have underspent this fiscal year to date.

Motion by Vice-President King to redact the names of the Board of Trustees nominees from the report of that committee. Seconded by Trustee Diaz. No discussion, vote taken, motion passed unanimously.

IV. REVIEW OF ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

Vice-President King presented a comprehensive hand out to guide the Governors on Robert's Rules of Order. Clarification as to when a motion is necessary and that a motion need not continue once made.

V. FORMULATION OF AD HOC COMMITTEE TO STUDY TELECONFERENCING

President Do asked if there were some Governors who would research various ways to communicate with Trustees and Governors who could not attend meetings in person.

Skype was mentioned but it has failings. We use a conference telephone but face-to-face would be better. Trustees Diaz and James volunteered as well as President Do.

VI. AAMC UPCOMING EVENTS

Phenomenal Women of Color – April 9th in Student Union

Pearl M – April 30th in Student Union

International Student and Faculty Dinner – May 6th at Reinhardt House

AAMC Annual Meeting – May 16th at Reinhardt House

Graduate Student Committee Ice Cream Social – to be determined

Finals Snacks – May 11th in Student Union

If anyone volunteers at reunion, Nikole Hilgeman-Adams will waive the registration fees.

Governor Nicholson asked permission to solicit reports from Clubs and Branches for reporting at Annual Meeting, approval given by Governors who felt the program was well received at 2014 Annual Meeting.

President Do asked for volunteers to help plan the 2015 Annual Meeting. Vice-President Nakka-Cammauf, Governors Williams, Balabanis and Nicholson volunteered.

President Do asked if the Governors felt the AAMC should sponsor a reception during reunion to honor the next elected Alumnae Trustee. A similar reception was hosted by the Alumnae of Color to honor Trustee Judith James and many felt the event was well received and successful. Motion made by Governor Fangon-Hitz to host such an event, seconded by Trustee Williams. Vote taken, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm by President Lucy Do

Submitted by Lesli MacNeil
February 23, 2015