

## October 14th 2023 Meeting Minutes

10 - 11 AM ET, A-152 at Simmons Campus

[Meeting](#)

[Link](#)

**Meeting Facilitator: Priyal Goyal**

This meeting was held on October 14, 2023 in conjunction with the Simmons Alumnae/ Friends and Family Weekend. This board meeting was attended by Simmons alums, Simmons current students, parents, family members and other friends of the Simmons community.

The meeting opened with an short video where all the Association board members can be seen talking about their favorite Simmons memory.

Post the opening intro video, Priyal welcomed all attendees in the room as well as folks joining the meeting virtually on zoom.

- Roll Call - [10142023 Resolutions and Attendance](#)
- **Acknowledge and welcome Alix (Karen Thomas)**
  - Karen welcomed everyone and thanked the Simmons staff members for helping out with planning of the Simmons AAFW weekend
  - Karen welcomed, Alix Laager, a Simmons trustee and parent as the keynote speaker
- **Alix Laager, Simmons Trustee**
  - Alix spoke about how her daughter chose to come to Simmons and felt like she found a community at Simmons
  - Alix spoke about the foundation of Simmons and how it was created to help women get an education so they can support themselves
  - She spoke about how Simmons adapts to the current market needs and goals behind it. She touched upon the academic re-design to align with what students are currently thinking about and what they are interested in.
  - Alix touched upon the 125th anniversary goals for Simmons as the chair of Board of Trustees Advancement committee. Their goal is to have 25% alums participate as part of the fundraising campaign for the 125th anniversary.

- **Director of Student Outreach, Courtney Bryant**
  - Courtney was joined by Sunei Clarke, the president of SGA at Simmons
  - Courtney spoke about her role of coordinating with seniors and the student body. She joined the student body earlier in the fall where she welcomed the incoming freshman at a candle lighting ceremony. Each freshman was gifted a key chain from the Simmons Alumni Association.
  - Sunei spoke about some of the student body initiatives going around the campus
    - Having accessible programming around campus to ensure that students with disabilities also feel welcomed as well as included.
    - Access to free feminine hygiene products on Simmons residence campus is another goal where they hope to stock 60% of the residence campus communal bathrooms by the end of the year
    - The student body is amidst special elections to select a board for the senior class council as none of the executive board positions are currently filled.
    - Sunei spoke about working on a theme of “creating good trouble” for the SGA and student body. The goal with this theme is to learn about occupying spaces, taking over and making your presence visible
  
- **Treasurer, Barbara Campbell**
  - Barbara spoke about the major income of the Simmons Alumni Association is from the commission received when any Simmons student or alum purchases a Simmons insurance policy with Liberty Mutual. Another source of income are the funds received via investments in the Vanguard fund
  - Majority of expenses for the Alumni Association are attributed towards programming for Simmons students on campus, sponsoring alumni awards and alumni grants
  - Below are the balances on hand:
    - Silicon Valley Bank \$141.57
    - TD Bank \$5,166.71
    - Vanguard \$121,754.12
    - Vanguard \$20,000.00
  - Barbara reminded all board members to submit their commitment forms and their expenses as soon as possible
  
- **Director of Nominations, Elaine McCarthy**
  - Elaine announced that her committee is looking for board members. The open positions are: Vice-President, Director of Marketing, Director of Communications, Assistant Treasurer, Director of Athletics & Director of Awards
  
- **Historian, Maddie Gretzky**
  - Maddie’s goal is to highlight alums and their interesting, fun and groundbreaking stories ahead of the 125th anniversary
  
- **Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Pam Dashiell**
  - Pam mentioned she is looking for new committee members

- She is also looking for ideas on events for Black History Month, Women's History Month, Pride Month etc.
- Pam also spoke about the new African American Alumni Association, Marie Smith who is a graduate student of Simmons
- **Director of Career & Life Transitions, Adunni Anderson**
  - Adunni spoke about transitioning into this role and getting on boarded to the Alumni Association
  - She is looking for ideas and volunteers to work with her on the committee
- **President, Karen Thomas**
  - Karen thanked all the board members and virtual attendees for attending the meeting
  - She spoke about a new board position this year, the Director of 125th Anniversary committee. Enna Jimenez has agreed to join the committee as the Director to help plan the 125th anniversary
  - Enna spoke about how she is excited to lead this committee and is looking forward to working with a lot of alums and bringing them back on campus
- **Resolutions** 10142023 Resolutions and Attendance
  - PASS: 01-10-23 : The AAEB approves the minutes from the September 2023 meeting with the necessary changes.
  - PASS: 02-10-23 : The Finance Committee is empowered to sell \$20,000 of Vanguard shares to pay for the FY 23-24.
  - PASS: 03-10-23 : The AAEB approves donation of \$500 to Simmons Hillel's Shabbat celebration dinner
- **Director of Alumnae/i Engagement, Kelly O'Connell**
  - Kelly mentioned about the workshop being held later in the day for better alumni engagement with Kelly and Enna. The workshop will be a guided exercise and can be joined both in person as well as virtually
  - Kelly announced the the Beyond Balanced Entrepreneurship Pitch Event being held at the Simmons campus on March 29, 2024 from 8am - 2:15pm

## Recordings

State of the University:

Folks can view the recording from here:

<https://simmons.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=187afb33-f11c-4cf4-b1ea-b0a0012936db>

And download from here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IWTK45hq3FtjihCta6ba-Z1d0\\_VFaHsS/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IWTK45hq3FtjihCta6ba-Z1d0_VFaHsS/view?usp=sharing)

Alumnae/i Association Executive Board Meeting:

Folks can view the recording from here:

<https://simmons.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=77979274-521e-4ff0-bcd1-b0a0012971df>

And download from here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/14WklGhpS4b11LI2InkxJtz4mHuE04cyK/view?usp=sharing>

Alumni Town Hall:

Folks can view the recording from here:

<https://simmons.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=6b933451-7166-4eb6-8619-b0a400f5fda2>

And download from here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/13T8clzKp8LIwE9M4GsiYbGqzIzVEot6d/view?usp=sharing>

SLIS Alumni Awards:

Folks can view the recording from here:

<https://simmons.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=efedc7dc-f590-48a0-8b97-b0a400ff55d0>

And download from here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/13SJGsMOPZqjYkSxvkRzuVCT3KdlwB6Cq/view?usp=sharing>