

Alumnae Of Color Committee Annual Report

May, 2022

Mission Statement: *To foster retention and recruitment of alumnae, students, faculty, and administrators of color; to serve as a force for change, confronting racism, prejudice, and discrimination; to support a thriving multicultural Mills community where people of color are valued and empowered as full participants.*

AOCC met monthly except for November and December, 2021, and May, 2022. We held one in-person/Zoom hybrid meeting (September); all others have been Zoom meetings. This has enabled alums outside the Bay Area to participate.

AOCC Meetings offered:

- Updates on Board of Governor and Board of Trustees meetings
- Updates on AOCC endowed DeCoudreaux scholarship
- Updates on Mills/Northeastern merger
- Updates on AAMC lawsuit against Mills College and mutual dismissal
- Discussion of anti-lawsuit Special Town Hall (February 8, 2022)
- Discussion of anti-merger newspaper articles and Change.org petition
- Discussion of AOCC diversity and inclusion strategies and how they might be strengthened, in response to concerns expressed by attendees.

AOCC student-focused activities

Holiday Gathering (November 13, 2021) co-sponsored this year by AOCC and Mills Ethnic Studies Department. The gathering included a delicious dinner that was partially potluck and partially catered for approximately 30 students, alumnae, and faculty in a welcoming, supportive environment.

Kwanzaa (December 6, 2021): co-sponsored by AOCC, Black Faculty & Staff, and the Black Student Collective. This was a hybrid in-person/Zoom celebration led by faculty, students, and alumnae and attended by about 40 people from the Bay Area and other places in the country.

Black History Month (February, 2022). AOCC members joined the Black Student Collective and Black Faculty & Staff in planning a variety of Black History Month activities and events.

Phenomenal Women of Color Celebration (April 20, 2022): This was AOCC's third Zoom celebration. Nearly 50 people attended – honorees and their families; AOCC members; AAMC members; AAMC BOG members.

The 2022 Phenomenal Woman of Color is Dr. Toni McElroy (BA '83, MA '05, EdD '13). In addition, eight seniors nominated by faculty or staff were celebrated, and all seniors of color graduating this spring were recognized.

ASR/AOCC Mini-Care-Package Project (March, 2022): AOCC partnered with the AAMC Alumnae Student Relations Committee by sharing unspent funds from our annual budget to purchase food and Mills "swag" items and helping to fill bags that were distributed to 700 students on campus during midterms.

Alumnae of Color Endowed Scholarship in Honor of Alecia A. Decoudreaux: The scholarship was highlighted in the Spring, 2022 *Mills Quarterly*. The Mills College Financial Aid Office made awards to three students from the fund for the 2021-22 academic year. Twelve undergrad and graduate students of color have received awards in total, and despite not being able to host any annual fundraising events, such as the jazz concerts, due to the pandemic, AOCC, in collaboration with the Mills College Office of Institutional Advancement raised over \$80,000 this year (a grant of \$75,000 and \$5,433 from individual alums).

AOCC members' invited participation in AAMC and Mills planning activities

- Assisted in the development and administration of a survey for AAMC members regarding next steps for the AAMC.
- Led a team to count responses to a poll administered at the AAMC Annual Meeting (September, 2021), and another poll mailed to alums before the Special Town Hall (February, 2022).
- With the Office of Alumnae Relations, co-led a series of Zoom discussion groups with other alums to identify those areas where alums want to stay engaged with Mills College at Northeastern University.
- Participated in focus groups regarding planning of the Mills Institute
- Participated in a focus group to develop a job description for the position of Executive Director, Mills Institute
- Participated as workgroup members in three summits intended to focus on the future of AAMC.

Meeting Attendance

Attendance at AOCC monthly meetings this year has ranged from approximately 12 to over 30 participants. The AOCC Executive Committee is aware that other committees do not have such large regular participation, and while we are pleased with the level of interest, we are exploring whether this is manageable over time.