

To: Board of Governors
From: Nominating Committee Chair, Alexa Pagonas
Re: Report on January 2022 Poll Results
Date: March 16, 2022

Summary of Events:

In the Fall of 2021, a petition was brought forth to the Governors "demanding to be heard" as per the AAMC Bylaws. Over 450 alumnae signed the petition. In addition to wanting to be heard, the petition asked that the Governors withdraw from the current litigation against Mills College and to agree to never sue Mills College again. The spokesperson for the petitioners was Melissa Stevenson Diaz. Ms. Diaz requested AAMC President Viji Nakka-Cammauf conduct a poll of all alumnae regarding the two issues brought forth by the petitioners. President Nakka-Cammauf, with the authority of the Executive Committee, agreed to poll all alumnae. Per Ms. Diaz' request, the poll would be conducted by mail, including requiring the ballot to have the voter's alumnae ID number upon it.

It should be noted that petitioners, Ms. Diaz, and the alumnae community at large were notified via the letter that went out in January 2022, thru individual conversation, and via announcement at an AAMC Town Hall that the poll results were not legally binding but to advise Governors. For a binding vote to occur, a change to the bylaws would be required, and petitioners did not wish to do that. Additionally, as the lawsuit was ended in early January 2022, many Alumnae did not feel the poll was relevant in February.

At the February Town Hall, some of the alums speaking on behalf of the petitioners expressed vague concerns about voting and fairness in counting. No specific allegations were made. This was confusing as the AAMC, BOG, and Nominating Committee have always been committed to fair elections and transparency in the process.

Counting of votes falls under the authority and duty of the Nominating Committee. In late January, the Chair of the Nominating Committee had contacted all committee members asking about availability to come to campus to count ballots. It was agreed that the counting would be scheduled sometime after polling and most likely within the first two weeks of March. Around this time, President Viji Nakka-Cammauf, responding to concerns from the Town Hall and petitioners, invited alumna Micheline Beam to witness the counting of the ballots to assuage any concerns.

In early February, some but not all members of the nominating committee received an email from Ms. Beam where she asserted that "*The question of the integrity of this poll and count is already in question, so we need to be sure that there will be no impropriety or questions once the results are presented*" – although she offered no insight or fact-based allegation. Ms. Beam stated that President Nakka-Cammauf asked her to take over the counting of ballots and invited the

nominating committee members who lived locally to come to campus to count the poll results and Chair Pagonas to provide refreshments.

In mid-March, unbeknownst to Chair Pagonas and at least two other members of the nominating committee, Ms. Beam arranged with two nominating committee members to meet on campus and count the poll responses. This process was highly irregular and extraordinary – but the Chair recognizes we are living thru an extraordinary period. The two members of the nominating committee, Governor Myila Granberry and Ms. Benita Harris, are exemplary leaders of the highest integrity. Like the Chair, Ms. Beam is highly trained in election polling and counting. So while irregular, there is no reason to believe the results are anything but factual and accurate.

Therefore, without any hesitation, the results as reported by those in attendance are:

Prepared March 15, 2022 and submitted to President Viji Nakka-Cammauf on March 16, 2022

Report on results of poll voting regarding whether or not AAMC should withdraw from further lawsuits and cease funding for any lawsuits.

Poll Questions:

A/ Do you agree that the AAMC should withdraw from any lawsuits against Mills College immediately?

B/ Do you agree that all AAMC funding for any lawsuit against Mills College should cease immediately?

369 alums voted:

Yes: 217 for both questions

No: 54 for both questions

Contested Votes: No Mills ID, no name on ballot, no ability to verify voter. These votes were not counted.

Yes: 73 for both questions

No: 19 for both questions

Split votes: Question A: Yes: 3

Question B: No: 3

Full report forthcoming that will include comments written on or attached to vote.

Poll Counters:

Micheline Beam

Myila Granberry

Benita Harris