

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

President Lucy Do called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. There were 16 members in attendance.

Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were:

President: Lucy Do.

Vice-President: Marge Nicholson.

Treasurer: Susan Thomas

Board Members: Pierre Loving, Lillian Sahagun, Toni McElroy, Dorothy Lawrence, Lenore Tate, Marina Simenstad, Catherine Ladnier, Lynette Castille-Hall, and Gloria Fangon-Hitz.

Alumna Trustee: Melissa Stevenson-Diaz.

Student Governor: Rachel Patterson.

Appearing by telephone conference was: Trustees Susan Ardisson and Judith James.

Board members absent was: Governor: Athena Yock-Davis.

The meeting began with AAMC President Lucy Do welcoming college President Alecia DeCoudreaux and asking her to update the Governors on what's happening with the college. President DeCoudreaux began with telling the Governors how many events happen on campus on a daily basis and how delightful most of them have been.

DeCoudreaux attended the Festival of Light and Dark on Monday, a jazz improvisational night on Tuesday, as well as midnight breakfast and will continue to attend events through the end of the week. DeCoudreaux went on to update the Governors on the academic changes that are occurring. The Dance Department worked to re-envision the dance major by reducing the number of required classes to be comparable with other colleges of similar size. The changes will allow more students to major in dance. Another benefit of reducing required courses in all majors is that it allows students to double major. DeCoudreaux is also looking at feasibility to endow the Books Arts program.

DeCoudreaux updated the Governors on the status of the reorganization of the Office of Institutional Advancement. At present there are 4 vacant positions of the 12 allocated and the hiring process is in full swing. OIA, alumnae and the college will continue to work on fundraising. DeCoudreaux would like to sponsor a donor appreciation night in January 2016.

DeCoudreaux then took questions from the floor and updated the Governors on the process of the presidential search and reported that as far as she knew it was on schedule to announce the new president by early spring.

## **II. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the Board of Governors meeting of October 14, 2015. Governor Ladnier moved to approve the minutes, Governor Castille-Hall seconded. Being no changes or additions to the minutes a vote was taken and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Student Governor and ASMC President Rachel Patterson was asked to give a short report. Patterson reported that the recent student concerns are around curriculum changes proposed and the status of the adjunct professors. The students are now focusing of looking for a way for the college to subsidize or provide child care as many more students are parents. The recent acts of violence in Paris and San Bernardino are also of concern in the students did not feel the college addressed their happening with the students. Patterson reported that other colleges sent e-mails to their students explaining protocols for these types of events as well as counseling services and Mills did not. There was a lack of healing space or healing resources to discuss the incidents. Patterson reported that the career services model should be earlier in the academic career. Kaiser Permanente is now running the health services at Mills and as such students are allowed 6 visits to a mental health professional.

## **III. PANEL DISCUSSION – ALUMNAE SUMMIT REVIEW**

Micheline Beam, Susan Brown-Penrod and Dawn Cunningham began a panel discussion as follow up from the November 7<sup>th</sup> Alumnae Summit. The AAMC provides a specific service that alumnae are looking for and expect. The alumnae have many diverse talents and could provide resources other than financial to the college but there is no specific volunteer coordinator even with the academic departments. Fundraising is a big issue with the college and should not be done outside of Office of Institutional Advancement. Some of the academic departments do their own fundraising as they are not aware it creates a conflict for OIA. The participants felt there needs to be a visioning statement that's enabling, not restrictive. The mission of the AAMC is not the same as the colleges, but there needs to be a shared vision in a framework to move the AAMC forward. The panel participants have agreed to participate in a committee, Chairperson Vice-president Nicholson, to work on a new agreement, potentially called an operating agreement. Also joining the committee are governors Fangon-Hitz, Tate, and Lawrence.

## **IV. BREAK 820 PM, CALLED BACK TO ORDER 8:32 PM**

## **V. AAMC STRATEGIC PLAN**

Due to the lack of time, this item was carried over for a future board meeting.

## **VI. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Susan Thomas reported that the annual meeting with the financial advisors from Morgan Stanley will be scheduled for the first week of February 2016. As usual, all of the members of the Board of Governors are invited. The Finance Committee met last week and is drafting a policy for committees to request increases to their budgets. At present there are no formal documents but there are philosophies in place that the Finance

Committee uses in making decisions. All committees are reminded to be thoughtful in spending their budgets and make expenditures that are fiscally responsible. Treasurer Thomas will be holding a workshop for the AAMC Committees on forming a budget. The Finance Committee also approved a budget increase in the amount of \$750 requested by the Alumnae of Color Committee.

Trustee Stevenson-Diaz made a motion to approve the Alumnae of Color Committee budget increase, motion seconded by Governor Tate, no further questions, vote taken, motion passed unanimously.

## **VII. NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**

Governor Loving reported that the Nominating Committee is soliciting applicants for Alumna Trustee as well as members of the Board of Governors. The offices of President and Treasurer of the AAMC are going to be open therefore candidates with certain skill sets would be desired to fill these positions. The process for electing the Alumna Trustee begins in January with an announcement in the Quarterly. Governor Loving will send to all the Board of Governors the responsibilities and requirements for each position as well as application forms in case a Governor has a candidate in mind. The Nominating Committee is looking to fill 7 positions. The Branches and Club Committee was also cited as a resource for potential candidates and Vice-president Nicholson will be contacting her regional clubs.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Governor Castille-Hall showed a photograph of a crystal bowl that would make a good farewell gift to college president DeCoudreaux. She sought comments from the Governors and will select from either an 8 1/2" diameter or 12" diameter bowl that would be engraved with "Remember Who You Are and What You Represent". In the near future Governor Castille-Hall will solicit donations from the governors to pay for the bowl.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Stevenson-Diaz, the motion was seconded by Treasurer Thomas.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm by President Lucy Do

Submitted by Lesli MacNeil  
December 16, 2015