

**Metro State University**  
**Alumni Association Board Meeting**

January 31, 2023, 5:30-7 p.m., Saint Paul Room, New Main

**Members attending in-person:** Matt Christenson, Bryan Newman, Scott Pilgram, Ryan Ringwelski, Shahbaz Shah, Amanda Wong

**Members attending by Zoom:** Deidra Isaac, Munira Maalimisaq, Lyna Nyamwaya, Fidelis Odozi, Eric Rios, Betsy Salvatore, Shanasha Whitson, Darrell Young

**Members not attending:** Salman Mian, Matt Moe, Nancy Uden

**Staff attendees:** Kristine Hansen, Rachel Hughes, Noriko Ramberg, Josh Windham

**Guest:** Emily Johnson

Amanda Wong convened the meeting at 5:31 p.m. and thanked the board members for their time and commitments.

**Appreciation to the Alumni Board by Emily Johnson, Metro State career counselor:**

Johnson verbally wanted to extend her gratitude to the alumni volunteers, some of whom were Board members, for their involvement at the Alumni Career Experience and Networking event on January 5. Eighteen alumni volunteers engaged in resume reviews, mock interviews and networking with students; Johnson was impressed with the energy and passion alumni volunteers displayed, which positively impacted the participating students.

This was a meaningful event to mentor students near-graduation and/or recent graduates, of whom they are the targeted audience, and to make an impact on their lives. Career Center is planning another alumni networking event on May 10 from 1-5 p.m., and Johnson invited the Board members to volunteer the event.

- Alumni Career Experience Website: <https://www.metrostate.edu/career/alumni-career-experience>
- Volunteer form for May 10 event: <https://forms.office.com/r/p6PP0sbBDD>

The Board thanked Johnson for her work and efforts in organizing career-related events and reaching out to them for partnership.

**Office updates:**

- Nancy Uden is temporarily stepping back from her Board duties while she concentrates on her health issues and recovery from surgery. A flower bouquet on behalf of the Alumni Board was delivered to Uden last month. Kristine Hansen will share Uden's mailing address for anyone who would like to send a message to her.
- Amanda Wong will take Uden's role while she is on the temporary leave.
- Josh Windham is working on creating a shared Microsoft Teams site for the Alumni Board, where all the board-related documents and communications can be housed. Windham should be able to roll it out in a couple of weeks.
- Tom Krueger has resigned from the Alumni Board due to his busy work commitment.
- Metro State University Foundation is currently undertaking the searches to fill three positions: Annual Giving and Stewardship Director, Director of Corporate Foundation Relations Director, and Donor Database Manager. Once those positions are filled, they will be able to offer more assistance to our Fundraising Committee.
- Thulani Jwacu, who recently started a new job at the Minnesota Science Museum, has requested a Leave of Absence for the rest of the FY23 but plans to rejoin the Board in FY24.
- Advocacy Committee's new chair is Darrell Young.
- Career Resources Committee's new chair is Bryan Newman.

**Approval of committee notes:**

Board members reviewed the committee notes prior to the Board meeting. Motion to approve the committee

notes moved by Shahbaz Shah, seconded by Matt Christenson, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**Discussion and review of committee spreadsheet:**

Committees started to map out their objectives and commitments at the November Board meeting. Some committees added more commitments since; therefore, the Board reviewed the updated sheet.

