

HARVARD
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



**Harvard Alumni Association
HAA Board Meeting Agenda
April 10, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. ET**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 928 5293 5798

Password: 081656

10:00 a.m. Welcome, Acknowledgement of Indigenous Land and People, Approval of Plenary Minutes of February 10, 2025 – *Moitri Chowdhury Savard*

10:05 a.m. Executive Director's Report – *Sarah Karmon*

10:15 a.m. Report of the HAA Officers Nominating Committee – *Ty Moore*

10:35 a.m. Harvard Alumni Day 2025 – *Heather Gain, Mary Sansone*

10:55 a.m. Closing – *Moitri Chowdhury Savard*

11:00 a.m. Meeting Concludes

HARVARD

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Plenary Meeting Minutes February 10, 2025 10:00 – 12:00 p.m. ET

I. Welcome and Approval of Plenary Meeting Minutes of October 25, 2024

HAA President Moitri Chowdhury Savard brought the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. ET, welcomed members to the February virtual meeting, and began with a land acknowledgement.

Moitri acknowledged these are challenging times for everyone for different reasons and expressed gratitude to members making time to join the Board meeting to hear from Harvard leadership and learn updates on Board-wide initiatives.

She acknowledged the feedback members provided after the October meeting on multiple topics including interest in hearing about how Harvard is thinking about the shifting political landscape and noted that members will have the opportunity to learn more about this from Vice President of Communications and Public Affairs Paul Andrew.

Moitri highlighted the important work being done in the Cross-Cohort Workshops and Director Cohort meetings, the result of strong volunteer and staff partnered work, focused on alumni and volunteer engagement and our role as ambassadors in sharing information back and forth between Harvard and our communities.

Moitri called for the approval of the Board Meeting minutes from October 25, 2024. There was a **MOTION TO APPROVE** the minutes which was seconded and approved by all present.

II. Executive Director's Report

HAA Associate Vice President and Executive Director Sarah Karmon welcomed everyone to the meeting. Sarah began with an update on recent travel to Los Angeles, Costa Rica, Singapore, and New York City where she attended programs and activities and met with volunteers and alumni.

Sarah talked about the important work being undertaken by alumni and volunteers around the world and the impact this work has on the expansive Harvard community including students, faculty and alumni.

She also gave an update on the HAA Strategic Review that is underway including peer research, the volunteer and alumni survey with upwards of 1,000 responses, and completion of 15 of the 20 scheduled volunteer focus groups. A final report will be completed by the fall.

Lastly, Sarah announced that James J. Husson will take on the role of Vice President for Alumni Affairs and Development starting April 1.

III. Paul Andrew, Vice President for Public Affairs and Communications

Paul Andrew, Vice President for Public Affairs and Communications, spoke about recent communications research, the impact of changes to federal support at the University, and Harvard's approach to working on Capitol Hill.

IV. Treasurer's Report

HAA Treasurer Stephen Turban began with a review of the Board's core competencies. He explained that each of the competencies will be a focus of each Cross Cohort Workshop. At the end of a director's three-year term each competency will have been reviewed.

Stephan further explained how the Board KPIs will help measure the progress made within each of the core competencies. KPI survey is distributed in January and June.

Stephen highlighted some of the Board-level KPI results from the January 2025 survey, sharing examples that illustrated the work being undertaken by the directors. Of the Directors who responded to the survey:

- 88% are sharing information from board meetings with their alumni communities
- 93% are welcoming incoming directors
- 88% met at least three new directors from outside of their cohort at the October board meeting

Stephen concluded by mentioning the Data Metrics team is working on how to align the KPIs more closely to the core competencies.

V. Update on the Committee to Nominate Overseers and Elected Directors

Robert Shapiro, chair of the Committee to Nominate Overseers and Elected Directors, shared an update on the committee's work. He talked about the goals and purpose of the committee to identify two slates of candidates for the Board of Overseers and HAA Elected Directors. Rob highlighted the importance and responsibility of alumni to vote, and the opportunity for alumni to have a voice in the University and alumni engagement by voting and nominating members for these roles. The elections will begin on April 1 and conclude on May 20 at 5pm ET.

VI. Culture and Community Initiative Report

Ty Moore, HAA Past President Director; David Battat, HAA Secretary; and Rachel Lamson, HAA Senior Director, shared key findings and recommendations from the Culture and Community Initiative report.

David began by thanking members of the working group for this commitment to this initiative. he provided background information about initiative and shared the goals: (1) to identify strengths and growth opportunities for the HAA Board's culture, and 2) to highlight opportunities to improve the culture—advancing a positive and purposeful experience for all Board members by ensuring inclusion and respect for individual members, their experiences, and their viewpoints, while cultivating a strong sense of shared community.

Ty presented the top six key findings:

- Board members are aligned on community values.
- The board community is strong in a tumultuous year.
- Directors seek more understanding of the workings of the board.
- Directors look for increased clarity on their roles and responsibilities.
- Directors want more opportunities for meaningful work.
- Diversity and inclusion efforts on the board is ongoing work.

Rachel shared the recommendations:

- Solidify and grow community values and expectations
- Prioritize communication
- Build on inclusion efforts
- Close the engagement gap
- Make progress on role clarity

Next steps include engagement with Director cohorts this spring, providing an update to HAA Board members whose terms ended in 2024, and working over the summer to develop a plan to address the findings and recommendations.

VII. Chief Marshal Selection Committee Report

Michael Lewis, Co-Chair of the Chief Marshal Selection Committee, announced the Chief Marshal election result. The Class of 2000 elected Dara Olmsted Silverstein to be the Chief Marshal of Alumni at Harvard Alumni Day on June 6, 2025.

VII. Wrap Up

Moitri thanked everyone for their participation, energy, and enthusiasm and shared her appreciation for the hard work and commitment of this group.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
David Battat AB '91, HAA Secretary