

Alumnae Association of Mills College  
Board of Governors Meeting  
September 24, 2020  
5:00 – 7:00 pm  
Teleconference

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

President Viji Nakka – Cammauf called the meeting to order at 5:03pm. There were 19 members in attendance via phone, with 2 absent.

Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were:

President: Viji Nakka – Cammauf

Vice Presidents:

Treasurer: Lucy Seereiter

Board Members: Debra Connick, Dawn Cunningham, Debby Campbell Dittman, Myla Granberry, Christina Hannan, Miki Hong, Courtney Long, Alexa Pagonas, Cherlene Wright, Ellen Hines, Catherine Ladnier, Ari Wolf, Ferhiz Dinshaw, Pam Roper, Kristen Oliver

Alumna Trustees: Adrienne Foster, Deborah M. Wood,

Absent: Tara Singh (trustee), Gwen Foster

**II. COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

President Hillman reported on the following items: 1) the history of the partnership with UC Berkeley, 2) plans for deepened partnership, 3) Mills' financial status, and 4) the Black Lives Matter art installation.

Under item 1), President Hillman described the history of the partnership going back to cross enrollment programs. In 2017, a taskforce including faculty and administrators from both Mills and Berkeley looked at ways the institutions could complement each other. The taskforce successfully developed housing solutions so that Berkeley students could live at the Mills campus. The taskforce also considered STEM program collaboration. Berkeley's legal team concluded that the program would be discriminatory without a comparable STEM program for men. Mills argued that the entire world is a program designed for men, but unfortunately plans ended at this point. Plans for deepened partnership accelerated when leadership at Berkeley approached Mills proposing a more integrated collaboration. Mills then had conversations with other UCs and with Berkeley's chancellor, Carol Crist, who graduated from Douglass College (the women's college of Rutgers University, a public institution) as part of its due diligence. Berkeley and Mills (specifically, provost Chinyere Oparah) are reviewing programs for both institutions to inform what happens next and to avoid duplicating programs. Thus far, Berkeley is interested in Mills' opportunities for community engagement and as a place that emphasizes both social justice and an intimate learning environment. The two Schools of Education are an example of how our programs can complement each other given that Mills' School emphasizes practice while Berkeley's School is theory-heavy.

Under Item 2), what happens next will ultimately be determined by the Board of Regents, with input from Mills and Berkeley. President Hillman believes this deepened partnership will give Mills students more opportunities and give Mills sustainability as an educational institution that promotes women's empowerment, gender equity, and racial justice. Mills College is currently not sustainable as an independent college.

Under item 3), President Hillman anticipates a deficit of \$14.5 million. The most recent census reports 961 students, which is a 14% decrease from last year but slightly more than expected. 175 students are on campus, which is fewer than expected. The demographic breakdown indicates 65% students of color and 35% white students. The VP of Enrollment and Marketing is leaving, and the role will not be filled due to the hiring freeze. Rather, job responsibilities will be reallocated to other members of the administration. Public Safety will now be under the purview of Dean of Students Chicora Martin. The College also hopes to recognize front line service workers (such as public safety officers and those in Residential Life) and at ways to support faculty who are also parenting.

Under item 4), President Hillman concluded by describing a Black Lives Matter art project by Mills MFA students that will be at the front gate. The art project will include a "beautiful set of line drawings of plants, both native and invasive" in acrylic vinyl. The project is funded by donations, so President Hillman is hopeful that AAMC can donate to the project since the cost will be \$15,000 and so far \$11,000 has been raised.

## **II. KEY MOTIONS AND VOTES**

A motion to approve the agenda was seconded and carried.

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 29<sup>th</sup> Board of Governors meeting was seconded and carried.

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 24<sup>th</sup> Board of Governors meeting was seconded and carried.

Motion to approve \$1,000 from the Gibney fund towards the BLM art project is made by President Nakka-Cammauf, seconded by Kristen Oliver, and carried with all in favor.

## **IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORTS**

Report submitted. President Nakka-Cammauf is grateful to continue to be able to be on campus and described several events such as the writers salon. She applauded the work done by Governors Alexa Pagonas and Dawn Cunningham, and the Ad Hoc and Communications committees, and noted that the recent townhall meeting with President Hillman and alumnae was a testament to their work. She also noted that Governor Cherlene Wright did a wonderful job of responding to questions and concerns posted in the chat box during the townhall, and noted that Governor Wright also assisted during Orientation. President Nakka-Cammauf noted

the recent deaths of alumnae Leah MacNeil and Peggy Woodruff, and leads the Board of Governors in a moment of silence to honor them.

## **V. COMMITTEES MEMBERSHIP/PROJECTS-UPDATES**

AOCC. Report submitted.

AWARDS COMMITTEE: Report submitted.

COMMUNICATIONS and MARKETING: Report submitted.

TOWNHALL REPORT – Dawn Cunningham reports that an online video will be sent to all alumnae in October in the eUcalyptus newsletter, and notes that there may be another townhall this Fall.

MILLSCONNECT – report submitted. In March the 3 year contract will expire. We will need to make a decision about renewing it.

GOVERNANCE REPORT: Report submitted.

TRAVEL COMMITTEE: Report submitted.

TREASURERS REPORT: Report is submitted.

COLLEGE FINANCIAL REVIEW AD HOC COMMITTEE: N/A.

Adjourns at 6:44pm

Submitted by Courtney Long  
November 7, 2020