

Alumnae Association of Mills College  
Board of Governors Meeting  
November 6, 2019  
6:00 – 9:00 pm  
Reinhardt Alumnae House

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

President Viji Nakka- Cammauf called the meeting to order at 6:22pm. There were 10 members in attendance and 6 who participated by phone.

Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were:

President: Viji Nakka- Cammauf

Vice Presidents: Lynette Castille-Hall, (via Phone) Marina Simenstad

Board Members: Dawn Cunningham, Debra Connick, (via phone) Deborah Campbell Dittman (via phone), Gwen Foster, Kristen Oliver, Myla Granberry, Miki Hong, Courtney Long (via phone), Alexa Pagonas, Cherlene Wright (via phone), Ammie Felder- Williams (via phone)

Alumna Trustee: Deborah M. Wood, Pam Versaw.

Absent: Lucy Seereiter,

**II. COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

President Beth Hillman discussed 4 items; 1) Concern over Tea Shop / Food Insecurity, 2) Branding Survey, 3) WASC site visit, and 4) Retention and Admission. Under item 1) theft from the Tea Shop led to: a) publicization of campus Food Pantry and food drive, b) introduction of smaller / less expensive items (e.g. half-sandwiches rather than only whole sandwiches), c) temporary assignment of campus security officers to the Tea Shop. Under item 2), the branding survey gave the following insights: a) College should prioritize increasing brand awareness, b) Mills' passion for progress and academic identity should be intertwined, c) Mills' location in Oakland should be leveraged. Under item 3) WASC site visit went well; Lynn Pasquerella, former president of the women's college Mount Holyoke, was in attendance and made positive statements related to Mills. Under item 4) there was a 2% increase in retention but lower 1<sup>st</sup> year enrollment rates (for both undergraduate and graduate programs). Partnership programs such as Oakland Promise did not work out as well as hoped; fewer than 5% of Oakland Promise students attended a private college, and of that fewer than 1% attended in California.

Audrey Tanner, VP of Enrollment, reported that the pilot AAR program is going well and has helped increase presence in high schools. Most activity was in the LA area. She is exploring the possibility of non-compulsory interviews with alumnae, increasing international student outreach, and partnering with branch clubs.

**III. KEY MOTIONS AND VOTES**

A motion to approve the agenda was seconded and carried.

A motion to approve the minutes of the September Board of Governors meeting was seconded and carried with two corrections.

Alexa Pagonas presents 2 motions:

- 1) AAMC should keep the current mission statement as described in the MOC. Cherlene Wright seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.
- 2) The Finance Committee should explore providing a stipend to Governors, including Alumnae Trustees, that live outside California or beyond Northern California (e.g. south of Monterey) to offset travel costs. Deborah Dittman seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

#### **IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORTS**

President Nakka-Cammauf reported on two recent events: 1) the financial literacy workshop, and 2) an international dinner for students and faculty. President Nakka-Cammauf reports that she is working on collaborating with a company specializing in international recruitment.

#### **V. COMMITTEES MEMBERSHIP/PROJECTS-UPDATES**

**LOAN:** A committee was formed to consider resolutions to the College's request for loan forgiveness. Alumnae on the committee include Judith James, Susan Ardisson, and Jacki Brown, Karlin Sorenson, Alexa Pagonas and Viji Nakka- Cammauf

**AoCC:** Chair Gwen Foster reports that there will be a Holiday Dinner on 11/9/19 from 6-8pm, and a fundraiser on 2/28/20

**COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING/FUNDRAISING:** Chair Cunningham reports that the committee is reaching out to donors who haven't given in over 10 years. She hopes to have governors write thank-you notes to donors.

**HOSPITALITY:** Alexa Pagonas requests a list of alumnae willing to bring food to events.

**TRAVEL:** Debi Wood reports that the committee is reviewing travel companies and looking for more people to join the committee.

**BRANCH CLUBS:** Chair Lynette Castille-Hall reports that the New York Club had a successful event in October with 30 attendees. They were offered, and accepted, a stipend to offset costs.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded and carried at 8:56 pm.

Next meeting date December 11, 2019

Submitted by Courtney Long  
December 6, 2019