

Alumnae Association of Mills College  
Board of Governors Meeting  
November 11, 2020  
5:00 – 7:00 pm  
Teleconference

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

President Viji Nakka – Cammauf called the meeting to order at 5:47pm. There were 16 members in attendance via phone, with 5 absent.

Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were:

President: Viji Nakka – Cammauf

Vice Presidents:

Treasurer:

Board Members: Debra Connick, Dawn Cunningham, Ferhiz Dinshaw, Gwen Foster, Myila Granberry, Christina Hannan, Ellen Hines, Miki Hong, Courtney Long, Kristen Oliver, Alexa Pagonas, Pam Roper, Cherlene Wright.

Alumna Trustees: Adrienne Foster, Deborah M. Wood,

Absent: Debby Campbell Dittman, Catherine Ladnier, Lucy Seereiter, Tara Singh (trustee), Ari Wolf

**II. COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

President Hillman presented on 4 items: 1) Enrollment Challenges 2) Finances 3) UC Berkeley Discussions.

Under Item 1), Enrollment Challenges. Mills experienced a 15% drop in enrollment. The decline was steeper for transfer students and larger than the decline found in other independent colleges. The departure of VP of Enrollment Audrey Tanner has meant that Enrollment will now be under the purview of our provost and Chief Academic Officer (Dr. Chinyere Oparah). Outside experts report that when comparing 2018 and 2019, Covid has led to enrollment increasing for rural / small town colleges, significantly declining for large and medium sized cities. When asked what was optimal, President Hillman said “full housing,” which would mean 800 students on campus. She adds that there were 1300 enrolled in when she first came to Mills. The goal, which was never reached, was to enroll 2000. We currently have 960. Under Item 2), Finances. Mills projects a \$14-15 million deficit. The sale of the Shakespeare folio was almost \$10 million (a world record sale price for any piece of literature). Mills is estimated to get about \$8.6 million and “will make a tremendous difference for us. Our budget will be better as a result.” Additionally, the Board of Trustees increased the endowment draw from 5% to 7%. President Hillman notes that many other institutions are increasing their draw. There are no planned layoffs, but there is still a hiring freeze. Stipends were given to front line workers, and employees who are parents were given the ability to work half-day once a week. Adjunct parents were given stipends. Under Item 3), Status UC Berkeley Discussions. President Hillman

tells us that conversations are still preliminary. She hopes to be able to provide information at the end of the academic year.

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

A motion to approve the agenda was seconded and carried.

A motion to approve the minutes of the September minutes Board of Governors meeting was seconded and carried "as amended".

A motion to adjourn the meeting is made, seconded, and carries.

## **III. PRESIDENT'S REPORTS**

President Nakka-Cammauf reports on \_\_\_ items: 1) Campus, 2) International Students, and 3) Meetings. Under Item 1), Campus. Visits to the campus are allowed if a form is completed. Under Item 2), International Students. President Nakka-Cammauf attended an International Students Forum with Dean of Students Chicora Martin. All international students who applied for hardship funds have received their funds. Under Item 3) Meetings. President Nakka-Cammauf reports that trustee meetings and meetings with the President continue once a month. She also joins OIA meetings and has learned that we are not on target for fundraising goals.

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

AOCC. Report submitted. Myila Granberry notes upcoming Zoom events including the memorial service for Peggy Woodruff, '58 on November 14<sup>th</sup> and a Kwanzaa celebration on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Governors Granberry and Foster took part in the interview for the new Student service coordinator for SAW.

AWARDS COMMITTEE: Report submitted.

COMMUNICATIONS and MARKETING: Report submitted. Dawn Cunningham encourages everyone to look at the online store. We've had 57 orders since launch. There was a rush on Pearl M pins and we've now depleted our inventory. We are now taking pre-orders.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Report submitted.

TRAVEL COMMITTEE: Report submitted. Co-Chair Foster reports planned trips for 2022. She encourages everyone to take part in the survey (link is embedded in the report) so that the committee can receive feedback. Co-Chair Wood described some locations they are considering, such as domestic trips to New Orleans and Alaska.

TREASURERS REPORT: N/A

COLLEGE FINANCIAL REVIEW AD HOC COMMITTEE: N/A.

Adjourns at 6:49 pm

Submitted by Courtney Long  
December 15, 2020