

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

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UMN Morris Alumni Association Board Meeting  
Minutes

Campus News, Newsletters, and Events

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12-5-2022

### **UMMAA Board Meeting Minutes 12/05/2022**

University of Minnesota Morris Alumni Association Board

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**University of Minnesota, Morris  
Alumni Association Board Meeting  
December 5, 2022 - 5:30-7:00 p.m.  
Agenda**

- **Potential Agenda Topics – December 5**
  - **Demos of Handshake, Linked In, Maroon & Gold**
  - **Agenda for Midwinter meeting**
  - **Chancellor Search Status - Susan**
  - **Max Fund Updates – Susan**
  - **Homecoming recap (Jen)**
  - **Nominees for Board positions, Distinguished Alumni Awards**
    - **Please share any names you may have**

**Members present via Zoom:** Start 5:30, Kay Keskinen, Don Brabeck, Dave Eckmann, Randy Koopman, Jon Dalager, Erika Bailey-Johnson, Martin Conroy, Holly Gruntner, Seth Elsen, Leonard Munstermann, Susan Schmidgall, and Jennifer Zych Herrmann **Absent:** Jena Magee, Khondoker Prio, Jake Lunemann

**1) Welcome/Call to Order - Randy**

**2) Demos of LinkedIn, Handshake, and Maroon and Gold Network - Kay Keskinen and Martin Conroy**

Kay started with a demo of LinkedIn, walking us through the UMM Alumni account which has 1,600 members. She recently posted a call for nominations for new board members. Proposed a goal that each UMMAA committee post at least on meaningful post each month and to check the account and like things when relevant. Does have direct messaging capabilities. Can also make personal invitations to others to join.

Holly Gruntner did a walk-through of Handshake ([handshake.umn.edu](http://handshake.umn.edu)), an online career network. Geared more specifically toward recruiting and creating connections between UMN job seekers and potential employers. Students who have been enrolled at least two semesters are eligible to join and there is a way to activate an account even if your UMN Morris email account has lapsed. Has a similar look as LinkedIn. Can post a profile and resume and can search open positions. There is an option of company pages for those wishing to be in a mentor/employer capacity. Campuses most built out are UMTC and UMD. Morris has a site but does not have much content at this time - lots of potential to increase our campus presence on this platform.

**3) Nominees for Board Positions**

Leonard made a motion to consider updating UMMAA officer positions to President-Elect, President, Past-President. It was approved by all members present so will now go up for formal

notification to the UMMAA Board of Directors. After a minimum of 10 days Board Members will submit an electronic vote via a Google Form. Board members will be emailed the current bylaws and proposed changes on 12/6/22 along with the Google Form which is due on 12/16/22.

Leonard proposed a potential bylaw amendment to add the option to extend the presidential position. After much discussion and review of the bylaws it was determined that this was not necessary. There is no language that precludes a president from continuing on, even if their term has expired. They only have to have experience on the board and be elected by the Board of Directors.

#### **4) Chancellor Search Update - Susan Schmidgall**

Susan shared that the search for the new chancellor is officially underway. President Gabel was on campus in November for listening sessions and to officially charge the committee. The committee is in good hands, co-chaired by Dr. Peh Ng, Acting VCAA for Academic Affairs and Dean and Dr. Michael Rodriguez '89. Susan is serving on the search committee and in and is happy to receive feedback.

Susan gave the board an update about a current priority for private giving support - the MAX (Morris Academic eXperiences) Fund. It aligns with Acting Chancellor Janet Schrunk Ericksen's highest priorities for the campus.

#### **5) Homecoming Recap - Jennifer Zych Herrmann**

Jennifer gave a brief update on what Randy Koopman called "one of the best Homecomings he had ever been a part of." There was great attendance at the wide variety of events, bringing in people to celebrate our newest Distinguished Alumni Award recipients (Jennifer Westendorf '91 and Amy Powers '96) two teams and two individuals into the Cougar Hall of Fame (2003 Women's Soccer Team, 2010-2011 Women's Basketball Team, Scott Cooper '92 - Track and Field, and Jill Druley Brown '99 - Women's Soccer), the 50th Anniversary of KUMM, a successful alumni and student networking event, and the dedication of our new softball facility. She thanked all of the board members who were a part of the weekend's festivities.

Homecoming 2023 will be September 8-10, 2023.

#### **6) Nominees for Board positions, Distinguished Alumni Awards**

Randy gave an update on the open positions that need to be filled via election at the annual meeting (held during the Midwinter event on 2.23.23). Leaving the board in February 2023 will be Jon Dalager and Erika Bailey-Johnson. There is also the option to fill more positions, as the UMMAA bylaws allow for up to 20 members on the board.

The board discussed the goal of balanced representation on the board, with the goal of inviting more women and people of color to join. With that objective in mind, the board was asked to share potential nominees with Randy, Jon and Erika who will make up the nominating committee. They will use those suggestions, along with other nominations, to create a slate of nominees for approval by the UMMAA board by the end of January. Those approved will be put before the membership for election at the February 23, 2023 Midwinter meeting.

**7) Other Business**

No additional items were brought forward.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:06pm, CST

Minutes approved by UMMAA Board: 1/28/23