

Meyerhoff Alumni Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 17, 2009
7-8:30pm - Alumni House

In Attendance

Alumni House: Raymond Onley, Mawuli Dzirasa, Vondell Coleman, Latey Jones, Candace Mainor, William Christian, Stanyell Bruce, Kamili Jackson, Earnestine Baker, Raj Stewart

Phone (1-888-617-3400 pass code is 367161): Michael Haywood, Tanisha Hall, Delayne Johnson, Jason McCullers, Jennifer Plummer, Camelia Owens, Mileka Gilbert, Tiffani Bright, Seth Miller, Michael Aaron, Shayla Shorter, Donna Pearson, John Foster, Lauren Wills, Ozell Sanders

I. **Call to Order** - 19:05 EST (7:05 p.m.)

At 19:05 Ray called the meeting to order, thanking everyone participating. Roll Call was then immediately initiated.

II. **Roll Call** – 19:06 EST (7:06 p.m.)

President - Raymond Onley (M4), present
Vice President - Mawuli Dzirasa (M7), present
Secretary - Vondell Coleman (M4), present
Treasurer - Donna Person (M7), present
Parliamentarian - John Foster (M11), present
Historian - Tanisha Hall (M6), present
M1 Representative - Michael Haywood, present
M2 Representative – stand in Angelique Blanding, absent
M3 Representative - Angelique Blanding, absent
M4 Representative - Delayne Johnson, present
M5 Representative - Jason McCullers, present
M6 Representative - Jennifer Plummer, present
M7 Representative - Camelia Owens, present
M8 Representative - Alexandra Harryman, absent
M9 Representative - Mileka Gilbert, present
M10 Representative - Lauren Wills, absent
M11 Representative - Tiffani Bright, present
M12 Representative - Richard Shoge, present
M13 Representative - Seth Miller, present
M14 Representative - Michael Aaron, present
M15 Representative - Candace Manor, present
M16 Representative - Shayla Shorter, present
M17 Representative - Latey Jones, present
Graduate Fellow Representative – Joe Washington, absent

7:09pm:

The proposed agenda was then amended adding a Cohort Giving Challenge update from Stanyell and time for announcements from Raj.

7:11pm:

Motion to approve agenda was given by Mawuli and second by Raj. It was then approved by the body.

III. **Election Committee Update** - 19:12 EST (7:12 p.m.)

Kamili Jackson reported:

- The elections went pretty well with about 98 alumni participating in the election by casting votes. The breakdown included a few alumni from each cohort.
- The bylaws left a lot of flexibility to be creative about the election process requiring only a one week period in June to allow people time to vote.
- A report to pass on to the next election committee includes advice to start preparing early, do a lot of planning, and communicate to alums in as many ways as possible about the election. The report will be posted somewhere once we have an established place for written reports (Alumni website, Google group)
- There was some discussion as to how we could increase the numbers of participants but no conclusion was made. It was left as something to investigate.

There are still three open positions that need to be filled.

M2 Rep – Currently Angelique Blanding M3 rep is filling in

M18 Rep – Ray took the action item to follow up with Mr. Tolliver who would coordinate selecting a M18 rep since the school year had begun now.

Graduate Fellow Rep - Ray is appointing Joseph Washington to fill the position for now

IV. **Appointment and Approval of Committee Chairs** – 19:21 EST. (7:21 p.m.)

President Onley sent our several emails requesting volunteers for the open committee chair and vice chair positions. He was a little disappointed that the responses were few. After some discussion and somewhat of a consensus that the president should not chair a committee because he has overarching responsibility to the work of all the committees the following committee chairs and vice chairs were put up for approval.

Mentoring and Advising—support summer bridge activities and the mentoring program

Chair - William Christian (M3)

Vice Chair – Seth Miller (M13)

Recruitment—support for program recruitment activities leading up to and including selection weekend and selection of new Meyerhoff Program staff members.

Chair – Michael Haywood (M1)

Vice Chair – Candace Mainor (15)

Membership and Networking —Alumni networking and social events.

Chair – Ozell Sanders (M16)

Vice Chair – Jenni Plummer (M6)

Service - development of a comprehensive community service program.
Chair – Cammie Owens (M7)
Vice Chair – Open

Communications—Newsletter, website, and general alumni communications.
Chair – Kamili Jackson (M4)
Vice Chair – Tiffani Bright (M11)

Fundraising - cohort giving, general fundraising to support the Meyerhoff Program
Chair – Donna Person (M7)
Vice Chair – Vondell Coleman (M4)

Elections - facilitate executive board and cohort representative elections.
Chair – Kamili Jackson (M4)
Vice Chair – Mawuli Dzirasa (M7)

7:30pm: Committee leadership listed above unanimously approved.

- The chairs of the committees were given a task to create goals for their committees and actively seek out alumni to serve on their committees. Mawuli will work closely with committees to set goals for the year and help coordinate committee membership.

V. **New Business** - 19:32 EST (7:32 p.m.)

- 7:33pm, Mrs. Baker: There is a Family Picnic scheduled for this Saturday Sept. 19th. A family meeting will be held in Lecture Hall 2 at 9am. Buses will leave at 10:30am for Centennial Park. They are scheduled to arrive at the park at 11:15am. All are invited to attend but please RSVP to Ms. Hall in the Meyerhoff office by Friday at noon so that preparations can be made. There will be ice breakers, games and lunch.
- 7:38pm, Stanyell: In recapping the numbers from the cohort giving challenge she stated that there was a 5% overall participation in giving for UMBC alumni. Last year there was a 14% giving participation from Meyerhoffs. The giving campaign is on the fiscal calendar so any amount given between July 1st and June 30th counts toward the contributions for the year. The M6's were victorious last year with a 36% participation rate knocking off the M1's from the previous year. They will have their cohort added to the plaque in the Meyerhoff office. Would like to have some plans in place for this year's challenge so that the alumni office can support us in any way they can.

VI. **Closing Remarks** – 19:43 EST(7:43pm)

- Ray asked that everyone keep in contact with their cohort. If there are any problems contacting someone let us know.
- Request was made to send out cohort contact information to the reps.

- Stanyell said that the University Alumni Board meeting scheduled for Monday would have limited business. She would talk to the documents that we ratified and that we would probably be officially approved as a chapter in November.
- Raj asked that those post docs interested in judging a poster session in Phoenix reach out to him for additional information.

Action Items:

- Cohort Reps: Get in touch with Cohort about Giving Challenge
- Committee Chairs: Set goals for the year and solicit members to serve.
- Ray: Touch base with Mr. T. on M18 rep.
- Mawuli: Meet/talk with committee chairs about goals and help fill committees with members.
- Von: Send out minutes and update cohort contact information.

Next Meeting: November 19, 2009 @ 7 p.m. If in person, dinner will be available at alumni house beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 19:55 EST (7:55 p.m.)