

AAMC Branch/Club Liaison Committee
First Quarter, 2015 Report

Mission:

The AAMC Branch-Club Liaison Committee provides leadership to the AAMC Board of Governors (BOG) in its relationship with AAMC branches and clubs. The BOG partners with the Mills College Office of Alumnae Relations to build a strong, active global network of Mills alumnae who have positive feelings about Mills College and the AAMC.

Committee Chair(s)/Members:

Chair, Marge Nicholson. Members: BOG members - Marina Simenstad, Judy James, Lynette Castille-Hall. Non-BOG members: Kirie Lange, North Bay Club; Dalia Cuenca, Palo Alto Area Mills College Club.

Scheduled Meetings:

The committee meets approximately eight times a year by telephone conference call on a schedule to be determined. The committee met this quarter on January 12 and February 9, 2015. The next meetings are March 9 and April 13, 2015.

Requested Action:

- Annual Meeting: The committee requests that the Board of Governors at its February 18 meeting approve a request to highlight the work of branches and clubs at the Annual Meeting on May 16 with a format to be worked out building on last year's successful event.

Accomplishments:

- Holiday Teas: The committee encouraged members of the Board of Governors to attend branch and club holiday teas held in California. At least one and in some cases two or three governors attended each of the teas: Palo Alto, East Bay Branch, San Francisco, Orange County, and Marin. In addition, each of our non-Board committee members attended a tea. Thanks to all!

Action Items In-Progress:

- Local networking-social event: We are collaborating with Caitlin McGarty on a networking/social event to be held now on Saturday, February 28 at Reinhardt House for leaders of local branches and clubs, designed to facilitate information sharing and dialogue. The committee will share the cost of lunch with AR. We hope this event will spur other events where leaders from clubs and branches can dialogue and learn from one another.
- Club-Branch Visit Program: Governors - please remember to advise the Chair of the B/C Committee of your upcoming trips to places where there are branches and clubs – both local and out of the area. She will assist Governors, as necessary, in connecting with alumnae. We are exploring the possibility of connecting with alumnae from geographic areas where there are no clubs and branches. We will have a full report for the May meeting of visits that have occurred this program year.

Action Items Pending:

- Postponed - Mid-year check-in with branches and clubs: Due to OIA Vice President Tanya Hauck’s resignation and the cancellation of the Summit for February, we did not proceed with a mid-year check-in with branches and clubs. The purpose of the check-in would have been to share BOG priorities and activity and request mid-year reports that could be shared with other branches and clubs. We still think it is important to have more frequent strategic communication between the B/C Liaison Committee and branches and clubs and among clubs and branches. After Board regrouping, we will now target our communication for program year-end reports.
- Ongoing:
 - Dialogue with branch/club contacts to identify their greatest needs and how we might- over time - be a resource. e.g.
 - i. Finding effective ways to engage alumnae, especially younger alumnae
 - ii. Reaching out to students
 - iii. Funding activities – and finding new ways to do fund-raising
 - iv. Supporting career networking
 - v. Other?
 - Continue conversation about how best to use our budget to support clubs and branches. Current ideas: After splitting the cost of lunch with AR for the local networking/social event, reimburse first-responding clubs and branches up to \$50 for food for happy hours targeted to bring together younger alumnae. Possibly contribute toward the senior gift as a statement that involvement with Mills can continue after graduation through AAMC and branches and clubs.
 - Explore places where branch-club year-end reports can be posted electronically and available to anyone interested in seeing them.
 - Partner with Nominations Committee and Alumnae Awards Committee to involve branch and club members in making nominations for alumna trustee, members of the BOG and alumna awards; also encourage voting for alumna trustee.
 - Continue discussion of what do to with information and suggestions we get from branches and clubs– specifically how to share information with appropriate others.
 - Explore how we might use our resources – and partner with the Office of Alumnae Resources – to write “how-to guidelines” to assist clubs and branches – like how to plan a successful event.
 - Explore partnering with the Alumnae-Student Relations Committee, the Graduate Student Alumni Relations Committee, and others to connect with the graduating class – UG and grad – and build interest for connection to Mills generally and involvement with branches and clubs.

Expenditures in 1st Quarter:

None

Report submitted by: Marge Nicholson, Chair, Branch-Club Liaison Committee