

Jan 18, 2025

AAEB January 2025 Board Meeting

Invited Enna Jimenez Priyal Goyal Alumnae Association Executive Board
Kaitlin Maloney

Attachments 📅 AAEB January 2025 Board Meeting

🔴 AAEB January 2025 Board Meeting - 2025/01/18 09:49 EST - Recording

Meeting records 🔴 Recording 📄 Transcript 📄 Transcript 2 🔴 Recording 2

Summary

The Simmons College Alumni Association board meeting, attended by Priyal Goyal, Enna Jimenez, Kelly O'Connell, Elaine McCarthy, Karen Thomas, Kaitlin Maloney, Adunni Anderson, Courtney Bryant, and Maddie Gretzky, along with Emily Parkhurst, covered updates on the 125th reunion (including registration, workshop planning, and volunteer recruitment), various alumni events and initiatives (like a women's college presidents panel and a virtual run proposal), financial reports, DEI training, and upcoming annual meeting planning. Kelly O'Connell will transcribe the December meeting minutes using AI, and a planning committee (Priyal Goyal, Emily Parkhurst, Elaine McCarthy, and Adunni Anderson) will organize the annual alumni meeting.

Details

- **Meeting Logistics and Technical Difficulties:** The meeting began with technical difficulties, including blurry video for one participant. Priyal Goyal took attendance and shared their attendance tracking process.
- **125th Reunion Update:** Enna Jimenez provided an update on the 125th reunion registration, reporting a 43% open rate on the registration email (sent to almost 30,000 recipients). They highlighted the need for ongoing communication and

outreach to alumni, including phone calls and social media engagement. They also discussed workshop planning, with a focus on inclusivity across different schools. Questions were raised regarding dorm assignments and the content of the registration video. Further discussion involved adding information to future communications and the number of people already registered. Kelly O'Connell provided an update on class contact assignments. Elaine McCarthy inquired about suggestions for workshops, and Enna Jimenez indicated they were still finalizing the details. Further discussion included volunteer needs and potential financial assistance for volunteers. Enna Jimenez clarified details about the annual brunch and Daisy Chain tradition.

- **Other Alumni Association Activities:** Karen Thomas shared updates on various alumni events, including a call to action panel for March 29th featuring presidents of historically women's colleges, a Capitol Hill event for March 5th, and other events and collaborations. They also mentioned the need to promote reunion registration. A discussion about sending newsletters to current students and future alumni was also had.
- **Newsletter and Communication:** Priyal Goyal reviewed the January newsletter content and deadlines, highlighting key information about the 125th reunion, awards nominations, open board positions, and historical association information. They confirmed the official pronunciation of "alumnae" as "alumnæ". They also addressed an issue with a previous email sent from the alumni association's administrative email address. They then reset expectations for board member involvement, emphasizing meeting attendance, email responsiveness, and adherence to the meeting moderator/note-taker schedule. They also encouraged board members to make charitable donations to both the alumni association and Simmons College.
- **Financial Update:** Kaitlin Maloney provided a financial update, including bank and investment balances, net revenue, fundraising revenue (including restricted funds), and expenditures. They discussed the association's contribution to a 125th reunion event.
- **Women's College Presidents Panel:** Adunni Anderson gave an update on the planning for a panel of women's college presidents on March 29th. They discussed the selection of panelists, the program format, and the location. They also noted that there would be a fee to attend the event and the event would be available both in-person and virtually via Zoom.

- **Awards Nominations:** The meeting included a discussion of the awards nomination process, with a deadline of March 14th, 2025, and a request for three committee members to help review nominations.
- **Volunteer Recruitment and Committee Updates:** Elaine McCarthy reported on their progress in recruiting volunteers for committees and media consultant roles. They have been contacting potential volunteers, addressing their preferences, and forwarding suitable candidates to Morgan and Kristen. They are also receiving suggestions from other individuals, such as Leslie Dykeman.
- **Student Outreach and Women's History Month:** Courtney Bryant provided a brief update on student outreach, noting the lack of meetings due to winter break. They mentioned the upcoming countdown to graduation event in March and are considering collaboration with student government for Women's History Month events. Priyal Goyal suggested exploring opportunities for collaboration.
- **DEI Training and Follow-Up:** Priyal Goyal acknowledged the successful DEI training session with Dean Michael Lasala, Maddie Gretzky, Emory Hammory, and Marie. Maddie Gretzky sent a detailed email summarizing questions and terminology. Participants expressed appreciation for the training and its relevance to ongoing societal discussions. Karen Thomas highlighted Pam's contributions to expanding DEI initiatives and plans to share Dean Lasala's newsletter. Maddie Gretzky noted that discussions around gendered language have existed for a long time, referencing a 1977 editorial.
- **Yearbook Photo Project:** Maddie Gretzky proposed a project to incorporate yearbook photos of board members into a group photo for the newsletter. They will check with individuals before using their photos. They also shared information about accessing digitized yearbooks online. The potential use of these photos for engaging alumni and promoting the 125th reunion was discussed. Questions regarding copyright and usage of yearbook photos were raised, with the suggestion that clarification should be sought from the Simmons archives.
- **Photo Pins Fundraiser and 125th Reunion Activities:** Kelly O'Connell proposed the idea of creating and selling photo pins for attendees of the 125th reunion as a fundraiser. Other ideas discussed included photo opportunities during the Simmons Cup and the possibility of hiring a photographer for the reunion to capture images. The cost and budget implications of hiring a photographer were discussed, with suggestions of seeking input from Kaitlin and Fay to make a

budget decision. The group discussed the ownership and access to photos taken by professional event photographers, with the conclusion that as co-sponsors, they would likely have access to these images.

- **Virtual Run Proposal and Discussion:** Kelly O'Connell proposed a virtual run as an additional activity for the 125th reunion weekend which could also function as a fundraiser. The idea received mixed responses. Concerns were raised about adding a new fundraiser during the main 125th fundraising effort. The possibility of hosting the virtual run next year instead was suggested, as well as separating it from the fundraising aspect. Ultimately, Kelly decided to pursue the idea separately from the 125th reunion.
- **Annual Meeting Planning:** Priyal Goyal initiated a discussion on planning the alumni association's annual meeting during the 125th reunion weekend. They suggested a more interactive and engaging format, with input from Elaine McCarthy suggesting a move away from traditional presentations and Adunni Anderson adding the importance of defining clear objectives. A planning committee was formed, comprising Priyal Goyal, Emily Parkhurst, Elaine McCarthy, and Adunni Anderson.
- **December Meeting Minutes and AI Note-Taking:** Emily Parkhurst raised the issue of missing minutes from the December meeting. The group explored the use of AI to generate notes from the recording, with some support and opposition from members. Priyal Goyal suggested using AI and offered assistance with editing. Kelly O'Connell volunteered to transcribe the recording if the AI attempt proved unsuccessful. Ultimately, Kelly took on the task of transcribing the December meeting's recording using AI.

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