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UMN Morris Alumni Association Board Meeting
Minutes

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4-10-2023

UMMAA Board Meeting Minutes 04/10/2023

University of Minnesota Morris Alumni Association Board

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University of Minnesota, Morris
Alumni Association Board Meeting
April 10, 2023 - 5:00-6:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Started at 5:00 pm

Members present via Zoom: Kay Keskinen, Don Brabeck, Dave Eckmann, Randy Koopman, Bob Dalager, Erika Bailey-Johnson, Jake Lunemann, Holly Gruntner, Seth Elsen, Becky Newell, Jennifer Houtman, Jennifer Westendorf, Susan Schmidgall, and Jennifer Zych Herrmann. **Joining mid-meeting:** Jena Magee, Khondoker Ahnaf Prio, Leonard Munstermann, and Martin Conroy

1) Call meeting to order - by Randy Koopman, UMMAA President

2) Welcome New Board Members and Introductions

This meeting marks the first UMMAA Board of Directors meeting for Robert Dalager '71, Jennifer Westendorf '91, Jennifer Houtman'94, and Becky Newell '97. They were welcomed to the board by President Randy Koopman and were given the chance to introduce themselves, followed by the other members of the board. Randy shared an image from the Board of Directors website, housed on the campus Alumni website (<https://alumni.morris.umn.edu/board-directors>) and the list of emails he had for each board member, asking them to verify and request appropriate updates. Clarified that some board business will be handled via email, letting board members know to monitor their messages and respond in a timely manner.

3) Calendar of Events

Randy walked through a calendar of upcoming alumni events for April-September 2023. A continuously updated list of events is found on the campus alumni website: <https://alumni.morris.umn.edu/alumni-association>

~~•Admitted Student Reception, Café Latte, St. Paul Tuesday, April 11, 6-7:30pm (Ahnaf Prio and Don Brabeck plan to attend)~~-CANCELED 4/7/2023

•UMM Jazz Fest: Friday, April 14, 7:00pm

•Regional Alumni Event, Boston, MA – Sonsie Restaurant: Thursday, April 27, 5:00-7:00pm (Randy Koopman and Leonard Munstermann plan to attend)

•60th Commencement: Saturday, May 13, 1:30pm (The first graduating class, Class of 1964, which includes Leonard Munstermann, are invited to attend as special guests. Leonard is likely not available but will confirm.)

•Gathering of UMN Morris Alumni Working Across the UMN System - Campus Club: Tuesday, May 16, 5:00-7:00 pm (Hosted by Michael Rodriguez '87, Larry Traversie '00, Sheila Williams Ridge '96, and Sam Rosemark '21)

•Regional Alumni Event, Washington D.C. - location TBD: Thursday, June 15

•U of M Day at the Minnesota Twins: Saturday, July 22

•Cougar Golf Classic – Morris, Friday, July 28

•Homecoming 2023

Friday, Sept. 8 - Highlights

Annual Alumni and Student Networking Event - 11:30am

Distinguished Alumni Award Recognition Event- 5:00pm

Saturday, Sept. 9 - Highlights

UMMAA Board Meeting – 9am

Cougar Hall of Fame Recognition Event - 10:30am

William B. and Ida B. Stewart Hall Dedication Event - 3:00pm

Randy commented that although there wasn't an expectation for every board member to be at every Alumni Relations sponsored event it would be nice to have at least a few members present at each event whenever possible.

4) Discussion and Vote on Distinguished Alumni Award (DAA) Candidates

Having shared the candidate names and dossiers with the board members prior to this meeting, Randy made some introductory remarks about the DAA award, the selection process, and clarified that all three candidates could be selected if deemed worthy of this honor. He asked Jennifer Zych Herrmann to share a bit more about the process. She walked through the nominating process and the criteria for the award as well as timeline for notification and recognition of the recipients. Randy opened up discussion of the candidates to the group. The overall comments centered on the quality of the nominees and their nominating materials. Once comments ended Randy asked how we might vote on this pool. Zych Herrmann said they could be considered individually or as a slate and the vote could happen via a confidential Zoom poll or by a show of hands. Randy asked if there was anyone who was opposed to considering the group as a slate, and seeing no concern, entertained a motion from Bob Dalager to consider the three candidates as a slate. Don Brabeck seconded that motion. There was also no concern from the board membership to do a show of hands for the vote so it was conducted accordingly. All three candidates were unanimously approved by the members present at the start of the meeting, which constituted a quorum. Next steps will be for Jennifer Zych Herrmann to notify the nominators and then the recipients of the award, followed by more public notification and arrangements for their attendance at the Friday, September 9 recognition event.

5) President Elect Position

Jena has decided that she did not want to pursue the position of President Elect, opening up this position to other board members who have served on the board for at least one year. Randy has been able to connect with all eligible board members and has two candidates interested in filling

the position. The board will select a candidate via Google Form facilitated vote. This form will be shared with all voting board members via email in the near future.

