

Meyerhoff Alumni Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, June 17, 2009  
6-8:30pm - Alumni House

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**In Attendance**

**Alumni House:** Raymond Onley, Vondell Coleman, Michael Haywood, Latey Jones, William Christian, Stanyell Bruce, Earnestine Baker

**Phone** (1-888-617-3400 passcode is 367161): Mawuli Dzirasa, Tanisha Hall, Delayne Johnson, Jason McCullers, Jennifer Plummer, Camelia Owens, Mileka Gilbert, Tiffani Bright, Seth Miller, Michael Aaron, Shayla Shorter and Kamili Jackson.

I. **Call to Order** - 18:30 EST (6:30 p.m.)

At 18:30 Ray called the meeting to order, thanking everyone for their involvement to date. This included the hard work of the election board (Kamili Jackson and Mawuli Dzirasa). The newly elected cohort representatives were thanked for stepping up and encouraged to use whatever means at their disposal to keep members of their cohort involved.

II. **Roll Call** - 18:33 EST (6:33 p.m.)

President - Raymond Onley (M4), present  
Vice President - Mawuli Dzirasa (M7), present  
Secretary - Vondell Coleman (M4), present  
Treasurer - Donna Person(M7), absent  
Parliamentarian - John Foster (M11), absent  
Historian - Tanisha Hall (M6), present  
M1 Representative - Michael Haywood, present  
M2 Representative - Open  
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, absent  
M13 Representative - Seth Miller, present  
M14 Representative - Michael Aaron, present  
M15 Representative - Candace Manor, absent  
M16 Representative - Shayla Shorter, present  
M17 Representative - Latey Jones, present  
Graduate Fellow Representative – Open

III. **Election Committee Update** - 18:39 EST (6:39 p.m.)

Kamili Jackson reported:

- The first elections had been successfully conducted and that she and Mawuli were in the process of putting together a report on the lessons learned from the process.
- Three positions still need to be filled, the M2 rep, M18 rep (non-voting) and a Graduate Fellow Rep.
- Suggested that a M1/M3 may be able to serve as the M2 rep until a willing member of the cohort was found. Michael Haywood stepped up to serve as their representative until one could be found.
- We will need to work with the program to have a M18 rep selected this fall when the school year begins. M18s are the current four year senior class.
- Stanyell and Kamili will work to insure that the Graduate Fellow representative is filled.
- There were a few people nominated or expressing interest in some of the committee positions. Kamili will forward the list of people to Ray for consideration
- Formal report on nominations/elections will be provided by the next board meeting.

Raymond Onley took liberty give Stanyell Bruce an opportunity to introduce herself as she did not get an opportunity to introduce herself during roll call. Stanyell is the Associate Director of Alumni Relations as has been an integral part of the formation of this board to date.

IV. **Goals for Upcoming Year** - 18:43 EST. (6:43 p.m.)

Raymond Onley expressed a desire that the board focus on four major goals for the upcoming year.

1. Alumni and Student Interaction

- Summer Bridge Cookout:
  - Alumni have participated in a summer bridge cookout the past two years. This year there are forty-nine M21s. We'd like to make sure that they see alumni throughout their time at UMBC to help foster the family atmosphere by seeing older Meyerhoffs
  - Jason McCullers who attended this year's cookout thought it was "a great way to bridge the old and the new, allowing them to ask questions on an informal basis."
- Panel Discussions: Any alumni interested in being part of a panel toward the end of Summer Bridge should let Ray know their availability.
- Graduation Activity: Would like to plan some type of activity with the graduates in the spring. Any ideas are welcomed.

2. Mentoring

- There will be a committee on mentoring which needs to get going quickly. Mr. Toliver is very interested in revitalizing the mentoring program that many of the older M's enjoyed ASAP. This mentoring program would pair current students with alumni.

3. Fundraising

- The CGC (Cohort Giving Challenge) ends in a few weeks and we need to create a big last minute push for donations.

- Stanyell noted that last year's challenge netted \$18,500 collected from 160 alumni. Currently this year's total is \$9,500 with 72 alumni contributing. M6's are leading the challenge with 28% of the cohort contributing. The winning cohort gets a nameplate engraved in a very nice plaque that hangs in the Meyerhoff office. M1's won last year's challenge.
  - The fiscal year ends June 30th and all donations for this year's challenge must be in by then. Encourage cohort members to give any amount. It is the participation percentage that is important not the amount of the donation.
  - The goal is for 100% participation not necessarily a targeted amount.
  - Donations can be made online at [http://www.umbc.edu/meyerhoff/alumni/cohort\\_giving\\_challenge.html](http://www.umbc.edu/meyerhoff/alumni/cohort_giving_challenge.html) or <http://retrievernet.umbc.edu/mhoffgiving>.
  - Seth Miller sent out an email to board members containing a video plea from Doc emphasizing the importance of participation. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDD4oagCkN8>
  - The cohort giving challenge will be a chief responsibility of the fundraising committee however the committee will be tasked with also looking for other methods and means to help support the program. .
4. Service Project
- Request was made that anyone with specific ideas for a service project be a part of the service committee.

\*It was noted at this time that the email addresses for Tanisha Hall and Michael Haywood may be inaccurate.\*

V. **Committee Appointment Discussion** - 19:03 EST (7:03 p.m.)

- Raymond Onley asked that members review the list of committees outlined in the charter and report back to him by Friday 6/19 on at least one committee they would like to be involved with. If you have a desire to chair or co-chair a committee please express that as well.
  - Committees: Fundraising, Mentoring, Recruitment, Service, Membership, Communications.
- Floor was open for questions on committees
- Question was asked if service projects for consideration were to only be local? Several comments suggested that they should not be limited to solely local projects given that there were Meyerhoffs all over the country that may want to participate.
- It was brought to the board's attention that we should probably get a better feel for where Meyerhoffs are located throughout the country, and possibly divide the country into regions. This was thought to be a good first assignment for the membership committee.
- There was discussion about a common day of service for all Meyerhoffs, so that service projects could be coordinated to take place on the same day or week throughout the country. Mrs. Baker suggested that May 1, could be a good day to center things around given that all Meyerhoffs have had to accept their scholarships by May 1<sup>st</sup>

- Ray reemphasized that everyone express their interest in appointment to a committee to him. The bulk of the work that the board will do will happen in committees. Everyone should be a part of at least one committee and is encouraged to join several and possibly chair or co-chair a committee.
- It was noted that even alumni not serving as cohort representatives or officers can be a part or even chair the committees.

VI. **Meeting Schedule** - 19:23 EST (7:23 p.m.)

- It was suggested that we hold five board meetings a year. The meetings will take place in June, September, November, February, and April.
- The day of the meetings was decided to be the third Thursday of the month with a start time of 7pm EST. For those local to UMBC, dinner at the alumni house will start at 6:30p.

VII. **Closing Remarks**

- Ray briefly went over the purpose of the board as outlined in the charter

Action Items::

- Cohort Reps: Get in touch with Cohort about Giving Challenge
- All: Send Ray emails with committee choices
- Ray: Setup the committees
- Mawuli: will meet/talk with committee chairs
- Von: Gather correct emails and send out minutes
- Ray: Coordinate Alumni Panel date
- Stanyell: Create board list serve
- Kamili: Write up election report
- Kamili/Stanyell: Graduate Fellow Rep

Next Meeting: September 17, 2009 @ 7 p.m. If in person, dinner will be available at alumni house beginning at 6:30 p.m.

**Meeting adjourned at 19:45 EST (7:45 p.m.)**