

Metropolitan State University

Alumni Association Board Meeting

May 24, 2022, 5:30-7 p.m., St. John's Hall 150

Members attending in-person: Salman Mian, Scott Pilgram, Ryan Ringwelski, Shahbaz Shah, Nancy Uden

Members attending via Zoom: Amanda Clark, Deidra Isaac, Fidelis Odozi, Shanasha Whitson

Members not attending: Brittanie Aune, Thulani Jwacu, Thomas Krueger

Staff attendees: Kristine Hansen, Rachel Hughes, Joshua Windham, Noriko Ramberg

Guests: Ginny Arthur, Rita Dibble

Nancy Uden convened the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

President's report by Ginny Arthur:

- In the wake of the mass shooting that occurred in Texas earlier today, President Arthur recommended to the Board the award-winning book, *The Violence Project: How to Stop a Mass Shooting Epidemic*, co-written in 2021 by Metro State's faculty James Densley.
- Commencement was held on May 7 with 960 graduates joining the Alumni Association.
- The Minnesota State system, including Metro State, is facing enrollment challenges, expecting about a 7.5% lower enrollment this summer and at least 10% lower this fall than last year. The number for new applicants is up, but the number of returning students are down.
- The low enrollment in higher education is a national trend, and the university speculates that young people are not valuing higher education degrees and are diving into the workforce right after high school graduation. It also could be partly due to the low employment rate in Minnesota.
- The president and her council are working on the FY23 budget. As a way to save over a million dollars on rent and also bring back students to the Saint Paul Campus, they plan to build an addition to St. John's Hall to accommodate students and staff from the Midway Campus. The university has already funded the pre-design work to speed up the legislative process.
- Metro State's projects that are on a bonding bill are the building of the Cyber Security Center and the renovation of the Management Education Center in Minneapolis. They are still on hold for lack of funding.
- The Admissions and Marketing departments are strategically working to boost overall enrollment. One of the strategies is to forge more relationships with employers who need our graduates so that they would consider internships and apprenticeships with Metro State in return for the tuition break.

Approval of committee notes

Board members reviewed the committee notes prior to the board meeting. Motion to approve the committee notes moved by Salman Mian, seconded by Ryan Ringwelski, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Office updates by Kristine Hansen

Hansen shared upcoming events:

- The launch of the networking software, *PeopleGrove*, is next week. It is a tool to connect students and alumni based on their career and personal interests on their profile. Alumni can be either a mentor or mentee. Hansen will send an invitation to the Board and alumni to join the platform prior to launching the service to students.

- June 8 Metro State Day at Saint Paul Saints—Tickets are still available.
- June 11 Summer Celebration (formerly Spring Fest) —Volunteers needed.
- June 30 is the last day to make a gift for FY22. We strive for 100% participation by the Alumni Board.

Vice President's update by Rita Dibble:

- Metro State hosted the first Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) Small Business Expo on May 14. Many fruitful connections have come out of the event.
- Save the date for the President's Boat Trip on August 5, 4-7 p.m.

Alumni of the Year voting:

The Executive Committee reviewed six nominees and, based on the criteria—what they do, what they have done with their career, what they do in the community, what they do with Metro State, and how they represent Metro State values—recommends Steve Campos '17 for the Alumnus of the Year Award, and Jim Houston '16 for the Emerging Alumnus Award.

The recommendation was accepted by the Board members with a unanimous vote. Uden requested the Board to refrain from spreading the selection until Hansen officially notifies the recipients. Hansen also appreciates feedback from the Board on how to celebrate the recipients.

Discussion on the proposed Alumni Board Executive Committee structure:

As part of the overhauling of the Alumni Board bylaws, the Board needs to update the Executive Committee structure and tasks. The Executive Committee would like to recommend the following updates:

- Elimination of treasurer and moving those tasks under the Vice President role. Elimination of secretary role as Noriko Ramberg completes those activities.
- Shifting some of the responsibilities from the President's role and smooth that across other roles.
- Addition of Immediate Past President's role to support a new president and help make the succession smooth.
- Addition of Engagement Officer

The Board discussed the terms of these positions and came to the agreement for a 1-year commitment in the role, with a 7-month check-in by the president to determine the continuation and commitment of the role into the 2nd year—this will give leeway for an incumbent to pass on the knowledge earned thus far if she/he were to decide exiting the role. The midway check-in also allows the president and the Board to be accountable for the renewal of the role should the individual not perform well to fulfill the expectation. The Board agreed that the term limit be two years for the officer roles.

Uden and Hansen will work on drafting the other committee details and "Board Expectations and Responsibilities" document next. They will incorporate the 7-month check-in language for officers, the expectation of a peer-to-peer mentoring to the successor should she/he leave the officer role, and the role of Alumni Relations Director in the document.

After updating the board expectation document, Uden and Hansen will work on revising the bylaws. The Executive Committee will first review the updated bylaws and present it to the Board for voting on the approval at a board meeting in FY23.

Other business, comments & thoughts

- Deidra Isaac is interested in participating in a small business fair that Metro State hosts in the future; she is passionate about exposing minority-owned businesses to the public.
- At the July board meeting, agenda items include the election of officers and new board members.
- Following this board meeting, Hansen will email to the Board:
 - a link for the volunteer opportunity at the June 11 Summer Celebration
 - a *PeopleGrove* link to create profile
 - the title and link of James Densley's book
 - a reminder to those who have not yet given in FY22

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Noriko Ramberg, Office Coordinator