

Alumnae Association of Mills College
Board of Governors Meeting
December 7, 2016
5:30 – 9:30 pm
Reinhardt Alumnae House

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

President Viji Nakka – Cammauf called the meeting to order at 6:34pm. There were 17 members in attendance.

Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were:

President: Viji Nakka – Cammauf

Board Members: Lynette Castille-Hall, Gloria Fangon-Hitz, Adrienne Foster, Catherine Ladnier, Kirstyne Lange, Pierre Loving, Alexa Pagonas, Lilian Sahagun, Lenore Tate, Lucy Seereiter, Linda Stingly, Susan Thomas

Alumna Trustee: Judith James (via phone), Susan Ardisson (via phone), Yvonne Daniel

Student Governor: n/a

Absent: Dorothy Lawrence

President Nakka-Cammauf introduced our guests; President Hillman, Jeff Jackanicz, and Sharon. President Nakka – Cammauf then called for a moment of silence for Marge Nicholson.

The new governors began to introduce themselves. This includes: Alexa Pagonas and Linda Stingly and Lucy Seereiter.

President Elizabeth Hillman provided the board with a scope of the current leadership status of the college and the partnerships with UC Berkeley. She addressed the challenges across higher education as a whole. Many other schools are seeing a decrease in enrollment in the targeted traditional aged students. Mills is now a Hispanic serving institution at above 25%. Mills is also currently moving through the challenges; Pauline Oliveros' passing, the victims of the Oakland "Ghostship" Fire (includes the loss of an alum and many peers of students and staff), the political climate, questions around the sanctuary movement etc.

Jeff Jackanicz, VP of Institutional Advancement shared reflections of his first 100 days at Mills. Jeff admires the vitality of the Alum Community of Mills and hopes to continue to strengthen that partnership. He looks to continue to grow Mills to be a donor-centric institution, respond to the needs and pave a way for budget relief. Mills has signed on to be an Oakland Promise Champion; a cradle – to – career initiative aiming to triple the number of college graduates from Oakland in the next decade (<http://www.oaklandpromise.org/>).

Sharon Washington, exiting – Interim Provost shared her journey to and through Mills. She started in 2014 as a consultant and took on more as needed/asked by college leaders. Her highlights of her time at Mills, definitely the students, and pricing for the various grad programs. Challenges were working through the change to the Carnegie system and advancing the curriculum. Reviewing the cost –analysis in program offerings and additions and looking at how different departments can work more closely together. Study abroad is

back and there has been more improvement in cross registration and she created a taskforce for the UC relationship so that the partnership can sustain long – term.

II. PREDISIDENT’S REPORT

President Nakka-Cammauf gave the President’s Report and provided a hard copy for all governors as emailed ahead of the meeting.

III. ALUMNI OF COLOR COMMITTEE REPORT (AOCC)

Governor Castile – Hall gave the update of the AOCC. There will be an article out in the upcoming Quarterly highlighting the 25th Anniversary Celebration during the September 2016 Reunion.

IV. TREASURERS REPORT

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V. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Governor Loving reviewed that the ad-hock committee on Reinhardt Alumnae House was formed in February 2016.

VI. RAH REPORT

RAH was intentionally left out of the Compact as well as the MOA. Based on recommendation, Governor Pagonas will prepare a memo to President Hillman, copying Jeff Jackanicz with regards to further engage in depth discussions regarding the future of RAH. A draft will be presented by the committee in the February meeting. AAMC needs to develop a policy statement about RAH.

VII. NOMINATIONS TO FILL THE VACANCY OF VICE – PRESIDENT (remaining term)

The BOG discussed the need to fill the vacancy of Governor/former VP Nicholson’s position. Although, there are 2 VP positions available, one must be filled now and ideally a local Alum.

Marina Simonstead (former governor) was nominated by Governor Pagonas and seconded by Trustee Daniel. The vote was unanimous “aye” by the remaining 8 governors.

VIII. BOARD PARTICIPATION AND FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

President Nakka – Cammauf asked that the board begin increasing its involvement on campus for events and activities (ie Winter Celebration, Pearl M Dinner, Phenomenal Women of Color etc). The suggestion was to have a sign – up rotation of governors attending events.

All governors are asked to contribute to the Alumnae Association's endowment fund.

IV. RETREAT DATE AND SETTING

President Nakka-Cammauf emphasized that the board retreat is a priority and there was a suggestion for a location in Healdsburg at a cost of \$3,500 – 5,000, dates are still being discussed.

February 17 – 19, 2017 in Kenwood, CA

X. OTHER

Governor Loving requested a Trustee report at future meetings. Trustee Daniel supported this suggestion as an opportunity to talk about the updates for student body enrollment and retention as enrollment is currently down. Notions of confidentiality vs transparency as an issue and challenge for the alumna trustee report.

The Lisser Hall Campaign is almost completed and the partnership ahead with CAL is eagerly anticipated.

XI. Meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm by President Viji Nakka-Cammauf

Submitted by Lynette Castille – Hall, Adrienne Foster, and Kirstyne Lange
January 28, 2017