

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

November 29, 2022, 5:30-7 p.m., <https://minnstate.zoom.us/j/98939218701>

**Members attending:** Matt Christenson, Deidra Isaac, Salman Mian, Matt Moe, Bryan Newman, Lyna Nyamwaya, Fidelis Odozi, Scott Pilgram, Ryan Ringwelski, Betsy Salvatore, Nancy Uden, Shanasha Whitson, Amanda Wong, Darrell Young

**Members not attending:** Thulani Jwacu, Tom Krueger, Munira Maalimisaq, Eric Rios, Shahbaz Shah

**Staff attendees:** Ginny Arthur, Kristine Hansen, Rachel Hughes, Noriko Ramberg, Josh Windham

Nancy Uden convened the meeting at 5:30 p.m., welcomed and thanked the board members for the time, effort and talents that they bring to the Board and for leading the Alumni Association for 51,000 alumni. Uden is honored to represent the Alumni Board as one of the speakers at her granddaughter's commencement in December.

It is encouraging to hear that the Foundation Board is having its first board retreat on Dec. 1 because the Foundation Board chair Joseph Ellis, who attended and was greatly inspired by our Oct. 1 Alumni Board retreat, deemed the implementation to be beneficial for his board as well. Uden is excited to see the synchronization of efforts by both boards to achieve the common goal—advocacy for Metro State's success.

**Give to the Max Day (GTMD) Update:**

- Kristine Hansen thanked the board members for sharing the GTMD posts and messages on social media. It was the most coordinated and integrated marketing effort ever.
- Hansen commended the effort by the Fundraising Committee in creating and promoting the Alumni Professional Development Fund (APDF). A little shy of \$5,000 was raised for this fund, and in addition, we received a challenge match of \$5,000.
- The total raised for the GTMD campaign was \$20,278. With the match of \$5,000 for the APDF, the grand total raised was \$25,278, which exceeded our goal of \$15,000.

**President's update:**

- Commencement is Dec.10. We expect to welcome 970 new members to the Alumni Association—including Uden's granddaughter and the president's son.
- The College of Management recently received a full accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) after 3+ years. It is a great accomplishment, for there are not many schools across the country that receive the ACBSP accreditation. The university will definitely use that in the university's marketing efforts.
- It is a very favorable climate for Metro State and the whole Minnesota State system now that Minnesota has a single party—the Democratic-Farmer-Labor party (DFL)—in control of the Governor's Office, the Senate, and the House of Representative; the DFL has education, from pre-k to higher education, as a top priority.
- Metro State hosted one of the listening sessions in late September that the Minnesota State Chancellor and the Board of Trustees held, which consisted of a Minnesota State systemwide financial overview to provide context, followed by discussion and comments, to help inform the Minnesota State FY2024-2025 biennial budget request. Minnesota State's ambitious asks for the legislature are:
  - funded tuition freeze—a request for the State to pay the tuition increase
  - funds for campus stabilization to seek assistance with system-wide decline in enrollment.
  - proposal of \$2,500 transfer scholarships for those students who transfer from a Minnesota State college to one of the Minnesota State universities.

The transfer scholarship will tremendously impact Metro State's enrollment since 80% of Metro State students are transfer students.

- Metro State in partnership with Minneapolis College, is selected to participate in a national program called the *Transfer Intensive*, sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the Aspen Institute, to work on how to improve the student transfer experience and make it more equitable. Among 40 pairs of institutions nationwide, Metro State and Minneapolis College are selected to present our work plan at the final gathering because the pair had developed the most innovative and visionary plan for transfer students. The pair's work plan will be profiled in *Inside Higher Ed*, a national publication about higher education.
- There is talk that legislature may pass a bonding bill this year. If so, our two projects—the renovation of the Management Education Center and the building of the Cyber Security Center—may get funded.

In summary, the university is doing a lot of work to make sure that students in the State of Minnesota have an affordable, clear pathway that also strengthens the university. President Arthur encouraged board members to reach out to their legislators and offered her willingness to have conversations with them to advocate for Metro State.

#### **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 Darrell Young, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

#### **Office updates:**

- Upcoming event dates are listed at the bottom of the agenda.
- Career Center is looking for volunteers to help with mock interviews and resume reviews at the workshop, Alumni Career Experience on Jan. 5, 2023, 3:15-4:30 p.m., followed by a reception, at Student Center 101. Volunteer sign-up at <https://forms.office.com/r/vBArw7SWYw>

#### **Committee commitments:**

Amanda Wong took the lead on reviewing the board and committee objectives that were discussed at the October board retreat and on aligning with the personal commitments also expressed at the retreat. The goal is to develop a work/action plan on how individual members can contribute to the objectives for this year.