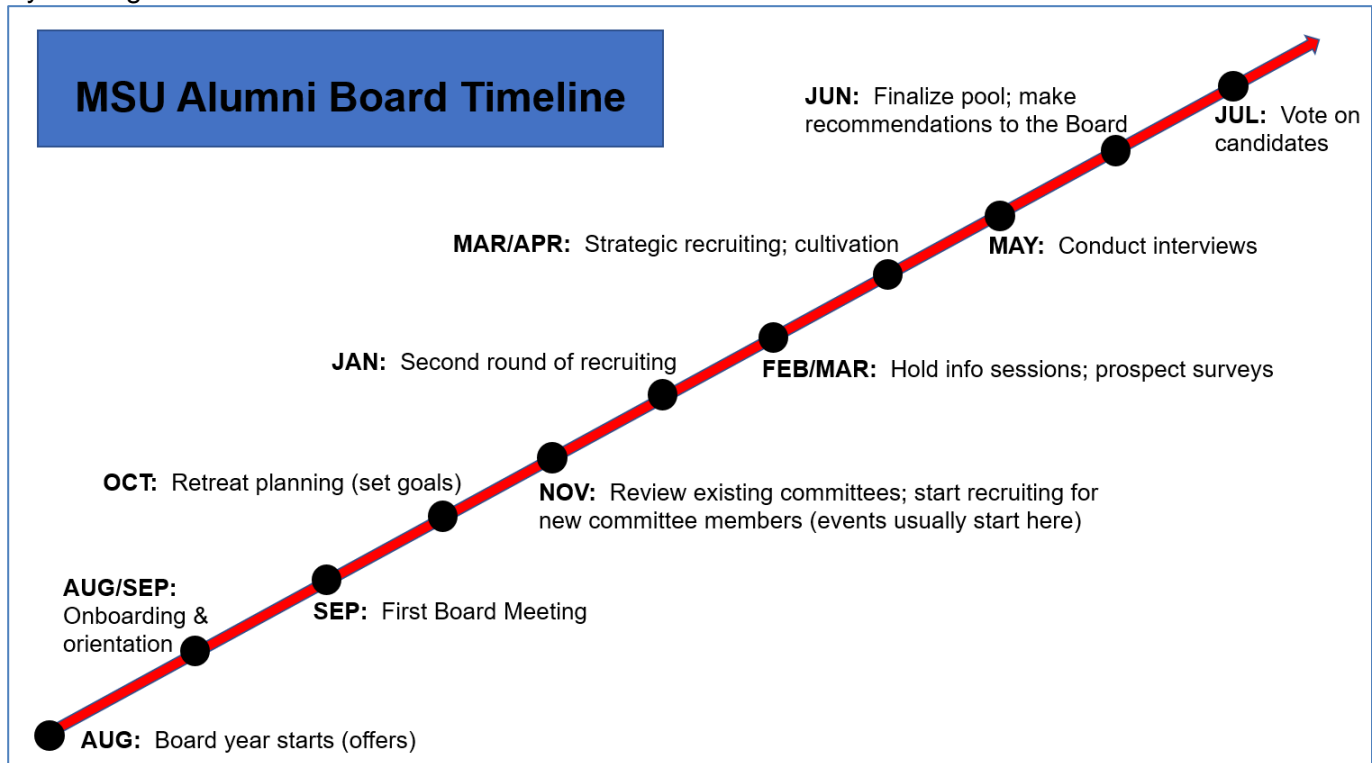
ADVOCACY Matt Christenson, Betsy Salvatore, Darrel Young		CAREER RESOURCES Thulani Jwacu, Munira Maalimisaq, Bryan Newman, Lyna Nyamwaya	
Objective	Member Commitment	Objective	Member Commitment
1 Educate and provide tools and resources to alumni to advocate for their causes, including Metro State	<b>Darrell:</b> Stay committed to engagement to the purpose of our alumni <b>Betsy:</b> become a social media user	1 Plan two career panels for the year	
2 Highlight and leverage Metro State's diversity and value (students and programs, e.g. Cybersecurity program) to influence legislative and corporate funding		2 Meet with the Career Center	<b>Bryan:</b> attend all career and engagement related events
3 Create opportunities for BIPOC and other diverse communities, e.g. LGBTQ+ to meet with President Arthur for her to hear their advocacy needs		3 Work with Committee for Metro State Connect	
		4 All committee members signed up before Nov Meeting	

ENGAGEMENT Salman Mian, Fidelis Odozi, Scott Pilgram,		FUNDRAISING Shanasha Whitson	MEMBERSHIP Diedra Isaac, Matt Moe, Ryan Ringwelski, Eric Rios, Shahbaz Shah
Objective	Objective	Objective	
1 Get more Alumni to follow the LinkedIn page	1 Establishing a calendar of Committee activities	1 <i>To recruit board and committee members and provide onboarding training to new members.</i>	
2 Committee team members to participate in X number of events by the end of the year	2 Give to the Max Day	2 Onboard and train new alumni board and committee members	
3 Identify people in management positions	3 Plan to award the Alumni Professional Development Funds	3 Identify and interview candidates for alumni awards and make recommendations to the full board for recognition awards	
4 Drive Engagement for other committees	4 Committee for the Alumni Scholarship Fund	4 Provide a slate of candidates for the election of board officers	
5 Recruit Alums with key skillsets to join the Engagement Committee	5 A second effort in the spring		

- Regarding the Engagement Committee's objective #5—Recruit alums with key skillset, Fidelis Odozi requested the Board to actively look for alumni in their contacts with social media savvy and graphic designing skills, to strengthen the work of the Engagement Committee.
- Everyone understood that committee members can be recruited any time throughout the year. Referral of suitable candidates are encouraged

## Membership timeline:

Ryan Ringwelski shared the draft timeline of Board recruitment.



