

Metro State University

Alumni Association Board Meeting

July 25, 2023, 5:30-6:30 p.m., St. John's Hall 153

Members attending in-person: Matt Christenson, Deidra Isaac, Bryan Newman, Scott Pilgram, Ryan Ringwelski, Eric Rios, Shahbaz Shah, Amanda Wong

Members attending by Zoom: Matt Moe, Fidelis Odozi, Betsy Salvatore

Members not attending: Shanasha Whitson, Darrell Young

Staff attendees: Kristine Hansen, Rachel Hughes (Zoom), Noriko Ramberg, Josh Windham

Guest: President Ginny Arthur

Amanda Wong convened the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

President's Update:

- Convocation
 - Convocation is being planned on August 15, and Alumni Board members are welcome to attend in-person to mingle with the university community. Convocation address will be live-streamed, and the Alumni Board members who cannot attend in-person are encouraged to listen in to get the FY24 university forecast and updates (the archive will be available afterwards).
 - The theme of the convocation is *The Power to Change Belongs to Us*, to be in line with the ever-changing needs of the external environment for higher-ed students and for the university to be willing to adapt such changes and needs accordingly.
 - A review of the Metro State University mission, vision and value statements has been in the works as a prelude to the strategic planning activities.
- Enrollment
 - We projected the fall enrollment to be a 5% decline from last year. Our current enrollment is down 4.5% for the fall, but the summer enrollment is up by about 3% from projection.
 - Applications are significantly up; our strategic planning will focus on how we are going to maintain enrollment into the future by targeting those who already have accumulated credits and want to finish up their college degrees.
 - Metro State is committed to assisting students who benefit from the North Star Promise, which covers tuition for students whose income is less than \$80,000 a year.
- Facilities projects
 - Metro State will vacate the Midway campus buildings in the next three years. Ending the building lease saves the university approximately \$40,000 a year.
 - The renovation of the Management Education Center in Minneapolis has already started with the completion targeted in July next year.
 - The university is relocating the bookstore, Student Parent Center and Food Shelf into the Student Center.
 - Gordon Parks Gallery will be moved down to the first floor of the library where the bookstore currently is housed. Half of the space will be the gallery and the other half will house the Institute of Community Engagement and Scholarship.
 - The name of the School of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice will be changed to the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice.
 - The university is expecting a federal appropriation in excess of \$10 million for the Cyber Security programs. We have support from Rep. Betty McCollum who would like to see the State of Minnesota become a center for a cyber security education and business development.

- President Arthur's words of wisdom to the Alumni Board as it plays a part in the new fiscal year: *Keep working on connecting Metro State with employers to support our effort to strategically promote social mobility for students moving from low-income level to the middle class.*

Celebration & FY23 review:

- Kristine Hansen expressed gratitude to the Board for their time and commitment for a successful FY23.
- The Foundation raised \$1,560,676, which exceeded the goal of \$1 million.
- We only had 437 alumni donors, which is less than 1% of alumni, in FY23. Hansen encouraged the Board to think of ideas to engage more alumni even at the participation level. Some ideas:
 - Naming rights to facilities
 - Fundraising progress thermometer
 - Interesting stories for the pitch

Reporting the officer vote:

The following officers were unanimously voted in:

- Alumni Board president: Amanda Wong
- Alumni Board vice president: Ryan Ringwelski
- Engagement officer: Thulani Jwacu

Reporting the new member vote:

Jim Houston '16 was unanimously voted in to join the Alumni Board.

Call for a retreat planning committee:

- Retreat is on a Saturday morning in September (date to be determined by the committee).
- The topics at the retreat are team building, sharing ideas to be effective board members, goal setting for the year, etc.
- Wong and Ringwelski would like a couple of more volunteers for the committee. If interested, notify Hansen or Wong.

Review of FY23 financial report and FY24 budget:

The large difference in the FY24 from FY23 is that we will no longer receive the commission from Liberty Mutual. This causes the deficit in the FY24 budget of \$13,300. This negative budget will be made up with alumni reserves that were consolidated with the Foundation back in FY17.

Events for FY24

- Board members are requested to commit to volunteering for between two to four or more events throughout the year. The list of events will be posted in the Teams folder, where members can sign up.
- For alumni in general, they will be able to sign-up for volunteer opportunities on the soon-to-be revamped alumni web page.

Appreciation:

Hansen acknowledged that this meeting was Fidelis Odozi's last meeting after the completion of the first 3-year term and thanked him for his service.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Noriko Ramberg, Office Coordinator