

Metro State University
Alumni Association Board Meeting

July 26, 2022, 5:30-7 p.m., Saint Paul Room, New Main

Members attending in-person: Amanda Clark, Tom Krueger, Scott Pilgram, Ryan Ringwelski

Members attending via Zoom: Brittanie Aune, Deidra Isaac, Thulani Jwacu, Fidelis Odozi, Shahbaz Shah

Members not attending: Salman Mian, Nancy Uden, Shanasha Whitson

Guest: Joseph Ellis

Staff attendees: Kristine Hansen, Rachel Hughes, Noriko Ramberg

Kristine Hansen convened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Hansen introduced Joseph Ellis '19 (Honorary), incoming Foundation Board chair. Ellis thanked the Alumni Board members for their service and looks forward to the collaboration to advocate for Metro State. Ellis is invited to attend future Alumni Board meetings.

President Arthur was unable to join the meeting due to traveling to Mississippi to seek federal funding that might be available for the Cyber Security Center.

Approval of committee notes

Board members reviewed the committee notes prior to the board meeting. Motion to approve the committee notes moved by Shahbaz Shah, seconded by Scott Pilgram, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Office updates by Kristine Hansen

- Vice President Rita Dibble has been on an extended leave and will officially leave the university at the end of September.
- Hansen shared the words of gratitude from 2021 Alumna of the Year, Steve Campos '17, and 2021-2022 Emergent Alumna of the Year, James Houston '16, in response to the committee's selection of the awards.
- The office is planning a volunteer recognition and celebration on October 6. Campos and Houston will also be recognized for their awards at that time. Watch for the invitation.

Presentation of officer slate by Ryan Ringwelski:

The Executive Committee recommended the following members for the FY23 officers:

- Nancy Uden as President
Background—The Board originally planned to ask Samuel Farrand, then vice president, to take over the presidency at the end of Nancy Uden's two-year presidential term. Due to Farrand's mid-term departure, the Executive Committee requested Uden to continue the presidency for another year to maintain continuity of the Board's business, to mentor the vice president for the subsequent presidency term, and to ensure a smooth transition.

Uden graciously agreed to assume the additional year of presidency to assist the Executive Committee in defining the President's role and how they can delegate some responsibilities and accountability to the rest of the members.

- Amanda Clark as Vice President
Clark served on both the Communications Committee as well as the Career Resources Committee in the past.
- Fidelis Odozi as Engagement Officer
Odozi has already been working with engagement through committee work, and therefore, is a great fit for the position.

Board members will receive a Survey Monkey link from Hansen after the meeting to vote on the officer selection. Please vote by July 29.

The Executive Committee hopes the officer slate be an open election process in the future, where everyone can nominate each other or self-nominate for officer positions. This can be achieved once we meet more often in-person and get to know each other more.

The Executive Committee will work on creating an organizational chart to indicate who is involved in what committees, what their roles are, and how the committees report back to the Board.

New board member voting results by Ryan Ringwelski:

Ringwelski thanked Scott Pilgram and Shahbaz Shah for their involvement in interviewing the candidates. All seven candidates were voted on and approved unanimously by the Board. They are:

- Matt Christenson '12
- Matt Moe '12
- Eric Rios '15
- Munira Maalim Isaq '19
- Bryan Newman '15
- Betsy Salvatore '17
- Darrel Young '20

Ringwelski was impressed with the breadth of experience and diversity in the pool of candidates. The newly-approved board members will be notified of their official membership and will be invited to the August 5 social and the board retreat in September/October.

Membership Committee approached this year's recruitment process differently. The committee:

- 1) created the application—questions based on the membership qualifications.
- 2) cast the application for board membership through LinkedIn and also encouraged current non-board committee members to consider membership.
- 3) offered multiple information sessions for those who were interested in the membership.
- 4) conducted interviews of those who were interested after the information session.
- 5) managed the candidates within the *Hubspot* platform for communication among committee members.

Lyna Nyamwaya, who was on a leave of absence in FY22, will return to the Board in September.

Retreat and committee selections:

- Board retreat is being planned for late September or early October. Hansen will send a Survey Monkey link to vote on the dates and times. Hansen strongly encourages members to attend in-person, but a remote option will be offered for those who cannot physically attend.

- In the same survey link, Hansen requests the members to rank the committees they would like to be involved in FY23. Refer to the “Metro State University Alumni Association Board 2022-2023” document for the committee description; committees are:
 - Membership Committee
 - Fundraising Committee
 - Advocacy Committee
 - Engagement Committee
 - Career Resources sub-committee—
Thulani Jwacu will lead

Complete the survey by August 5. Hansen will notify members of their committee assignments in mid-August. Each board member’s timely response is greatly appreciated at the time of scheduling committee meetings.

Value proposition discussion by Fidelis Odozi:

Communications Committee developed the Board’s value proposition by identifying the needs and barriers of alumni and offering solutions to their needs. It was reviewed and articulated by the Executive Committee.

“The Metro State Alumni Association is a community of advocates helping you navigate your personal journey, meeting you where you are... For life.”

This promise to alumni and students serves as an indication, aspiration, and reminder for the board members to discover the purpose and fulfillment of their advocacy and service. It aligns with the Board’s focus on creating pathways for near and recent graduates.

Other business and updates:

- Fundraising Committee has been in discussion on how to motivate alumni to give to Metro State. It has explored an idea of supporting recent graduates with professional development and financial support, such as testing fees, membership fees, certification fees, etc. With the value proposition in place, the committee can focus on how to translate its values to targeted segments of alumni.
- Upcoming events—August 5 Board Social
- Over 100 alumni signed up for the mentoring software, *PeopleGrove*. The office is hosting a mentor orientation on August 9. Board members are invited to attend.
- The keynote for university convocation is August 15. Board members are welcome to attend in-person or by Zoom (<https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/94644205187>).
- The Foundation and Fundraising Committee are seeking volunteers to write and mail “thank you” postcards to FY22 donors. Each volunteer will be tasked with sending 25 postcards (or more if driven). The office will provide postcards, a list of donors, a sample script, and stamps. Let Hansen know if willing and able to complete the task within the next two weeks.
- Shah mentioned that the *Hubspot*-branded free website is available for the Board if interested.

Motion to adjourn the meeting moved by Ringwelski, seconded by Deidra Isaac, and the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Noriko Ramberg, Office Coordinator