Below are our committees and each committee-driven objective. Some members already made personal commitments at the board retreat to support the objectives, whereas other members had opportunities during and after the board meeting to add or contemplate on their personal commitment.

Uden requested members who haven't yet made a commitment to send in commitments to Wong after the meeting. She also encouraged all members to make more than one commitment. Wong will plot out all additional commitments to the spreadsheet to finalize the action plan. Once finalized, Uden suggested each committee discuss the state of progress on each objective and report at the January board meeting.

ADVOCACY	
Matt Christenson, Betsy Salvatore, Darrel Young	
Objective	Member Commitment
1 Educate and provide tools and resources to alumni to advocate for their causes, including Metro State	<b>Darrell:</b> Stay committed to engagement to the purpose of our alumni <b>Betsy:</b> become a social media user
2 Highlight and leverage Metro State's diversity and value (students and programs, e.g. Cybersecurity program) to influence legislative and corporate funding	
3 Create opportunities for BIPOC and other diverse communities, e.g. LGBTQ+ to meet with President Arthur for her to hear their advocacy needs	

Additional member commitments:  
 Darrell: Repost Metro State's positivity on social media.  
 Nancy: Contact her legislator on behalf of Metro State.

CAREER RESOURCES	
Thulani Jwacu, Munira Maalimisaq, Bryan Newman, Lyna Nyamwaya	
Objective	Member Commitment
1 Plan two career panels for the year	
2 Meet with the Career Center	<b>Bryan:</b> attend all career and engagement related events
3 Work with Committee for Metro State Connect	
4 All committee members signed up before Nov Meeting	

Additional member commitments:  
 Lyna: Commit to mentor nursing students & alumni.  
 Lyna: Actively recruit more nursing alumni involvement.

ENGAGEMENT	
Salman Mian, Fidelis Odozi, Scott Pilgram,	
Objective	Member Commitment
1 Get more Alumni to follow the LinkedIn page	<b>Thulani:</b> Do more to amplify metro on social media, attend more non-alumni board Metro State events <b>Fidelis:</b> engage more on LinkedIn and tag the alumni relations office ? : work to add four people to the alumni LinkedIn account <b>Salman:</b> I will create a how-to for signing up for LinkedIn with dos and don'ts with a link to alumni board <b>Deidra:</b> Reconnect on LinkedIn

Additional member commitment:  
 All: Actively recruit more alumni involvement.

2 Committee team members to participate in X number of events by the end of the year	<b>Fidelis:</b> attend at least two events as a board representative <b>Bryan:</b> attend all career and engagement related events
3 Identify people in management positions	<b>Scott:</b> I will work with the engagement committee and learn more about LinkedIn as we create our alumni page
4 Drive Engagement for other committees	<b>Bryan:</b> like and share metro related content online two times per week
5 Recruit Alums with key skillsets to join the Engagement Committee	

Suggestion:  
 To promote face-to-face event attendance to meet alumni and students, Hansen offered a training session, "Making the Most of Live Events", to learn what it is to work an event as opposed to just attend an event as a guest.

FUNDRAISING	
Tom Krueger, Shanasha Whitson	
Objective	Member Commitment
1 Establishing a calendar of Committee activities	<b>Tom:</b> I will ensure everyone has the tools and organization to support fundraising; the role, what to do and when to do it
2 Give to the Max Day	<b>Deidra:</b> Donate again <b>Shanasha:</b> Donate
3 Plan to award the Alumni Professional Development Funds	
4 Committee for the Alumni Scholarship Fund	
5 A second effort in the spring	

Comment:  
We now accept PayPal and Venmo for gift acceptance.

MEMBERSHIP	
Diedra Isaac, Matt Moe, <b>Ryan Ringwelski</b> , Eric Rios, Shahbaz Shah	
Objective	Member Commitment
1 <i>To recruit board and committee members and provide onboarding training to new members.</i>	
2	
3	

Comment:  
Committee to work on member commitment at their next meeting.

