

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

May 21, 2024, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

<https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/95614303818>

**Members attended:** Matt Christenson, Matt Moe, Bryan Newman, Shahbaz Shah, Amanda Wong

**Members attended by Zoom:** Deidra Isaac, Scott Pilgram, Shanasha Whitson

**Members not attending:** Jim Houston, Ryan Ringwelski, Eric Rios, Darrell Young

**Staff attendees:** Ginny Arthur, Kristine Hansen, Noriko Ramberg, Will Ruckel, Josh Windham

Amanda Wong convened the meeting. As an ice breaker activity, she and Kristine Hansen suggested that each Board member and staff share his/her favorite hidden talent.

**University Updates by President Ginny Arthur:**

- Commencement was held on May 4. The university graduated 784 students.
- The revision to the university's Mission, Vision and Value statement was approved by the Minnesota State Board of Trustees.
- The university's strategic planning work has begun with the gathering and sharing of ideas by the focus group, consultant, and other shareholders. They identified potential opportunities for the university, and the Strategic Planning and Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from across the campus, will start working on the actions the university should take in the next few years.
- The draft of the strategic plan will be shared in mid-August at Convocation. After further deliberation by the committee, the final plan should be ready by December 1.
- The renovation of Management Education Center (MEC) in Minneapolis is on schedule with the construction crew currently working on the interior work. We hope to see the completion of the interior work by mid-August so we can move faculty and staff by the end of fall semester.
- Summer enrollment is up by 5% from last year's. We have about 400 new students who are starting classes this summer. Fall enrollment, though it is early, is already in the double-digits ahead of last year.
- The North Star Promise program has been attractive to those people who wish to complete their degrees with prior credits. There are almost 200,000 people who live in the Twin Cities who have some college credit but no degree. We continue to target these people in our recruitment efforts.
- The budget is tight the next couple of years due to the steep enrollment decline during 2021-2023 and the difficulty of regaining the healthy enrollment status. We are taking action now to be fiscally prudent.

**Approval of Committee Notes:**

The approval of the committee notes is postponed until the next board meeting.

**Election:**

The slate of candidates for FY25 officers are:

- Ryan Ringwelski as president
- Matt Moe as vice president
- Shanasha Whitson as engagement officer

Board members are to vote through the form by June 21: <https://forms.office.com/r/17QgcQG5zY>

The current president Wong will stay on in the Executive Committee in FY25 as immediate past president to guide Ringwelski in his transition to president and Moe as vice president.

**Membership Committee Update by Scott Pilgram:**

- The committee hosted two listening sessions in April to recruit new committee members. Three people filled out the application to join one of the board committees. The committee plans to host another listening session in August to recruit more alumni, and quarterly thereafter.
- The committee is planning a happy hour in June. All board members are welcome to join.
- If the members of the Board know of any good committee candidates, send their names to Pilgram and Josh Windham throughout the year.

### **Foundation board updates by Matt Moe:**

Moe attended the Foundation Board retreat on April 9, learning different perspectives on how to improve the university from the Board's perspectives. One of Moe's takeaways was the conflict of interest and how it is perceived differently by each person. The discussion ended with the agreement that the key to avoid conflict of interest is having open communications.

Another topic of interest was the discussion on how the Foundation Board can help students to be more engaged, and how the Board can assist in building the "Metro" brand---not just locally but also nationally.

The Board also stressed the importance and urgency of alumni communications immediately after their graduation to improve alumni giving. They shared the ideas on what they can do to have them stay engaged to Metro State.

### **Week of Service Update by Josh Windham:**

- The week of Service was a success with the fair amount of collection of hygiene items, blood drive by 22 individuals, and a large attendance to the Student Parent Center Open House.
- The next Week of Service will be the last week of September, which will lead up to the Fall Fest. The promotion of this service will start in July.
- Many alumni volunteered at the Alumni Career Experience (ACE) networking event on May 8. The Career Center and the Alumni Relations plan to hold another ACE event in the fall.

### **Review of Board Expectations document:**

It is time to review and update the document. Wong requested 2-3 volunteers to tackle the task, which should only require 2-3 meetings. In addition to Shahbaz Shah who volunteered, those who are interested in participating should contact Wong or Hansen. The updated document shall be shared with the rest of the Board at the September board meeting.

### **Thank-a-thon and fiscal year-end giving:**

- Will Ruckel, Director of Annual Giving and Stewardship who oversees the Fundraising Committee, informed that the office is planning the Alumni Board thank-a-thon get-together on Tuesday, July 30 to call and thank this fiscal year's donors. Food will be available. In addition to making calls, we will have notecards to handwrite messages to donors who cannot be connected by phone. More details to come later.
- Whitson reiterated the importance of achieving 100% participation by the Alumni Board in the Metro Fund Drive. She encouraged the Board to give any amount of gift by the end of the fiscal year, June 30.

### **Other business:**

- Save the date
  - Metro in Your Neighborhood in East Metro - Tuesday, June 11, Tap Room in Woodbury.
  - Metro in Your Neighborhood in NE Minneapolis - Thursday, June 27. Location TBA.The goal of the event is to expand the reach to alumni in the neighboring area.
- Wong encouraged the Board to frequently wear Metro State gear. It serves as a good conversation starter.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Shah, seconded by Brian Newman, and the meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Noriko Ramberg, Office Coordinator