

AAEB March 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

Saturday, March 23 2024 (10am - 12pm)

Attendees

03232024 Resolutions and Attendance

Board Updates

Karen Thomas (President)

- Karen clarified the confusion about the jubilee celebration happening in Simmons this May 2024. Jubilee implies celebrating classes from 50 years ago. Therefore, Class of 1944 to 1974 will be celebrating Jubilee celebration in addition to another reunion being planned in June of 2024 specifically for Class of 1974
- 2 traditions highlighted by Karen that alums are most looking forward to are the Tea and the Strawberry breakfast
- Below are all the topics of interest from the survey done with alums of jubilee classes:
 - Updates from and engagement with University leadership, including President Lynn Perry Wooten
 - A class-exclusive activity (25+)
 - Discussions, panels, and speakers (by alum) on topics of interest, e.g., strategies for staying physically and mentally healthy, the future of all female schools, understanding gender today.
- The campaign for 125th committee is primarily comprised of Advancement and Board of Trustees and it is chaired by Alix Laager
- The committee is planning the 125th program and the campaigning around it
- The committee is planning to increase their goal by \$1.25 million
- Karen suggested that the board to start brainstorming ideas for fundraising for the 125th - something like a library card for BPL, or a souvenir/item that helps you feel connected to the community
- Morgan to attend planning meeting for the senior award ceremony on May 14th
- Ifill forum to be held on April 2nd and being attended by Sophia to take pictures and post on social media
- Karen is looking for board members to attend the 50th reunion class event as well as 25th reunion class event on May 31st
 - Maddie, Pam and Courtney expressed interest in attending
 - Karen will reach out with further details on these events

Elaine McCarthy (Nominations)

- Elaine recruited Kristin Heineman '93 for the Director of Marketing with term ending in 2027
- Elaine is continuing to recruit for VP, Director of Operations, Director of Athletics & Director of Communications
- Elaine mentioned that she is getting interest from graduate alums to apply for the open board positions but as per the current Simmons Alumnae/i Association bylaws, the board members can only be members of the undergraduate classes. Elaine posed a question to the board looking for thoughts and feedback on changing the bylaws and see if the Association would be interested in onboarding board members from the graduate schools
 - Possible thoughts on this topic:
 - Good idea to expand the network in terms of outreach
 - Good idea to expand the board especially for people who are interested in helping out
 - This would need a change in the charter of the Association (Maddie to check) considering the charter says the Association is meant for undergraduate population only
 - If the board is open to graduate alums, then we would need to possibly consider including male board members as well which could possibly be a negative impact considering the undergraduate population is still people who identify as females
 - Maddie to check the impact on bylaws if this change is made
 - This would help in the fundraising goal of the Association due to increased outreach
 - Would this change affect the perception of people towards the Alumnae/i Association
 - It was recommended that a small group of people should focus on this topic and bring back their recommendations to the board. The focused group would be Kelly, Elaine, Maddie & Pam
 - The working group will give a heads up to Krissy about this conversation and let her know that they are looking into this possibility and they will keep her updated in the process

Courtney Bryant (Student Outreach)

- Courtney spoke about the “50 Days to Commencement” event on March 26th from 6pm-8pm at Simmons
- The event is being hosted by the Simmons Alumnae/i Association
- Feedback on the flyer sent by Courtney:
 - It would be good to add the information of the association on the flyer
 - It would be good to add the 125th Alumnae/i Association logo sent by Karen

Barbara Campbell Harvey (Treasurer)

- TD Bank balance: \$4,605.95
- Vanguard balance:\$140,172.20
- Total: \$144,798.15

Maddie Gretzky (Historian)

- Working with Advancement to find more documentation and supporting other directors

Priyal Goyal (Operations)

- Annual board meeting is scheduled for May 18th from 11am- 12pm
- Historically this meeting used to occur during reunion weekend but this year it would be a standalone event
- A committee comprised of Elaine, Courtney, Pam, Sophia and Karen are working on putting together the contents of the meeting agenda
 - The committee will work on sending out an invitation to alum community asking them to sign up for the meeting
- Kaitlyn will be helping out in running the logistics of the meeting on the day of the event due to Priyal's absence
- Morgan suggested a possible idea to rename the ALumnae Service Award to the "Peggy Saslow" Award
- Suggestion from Kelly to possibly add a question on the survey for Annual meeting, "have you ever written a book or have you authored a Ted Talk or have you produced creative content that you would like to share" This will help the association gather information on the work alums are doing in the creative space and possibly feature them in the future

Morgan Ward (Awards)

- Priscilla McKee Awards nomination open till 4/18.
- So far 7-8 nominations have been received
- Nominations will be voted upon post 4/18
- Morgan has a committee of few people who will help her to review the nominations and vote upon them
- Morgan is looking for a volunteer to help out with the review and voting process
- Karen suggested that sharing a list of previous year winners in the announcement emails to generate some excitement and context
- Kelly asked if there are multiple list serves spreading awareness about the awards given out by the Association. If not, it would be good to send out the notification to different audiences especially around difference between the awards to enlighten the alum population. This could possibly be a future project for the communications committee in partnership with the Director of Awards

Sophia (Intern)

- Working on a couple of projects for the alum newsletter and organizing the repository
- Going to attend the Simmons Leadership Conference on April 4th
- Working with Morgan on the flyer for the Priscilla McKee Award

Pam Dashiell (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion)

- Trying to get a date on the University's calendar in early May to meet with the Executive Boards of the University affinity groups to discuss fall events
- Met with President of 4 As to discuss co-sponsoring a program at 125th Celebration
- Will be meeting with a member of the School of Social Work Alumnae/i Association to discuss future coordination of joint events
- Attending the Senior Reception on March 28th
- Attending A Sparkling Affair on April 28th
 - Sparkling affair is a celebration put together by BSO for graduating black students
- Not a project, but responded to a request from a student representative of the National Society of Black Women in Medicine (NSBWM) for assistance in finding a speaker for its induction ceremony of April 28th

Kelly O'Connell (Alumnae Outreach)

- Upcoming event is screening on 4/2 at the Simmons campus
- Kelly's ask is for everyone on the board to spread the word about them in their networks
- 9/20 BB conference on campus and hybrid online
- June West Coast Simmons meetup:
- Orange County & SF Regional events & tea

Resolutions

 **03232024 Resolutions and Attendance**


OPERATIONS:

(PASS) 3-24-01 The AAEB approves the minutes from the February 2024 meeting.

FINANCE:

(PASS) 3-24-02 The AAEB approves the transfer of \$10,000.00 from the Vanguard account to the TD checking account

Link to the recording of the meeting:

 **AAEB March Board Meeting (2024-03-23 10:03 GMT-4)**