- Ringwelski encouraged each committee to identify the quality and skills they are looking for in their committee so that the Membership Committee can assist in targeting such alumni with certain specialties.
- Membership Committee hopes to hold prospects' info sessions earlier than last time to give the prospects enough time to decide on the commitment.
- Ringwelski hopes to use this visual timeline to ensure that various tasks related to the Board recruitment are timely completed. He and the Alumni Relations Office will finalize the timeline by adding a Metro State logo and metrics.
- Alumni Board can consist of up to 22 members and we are currently at 17 active members. Ideally, we hope to have 4-6 new Board members each year, taking into account possible turnovers and term completions.
- As for the committee member count, the more the better due to the higher turnover trend. It is a good opportunity for them to get involved as well before making a significant commitment to be on the Board. It is also an opportunity for the Board to determine if they have the quality and fit for the Board membership.
- It is our intention to recruit committee members with the mind of possibly transition them to commit to the Board.

## Upcoming events:

Odozi and the Board members prioritized the events for Board members to attend and/or volunteer based on their objectives and strategy—namely supporting recent alumni and senior-year students. Among a number of upcoming university events, the following are especially important in showing the Alumni Board presence:

- *Real Life Careers in IT*, February 15, 4:30-6 p.m., Library 302
- *Spring Fest*, February 16, 4-6 p.m., Student Center
- *Breakfast at the Capitol*, February 24, 9-10:30 a.m., Minnesota State Capitol, Room B15
- *Alumni Game Night*, March 1, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Library first floor

- *Real Life Careers in Health Care*, March 14, time 4:30-6 p.m., Student Center 101, Moderator-Lyna Nyamwaya
- *Commencement Expo*, March 25, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Great Hall, New Main
- *Alumni Career Experience and Networking*, May 10, time TBD, Library

Other events that the Alumni Board presence is appreciated:

- *Spring Fest*, February 16, 4-6 p.m., Student Center
- *President's Outstanding Student Reception*, April 29, time TBD, Great Hall, New Main
- *Spring Commencement*, May 6, time TBD, Minneapolis Convention Center

#### **Advocacy updates:**

- Darrell Young encouraged the members to attend the February 24 "Breakfast at the Capitol" to build relationships with legislators. He also recommended members to contact their legislators and invite them to the event.
- Young encouraged members to contact their legislators, in support of President Arthur, for them to build relationships with Metro State.
- There is an information session on advocacy on February 8, *Advocacy 101 Webinar*. If anyone is interested, the registration link: [https://actionnetwork.org/events/advocacy-101-webinar?nowrapper=true&referrer=&source=direct\\_link](https://actionnetwork.org/events/advocacy-101-webinar?nowrapper=true&referrer=&source=direct_link)
- Young and Hansen will comprise a template letter to legislators, highlighting the needs of Metro State.
- The Governor's bonding request funded Metro State's two bonding projects—redesign of Management Education Center in Minneapolis and the creation of cyber security range.

#### **Appreciations:**

Positive feedback and appreciation related to the Board members, the work they do, and Metro State:

- Shah appreciated the visual membership timeline.
- Wong appreciated the tangible results that were produced from this meeting.
- Scott Pilgram appreciated the opportunity to participate in the January 5 career networking event as a mock interviewer.

#### **Other business:**

- Nyamwaya would like the Board members to keep in mind an upcoming event, supported by African nurses' network, *Leadership and Entrepreneurship Conference* on March 18. Once the conference details are confirmed, she will email the Board. Metro State's presence is appreciated.
- Bryan Newman inquired about a small informational card that could have a QR code to the alumni web page and PeopleGrove link on it, so that Board members can readily hand it out to prospective committee members during casual recruitment. It could have a staff person's name and contact number, list of committees, or any other useful information.
- All members are encouraged to take photos of their activities whenever they participate in or volunteer for campus activities so we can build up a library of stock photos showcasing the Board's work. All snapshots should be emailed to [alumni.relations@metrostate.edu](mailto:alumni.relations@metrostate.edu) for collection and storage.
- Metro State blue scarves were given to in-person meeting attendees. The office will hand them out to Zoom attendees at another time.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Noriko Ramberg, Office Coordinator