

**Metro State University**  
**Alumni Association Board Meeting**

May 23, 2023, 5:45-7 p.m., St. John's Hall 153

**Members attending in-person:** Matt Moe, Bryan Newman, Scott Pilgram, Ryan Ringwelski, Betsy Salvatore, Amanda Wong, Darrell Young

**Members attending by Zoom:** Matt Christenson, Fidelis Odozi, Shahbaz Shah

**Members not attending:** Deidra Isaac, Munira Maalimisaq, Lyna Nyamwaya, Eric Rios, Shanasha Whitson

**Staff attendees:** Kristine Hansen, Noriko Ramberg, Josh Windham

**Guest:** President Ginny Arthur

Amanda Wong convened the meeting at 5:50 p.m. by sharing her personal experience to enlighten the importance of being present and engaged at a meeting. She then encouraged the group to be present, committed and fully engaged in board meetings. As a group, the Board can achieve that by:

- Setting a clear agenda and expectation
- Being prepared to ask questions and being respectful of one another's time
- Removing any distractions and avoiding multitasking during the meeting

Wong reiterated that in-person meetings are meaningful opportunities to interact with fellow board members, both personally and professionally, and strongly encouraged face-to-face participation.

Wong reminded everyone that the end of the fiscal is June 30, in case there was anyone who has not yet given to the Metro State University Foundation. Every year, the Board strives for 100% Board participation in that effort.

At the next board meeting on July 25, the Board will host a "thank-a-thon" social after the meeting to thank our donors with phone calls and hand-written notes.

**President's Update:**

The Minnesota legislative session ended with very positive results for public higher education and Metro State.

- \$122 million was funded biennium to the Minnesota State system for stabilization—helping to improve the university budgets, to deal with inflation, etc. Metro State gets about 5% through the appropriation—\$6 million in total.
- The legislature included \$50 million to supplement the Minnesota State system's enrollment loss since 2020. This one-time funding will help Metro State with an additional \$3.3 million this year.
- A generous bonding bill, including \$20,457 million for the renovation and restoration of the Management Education Center that is being used by Metro State's College of Management.
- The legislature also funded \$5.2 million to the new cyber security lab on the Saint Paul Campus. The funds will propel Metro State's cybersecurity program.
- Minnesota State's appropriation increased by \$292.9 million for the upcoming biennium, with \$168.3 million continuing in the base budget for the future, including:
  - Minnesota State stabilization—See the second bullet point above for details.
  - Tuition freeze—Legislature is going to cover the 3.5% tuition increase through fiscal year 25.

- Student support—\$6 million over the next two years to assist students' basic needs insecurity, mental health, and other high-need student support services.
- The North Star Promise—Assistance with tuition and fees for students from families with an income under \$80,000.
- Minnesota American Indian Scholarships—Assistance with tuition and fees with American Indian students.

Metro State alumna Senator Sandy Pappas '86 was instrumental to the successful passage of a bonding bill and in assuring that Metro State's projects were funded.

Metro State held its first graduation ceremony for the students who are incarcerated and completed their bachelor's degree at the Minnesota Correctional Facility in Lino Lakes. The event was [covered by the Star Tribune](#). Metro State will have another ceremony for the TREC (Transformation and Reentry through Education and Community) program at the Correctional Facility in Stillwater in August, and then we will start the TREC program at the Faribault Correctional Facility in September.

Wong suggested that the Alumni Board write congratulatory notes to the TREC alumni and welcome them to the Alumni Association. Kristine Hansen will connect with the TREC coordinator to get more information.

#### **Approval of Committee Notes:**

Board members reviewed the committee notes prior to the Board meeting. Motion to approve the committee notes moved by Matt Moe, seconded by Bryan Newman, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

#### **Updates on Teams:**

Josh Windham briefed the functionality of Microsoft Teams to the Board. It shall be used as a central platform to store and access documents for the Board and committees. Each board member should have received an email from Windham with access. The user guide will be emailed to all after this meeting.

Assignment to each board member: Be in the Teams folder and drop your name on the post by June 1. If you have difficulty, contact Windham.

#### **Alumni of the Year:**

Senator Sandy Pappas was nominated for the award for her support of Metro State and continued engagement through the annual Breakfast at the Capitol event.

The motion to select Sandy Pappas as the 2023 Alumna of the Year was passed by a unanimous vote.

#### **Calibrating Goals:**

The Board reviewed the current committee goals and objectives, and they consented on the feasibility, strategy, and optimization. All the committees feel they are on track with, have already achieved, or are likely to attain their planned goals without the strong leadership of former Board President Nancy Uden.

Fidelis Odozi suggested the Board members keep the S.M.A.R.T. criteria in mind (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound) as the committees work toward their goals.

Suggestions for additional actions:

- Advocacy Committee—Contact local BIPOC radio station and ask them to feature President Arthur to introduce career opportunities in the cybersecurity industry. Kristine Hansen will reach out to Metro State’s media team on behalf of the Board to further explore this option.
- Other committees—Discuss other specific actions in their committee meetings as they plan for the next fiscal year.
- The board members are strongly encouraged to volunteer at the Alumni Career Experience networking event in January and also be on the Metro State Connect mentoring platform.

### **Bylaws Update:**

Ad-hoc bylaw review committee continues to calibrate the current bylaws; it will meet again in June and present the final draft at the July board meeting.

### **Appreciations:**

- Darrell Young appreciated the Board’s friendly and collaborative culture to jointly achieve the common goal of assisting alumni and students.
- Hansen expressed the appreciation to the Board for sticking through the board work and making a positive impact in spite of the loss of Uden’s leadership in the middle of the year.
- Wong appreciated the positive outlook for the Board—the completion of measurable goal setting, clearer objectives, and collaborative opportunities planned in the near future.
- Newman appreciated Windham for featuring the board members on the website in an effort to personalize the Alumni Association and to engage more alumni. Windham noted that he will be in touch with each board member to get some quotes and biographies.

Motion to adjourn the meeting moved by Scott Pilgram, seconded by Young at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Noriko Ramberg, Office Coordinator