

Metro State University
Alumni Association Board Meeting
September 24, 2024, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
<https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/98538928998>

Members attended in-person: Matt Christenson, Scott Pilgram, Ryan Ringwelski

Members attended by Zoom: Matt Moe, Eric Rios, Shanasha Whitson, Amanda Wong, Darrell Young

Members not attending: Jim Houston, Deidra Isaac, Bryan Newman

Staff attendees: Ginny Arthur, Kristine Hansen, Noriko Ramberg

Ryan Ringwelski convened the meeting at 5:33 p.m. As an ice breaker activity, he asked each Board member and staff to name a favorite fall activity.

University Update by President Ginny Arthur:

- It was an honor to welcome the Deputy Director of the Office of National Cyber Security at the White House who visited Metro State's Saint Paul Campus today. He was impressed with Metro's cyber security program and nearly-completed installation of the Cyber Security Center.
- Last week, Metro State was awarded a \$2.5 million grant to establish a Center of Academic Excellence in Intelligence Community.
- Annual Metro State Votes campaign is in full swing to promote the community by educating voters and increasing participation in elections among university community members. Metro State is a part of the ALL IN Campus Democracy Project—a challenge among colleges and universities to determine which campus can turn out the most students to vote. A number of activities and promotions about the elections and voting are happening around the campus.
- Metro State students in the Master's in Advocacy, Political Leadership program are involved in the Model Legislature program, an opportunity for mainly high school students to learn about how to engage in the Minnesota legislative process. The two-day Model Legislature will be held at the Minnesota State Capitol in December.
- Enrollment for fall is up about 12%, primarily thought to be due to the North Star Promise scholarship. The university remains cautious about spending considering the current budget constraints.
- The remodeling of the Management Education Center (MEC) is almost complete. Faculty and staff plan to move into the building after the fall semester. The new building will offer a smooth transition for the business-focused Minneapolis College students as they advance their education beyond their associate degree and transfer to Metro State.
- President Arthur was excited to learn that the Alumni Board is developing its own strategic planning, as alumni are part of the university's key priorities about engagement. She encouraged the Board to keep talking about their experiences about Metro State to external constituents.

Future Meeting Locations:

- November and January meetings will be fully remote due to anticipated bad weather.
- March meeting will be held in-person only at the newly remodeled MEC.
- May meeting will be held in-person at McGough Construction. Zoom participation will also be available.
- July meeting will be held in-person at the Saint Paul Campus, and we will host our annual Thank-a-thon afterwards.

Approval of Committee Notes:

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

Board Expectations Doc Update:

The Board Expectations and Responsibilities document is an informal guiding principle for the Alumni Board, as opposed to the bylaws that is more procedural and contains rigid governance such as attendance requirements. Amanda Wong, Kristine Hansen and former board member Shahbaz Shah reviewed the existing document and made some updates to strategically align with the mission, vision and values of Metro State.

Hansen will email the revised document for everyone to review and give feedback to Wong and Hansen. The finalized document will be shared and voted at the November board meeting.

Membership Committee Update by Scott Pilgram:

- The committee and Josh Windham will offer Zoom listening sessions to those alumni who are interested in joining the committees on October 3 and 8, 7-8 p.m. All board members are encouraged to attend and share their experience.

Foundation Board Updates:

- The investment income of the Foundation was up over \$500,000 year-to-date.
- The Board discussed the topic of conflict of interest to ensure each board member was compliant.
- Rise to Shine fundraiser update
 - Event date, time & location: Thursday, April 24, 8-10 a.m., Great Hall, New Main
 - The Foundation already raised \$10,000 to-date for Rise to Shine in sponsorship.
- Board recruitment update
 - Foundation Board is down to 14 members.
 - They are actively recruiting prospects and welcome recommendation from the Alumni Board members.

Hansen reminded the Board that all of our event operations, publication, and anything alumni-related are fully funded by the Foundation's investment income. It is one of the reasons why we have Moe as a liaison to the Foundation Board, so that we can be informed on their affairs.

Hansen also mentioned that last year's Rise to Shine breakfast raised about \$40,000 for student scholarships.

Fall Retreat:

- Saturday, October 5, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saint Paul Room, New Main
- Main topics of discussion
 - Current alumni engagement and sharing of industry benchmarks
 - Defining a vision for alumni engagement
 - Setting goals for the initiative

Creating a strategic plan is continuous and develops throughout the year, so three more topics will be discussed in the January, March and May board meetings.

- Strategic plan development
- Resource mapping and timeline development
- Accountability and next steps

Other business:

- The Executive Committee will meet one more time next week to touch base prior to the board retreat.
- Volunteer opportunities for the board members
 - Serving lunch at Union Gospel Mission—Thursday, September 26, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
 - Fall Fest—Saturday, September 28, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Saint Paul Campus
 - Reusable Grocery Bag Drive—September 23-27, Saint Paul Campus
- Give to the Max Day (GTMD)—November 21
 - Ways to help
 - Make a gift
 - Promote the GTMD by sharing on social media, particularly LinkedIn
 - Provide positive quotes and stories about Metro State to Will Ruckel, Director of Annual Giving and Stewardship, to be included in his weekly promotional email and social media posts.
 - Join Shanasha Whitson’s challenge by promoting the GTMD on all social media—not just LinkedIn
 - Goals
 - Increased alumni participation over total dollar amount
 - Reach 51,167 contactable alumni to give even \$1.
- Upcoming event: Advocacy Workshop led by Dr. Kathleen Cole, October 10, Library 302
- FY25 events—List of events throughout the year is included in the meeting packet.

Motion to adjourn the meeting moved by Christenson, seconded by Pilgram, and the meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Noriko Ramberg, Office Coordinator