

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MILLS COLLEGE  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING  
February 17, 2016  
6:00 – 9:00 PM  
REINHARDT ALUMNAE HOUSE

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

President Lucy Do called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. There were 14 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, Dorothy Lawrence, Lenore Tate, Marina Simenstad, Dawna Williams, Lynette Castille-Hall, and Gloria Fangon-Hitz.

Alumna Trustees: Susan Ardisson and Judith James.

Student Governor: Rachel Patterson.

Appearing by telephone conference was: Catherine Ladnier.

Board members absent was: Governors Toni McElroy and Lillian Sahagun, and Trustee Melissa Stevenson-Diaz

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 any topic of her liking. DeCoudreaux gave thanks to the AAMC Compact Committee striving to develop a new compact between the college and the AAMC and DeCoudreaux also thanked the Alumnae of Color Committee for working to endow a scholarship in her name; she was honored by their endeavor. When DeCoudreaux first came to Mills a scholarship was endowed in the name of her grandmother. The Lisser Hall renovation project has collected \$5.1M towards the \$8.325 M estimate. Lisser is the only capital project in the Strategic Plan. Curriculum changes are still evolving and still very much part of the Strategic Plan. Retaining and recruiting students as well as more flexibility in how the curriculum is delivered are key points. DeCoudreaux reported that the faculty is working hard to streamline courses and increase or continue academic quality. An example was the faculty redesigning the dance major. Money was saved by not having to hire as many adjunct professors. DeCoudreaux also reported that they have to diversify their revenue streams. Tuition is a big part of the budget but what else could be done? During the summer the campus is rented out to the Middlebury Language Schools, which brings 500 students to campus. An agreement was just reached with Education First to bring students on campus while school is in session, these are students looking to learn English. Marketing the facilities on campus is also an idea as well as continuing the discussions about Site 4, the mixed use facility on the corner of Seminary, near the freeway.

DeCoudreaux then took questions from the floor.

## **II. WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE WITH NEW OIA**

The Governors were introduced to new Alumnae Engagement Manager, Amber Morley by Nikole Adams. Kathy Duff, Acting Vice-President of Advancement was introduced as well. An organizational chart of was provided and the vacancies are being filled as quickly as possible. Alumnae Relations has absorbed the Alumnae Fund. Any function previously done by Alumnae Relations is still assigned to them. Amber is doing Class Agent and telephone outreach program. Nikole is the direct contact with reunion being a big part of her job. Reunion for classes ending in 1's and 6's is being designed now so any ideas should go to Nikole. The Alumna Advisory Committee is still inactive. Duff continued the presentation advising the Governors they are looking to hire people who will build the organization but a rebuild won't happen overnight. Vice-president of Advancement will probably be hired after the new college president; Duff will stay in the job until replaced. The staff of OIA has started cross training with Admissions and Career Services staff.

## **III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Trustee Ardisson moved that the minutes of the December 9, 2015 Board of Governors meeting be approved. Motion was seconded by governor Castille-Hall. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved unanimously.

## **IV. BREAK 7:23 PM, CALLED BACK TO ORDER 7:32 PM**

## **V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Do presented some memos on shared governance written by Trustee Kathleen Burke. Burke felt these were relevant to the new compact and wanted them shared with the Governors, would be sharing them with the college trustees at their meeting tomorrow. It was suggested to President Do that a member from the AAMC should be added to the Trustee's budget committee, Do agreed to bring that forward.

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

Susan Thomas presented the Treasurer's report, copy had been sent to governors before the meeting. Thomas requested budget information from all committees as she was preparing the committee budgets for the '16-'17 fiscal year. The Finance Committee is meeting with financial advisor for Morgan Stanley on Tuesday February 23<sup>rd</sup> at Reinhardt House.

## **VII. COMPACT UPDATE**

Vice-president Marge Nicholson updated the Governors on the status of the AAMC compact committee. 48 responses to the survey have been received and the email blast just went out earlier in the day. Nicholson felt there would be a challenge initiating a

partnership with the faculty and students. She provided the communication plan established by the committee. Nicholson also felt the board should take time to evaluate the responses to the survey. There are clear trends coming through. Alexa Pagonas and Dorothy Lawrence will be analyzing the data from the narrative part of the surveys. After Vice-president Nicholson's report on the compact, Governor Loving wanted to take a moment to speak about the use of Reinhardt Alumnae House. Loving had been researching the relationship between the AAMC, Reinhardt House and the college. There was a proposal to set up an ad hoc committee to make some decisions about Reinhardt House. There was a motion by Governor Williams to review and develop a plan moving forward with regards to Reinhardt Alumnae House. Motion was seconded by Governor Tate. No discussion, vote taken, motion passed unanimously.

#### **VIII. NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**

Governor Loving updated the governors on the search for candidates for alumna trustee and Governors to serve on the board. A soft copy report had previously been sent to the Governors. At present there are 4 candidates to the Board of Governors.

#### **IX UPCOMING EVENTS**

Phenomenal Women of Color on February 25. Pearl M on March 30.  
Governor Williams made a proposal for an event titled Women Rock, with an additional brunch before the main event. She will present to Finance Committee on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and if approved by Finance will solicit board approval via email.

Governor Castille-Hall reminded Governors to make their contribution towards the gift for President DeCoudreaux. She will be guest of honor at May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.  
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Governor Williams; the motion was seconded by Governor Simenstad.

Meeting adjourned at 9:29 pm by President Lucy Do

Submitted by Lesli MacNeil  
February 19, 2016