### Appreciations:

Positive feedback and appreciation related to the Board members, the work they do, and Metro State:

- Uden appreciated the work of the Fundraising Committee, Josh Windham and Hansen for making the GTMD campaign successful and also Tom Krueger for being the brainchild of the Alumni Professional Development Fund.
- Ryan Ringwelski expressed his sincere gratitude to Windham for taking on the Membership Committee for a couple of months while he was dealing with personal matters.
- Hansen expressed appreciation to Bryan Newman and Shahbaz Shah who volunteered at the October Commencement Expo.
- Nyamwaya mentioned that she published her first book last week and expressed gratitude to Metro State for introducing her to mentors and cultural humility. Her book focuses on managing biases, recognizing privilege, and using it to be an ally—instead of treating people how *you* would like to be treated, ask people how *they* would like to be treated and then treat them as such.
- Fidelis Odozi appreciated the affordability and quality of education at Metro State, and contemplated how we can showcase the impact of that in terms of building generational wealth. Odozi suggested that the university continue to empower alumni to feel confident about themselves by raising the visibility of prominent alumni and continue to talk more about the return of investment of Metro State in the long run.
- Deidra Isaac appreciated everyone on the Alumni Board for their commitment and time.
- Shanasha Whitson recognized and appreciated Metro State's role in cultivating one's skills, talents and commitments to the community, and highly advocates for highlighting the stories of the Alumni Board members and other prominent alumni's positive deeds through newsletters.
- Newman expressed appreciation to LaBarre Spence, career readiness coordinator and community faculty, for allowing Newman to speak and share resume tips in his class.

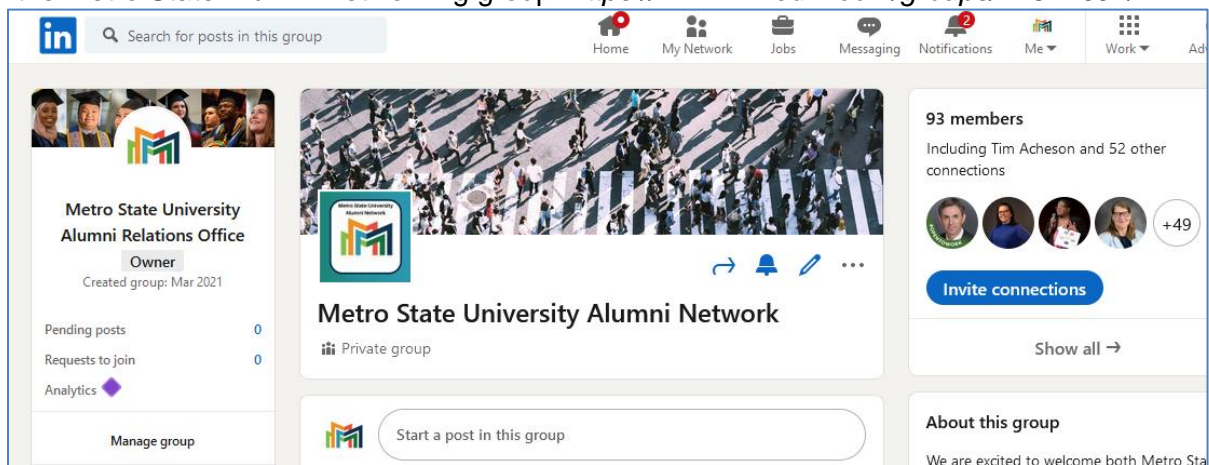
- Betsy Salvatore extended gratitude to Hansen for all the work she does for the Board, committees, and for President Arthur, the Alumni Relations Office, and so many different areas of Metro State.
- Uden chimed in to express gratitude to Hansen, Windham and also Rachel Hughes, AVP of University Advancement, for her work with the Fundraising Committee. Uden also agreed with Hansen on the self-driving force of the Alumni Board and appreciated the progress and momentum the Board has made and is making.

Uden acknowledges that Metro State has amazing Alumni Board members and so many outstanding graduates who have made a difference. She believes that the Board needs to get more involved in “selling” Metro State’s success stories. She urged all members to sign up and build profiles in the Metro State Connect mentoring program, if not already done, because it is one of the most easily accessible channels where students and other alumni can see the successful people that graduated from Metro State.

Nyamwaya suggested frequent tagging on social media when you hear positive news related to the Metro State community.

### Other business and updates:

- Join the Metro State Alumni Networking group: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12522694/>



- A signed copy of Nyamwaya’s recently published the book, *Leading with Cultural Humility* can be purchased at <https://www.boldimpactgroup.com/books>.
- Isaac invited everyone to attend an event she is organizing: *Ashes 2 Beauty BIPOC Vendor Expose’ & Networking* event, Dec. 16; 11 a.m.-6 p.m. shopping with small business; 7-9 p.m. networking; Indigenous Roots, 788 Seventh St E, Saint Paul, MN 55106
- Send profiles of high-achieving alumni and/or the news of positive impact that the Alumni Board members give to Metro State to Hansen; they can be included in the e-newsletters or *buzz* magazine.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Noriko Ramberg, Office Coordinator