

**Alumnae Association of Mills College  
Board of Governors Meeting  
October 18, 2017  
6:30 pm to 9:15 pm  
Reinhardt Alumnae House**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Viji Nakka-Cammauf called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. There were 15 members in attendance and 2 members who participated by phone, constituting a quorum:

President: Viji Nakka-Cammauf  
Vice Presidents: Lynette Castille-Hall, Marina Simenstad  
Board Members: Dawn Cunningham, Gloria Fangon-Hitz, Adrienne Foster, Kirstyne Lange (via phone), Dorothy Lawrence, Pierre Loving (via phone), Alexa Pagonas, Lucy Seereiter, Linda Stingily, Lenore Tate  
Alumnae Trustees: Susan Ardisson, Yvonne Daniel, Ammie Felder-Williams  
Student Governor: Cindy Castillo, ASMC vice president  
Absent: Tara Singh, Susan Thomas

The following guests were invited to give presentations at the meeting: Beth Hillman, Mills College president; Maria Cammarata, vice president for finance and administration and treasurer; Nikole Hilgeman Adams, alumnae relations and annual fund director; and Adam Saven, co-founder and CEO of PeopleGrove.

President Nakka-Cammauf requested a change in the order of the agenda so that Nikole Hilgeman Adams and Governor Castillo could make their presentations first. Governor Pagonas offered a motion for the change, which was seconded and carried.

**II. REPORT FROM NIKOLE HILGEMAN ADAMS**

Adams was thanked by the governors for her work on Reunion. She reported on new additions and promotions in the Alumnae Relations Office, which is now fully staffed, and gave an overview of the responsibilities Office of Institutional Advancement. Adams left the meeting at the end of her presentation.

**III. REPORT FROM CINDY CASTILLO**

Governor Castillo provided an overview the new ASMC/AAMC initiative to support undocumented and first-generation students, which would launch with a networking event on November 4.

**IV. REQUEST FROM BETH HILLMAN AND MARIA CAMMARATA**

President Hillman and Vice President Cammarata provided an overview of the College's financial situation and requested that the AAMC extend a line of credit. This line would help Mills support new initiatives that are part of the College's Financial Stabilization Plan, ease cash-flow fluctuations, and serve as a strong signal of the AAMC's commitment to support Mills. The terms of this line of

credit, and the interest paid by the College, would be similar to those of a line of credit from a bank. A decision on this request, said Hillman and Cammarata, would not be needed until December.

Hillman and Cammarata left the meeting, and discussion ensued. Governor Foster made a motion for the meeting to enter a closed session. The motion was seconded and carried.

## **V. PRESENTATION ON PEOPLEGROVE BY ADAM SAVEN**

President Nakka-Cammauf introduced Saven, explaining that the College was encouraging the AAMC to consider launching an alumnae-student mentoring program built on PeopleGrove's online platform. She said that discussion of this possibility would be on the board's agenda for its December meeting. Through a PowerPoint presentation, Saven summarized PeopleGrove's key features, showing examples from Wellesley College's mentoring program, The Hive, which utilized PeopleGrove.

## **VI. KEY MOTIONS AND VOTES**

Governor Ardisson moved to approve the meeting's agenda. The motion was seconded and carried.

Governor Foster moved to approve the minutes of the May 10 meeting of the Board of Governors. The motion was seconded. Corrections to minutes were proposed and the motion was carried to approve the minutes as amended.

Foster offered the following motion in response to the request from Hillman and Cammarata:

To agree in principal to support the college financially after additional review and recommendations from appropriate legal, professional, and financial counsel. The recommendations will be brought back to the Board of Governors at its next meeting. This may be a special meeting if needed.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Ardisson moved to approve the 2017 Memorandum of Collaboration and Agreement between Mills College and the Alumnae Association of Mills College (the 2017 MOC). The motion was seconded and carried.

President Nakka-Cammauf presented the new list of committees of the Board of Governors, developed during the board's September retreat. She offered a motion to approve the list of committees, including the addition of three new committees (Reinhardt Alumnae House, Volunteer Development, and Communications/Marketing/Fundraising) and the change of name of the Educational Outreach Committee to the Lifelong Learning Committee. The motion was seconded and carried with one abstention.

The board nominated governors to serve on the Executive Committee and voted on the nominations. Nakka-Cammauf reported that Governors Loving and Pagonas and Alumna Trustee Ardisson were voted in.

During the voting, the meeting reached its time limit (9:00 pm) and a motion was seconded and carried to extend the meeting by 10 minutes.

## **VII. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE ACTION ITEMS AND OTHER ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR**

President Nakka-Cammauf urged governors to sign up to attend events. She asked that any questions about the line of credit request be submitted within one week.

A number of governors expressed interest in improving the meeting procedures of the Board of Governors and its committees, which may involve trainings on process.

During this discussion, a motion was seconded and carried to extend the meeting by another 5 minutes.

Governor Daniel reported on her meeting with the executive committee of the Alumnae of Color Committee. They discussed the process for appointing the committee's leadership and the structure of committees and subcommittees.

Governor Pagonas suggested that the Bylaws Committee review the 2017 MOC to make sure the AAMC bylaws are in compliance with the MOC.

Governor Stingily, as chair of the Nominating Committee, asked for input on what skill sets new governors and alumnae trustees should have.

Nakka-Cammauf said she would send possible dates for a board retreat in the spring. Several governors recommended that the retreat agenda be structured ahead of time and include a focus on meeting process and professional development for governors.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded and carried at 9:15 pm.