6) Committee Reports - Kay Keskinen, Randy Koopman

Kay shared that without resources to invest in other strategies, the Alumni Engagement Committee is continuing to utilize LinkedIn as a means to communicate more actively with alumni. Jen shared that if the group had ideas that needed investment they should let her know so she can help them explore options.

Randy shared an update as a member of the Events committee, referencing the list of upcoming events he presented earlier in the meeting. He was pleased with the options available to alumni and encouraged the board to promote these events and share ideas for future events with Jennifer Zych Herrmann. Kay shared that she thought an event in the Spokane, WA area might attract WA, ID, and MT area alumni if it was not held in winter. Susan Schmidgall also said that they were welcome to offer ideas for event locations or events at their places of business.

7) Comments on UMN Board of Regents Visit to Morris - Susan Schmidgall

Susan talked about the schedule for the week. The Board of Regents' (BOR) visit to Morris started on March 8, 2023 with a board retreat and community meal at Common Cup Coffeehouse. The community meal was an extremely well attended event, with lots of engagement between UMN administrators, the board, and Morris community members. Susan thanked board member Bob Dalager for attending the event and to share his perspective on the event. Bob thought it was a good opportunity to get a better understanding of the greater board beyond recent polarizing issues. Brian Steves, who coordinates the BOR said this community event was a first for the board and they planned to add it to future March meeting schedules at all campuses due to the success of this event.

Thursday, March 9 was dedicated to telling the Board the Morris story. Advancement (Development and Alumni Relations) had the honor of starting off the day, with Susan and Randy presenting on behalf of those respective departments. Several campus units presented and students had the opportunity to present posters of their academic work later in the day.

Friday, March 10 was the regular BOR meeting, held in the Recital Hall. It ran smoothly and Janet had the opportunity to share the presentation *Making an Impact: UMN Morris*.

8) Updates on Chancellor Search - Susan Schmidgall

We had four chancellor candidates on campus - Dr. David Lanoue, Dr. Roma Chopra, Dr. Janet Schrunk Ericksen, and Dr. David Weeks - during the weeks of March 19 and March 26. They

had extremely full schedules over the course of a two day campus visit, meeting with various campus, community, and system constituencies.

The committee completed their work the first week of April and sent feedback to President Gabel, per her request. It is not anticipated that President Gabel's summer departure from the U of M to U of Pittsburgh will delay or impact the timing and nature of the President's decision. Susan thanked the board members for their engagement with the process. Some board members were not able to access the recorded presentations and were interested in watching them. Jennifer Zych Herrmann will reshare this information with the entire board via email.

9) Feedback on Midwinter Meeting - Jennifer Zych Herrmann

After having to reschedule from 2/23/23 to one week (3/1/23) later due to a winter weather event Jennifer said she was happy with the outcome of the event. After a period of low participation in this event due to the COVID-19 pandemic it was nice to have 52 people attend this event that combines the annual UMMAA business meeting and social event. At the business meeting the chancellor shared a campus update and honored a new member to the President's Club, followed by an update on UMMAA activities by President Randy Koopman. Outgoing board members Erika Bailey-Johnson and Jon Dalager were thanked for their years of service and leadership and new members Bob Dalager, Becky Newell, Jennifer Westendorf, and Jennifer Houtman were elected as new UMMAA Board members. Don Brabeck, and Khondoker Ahnaf Prio were elected to a second three-year term and Randy Koopman was elected for a second 1-year term as President. The location, Jax Cafe in NE Minneapolis had a warm atmosphere and fantastic food, with many remarking how they enjoyed the location and chance to connect with friends.

10) UMN Policy on Alumni email Addresses - Jennifer Zych Herrmann

In short, there is an anticipated change to the ability for the U of M to continue its Email for Life policy due to changes in Google data storage costs. A planned phase out of graduates that do not meet the account retention requirements was slated to begin in Spring 2023 but appears to have been delayed until 2024.

Board members shared some comments, primarily focused on how to make the transition, if it must happen, as smooth as possible and how we might assist alumni with data migration and how to identify and communicate ways for alumni to maintain connections to our campus and to each other through resources such as LinkedIn and the Maroon & Gold Network. Jennifer said she would share information as she could and would welcome board assistance as we determine a good way to communicate changes and maintain relationships with our alumni.

11) Other Business

Don Brabeck and Becky Newell shared that they have open positions with their organizations and would like to encourage UMN Morris students to apply. Jennifer Zych Herrmann offered to

help share their information with our Career Services professional and faculty in relevant disciplines.

Khondoker Ahnaf Prio requested that future Zoom meetings be shared with board members via Google Calendar, in the event that there needs to be changes made to the meeting time, location, or format. Jennifer Zych Herrmann said that had been done in the past but some non-Google users had some issues seeing this information. She proposed that the information is sent by both a calendar and email invite.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:29 pm.

Minutes approved by UMMAA Board: 4/21/23