

HARVARD
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



**HAA Board of Directors
Plenary Meeting Agenda
October 25, 2024
2:00 – 3:30 p.m. ET**

2:00 p.m. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, Approval of Plenary Minutes of May 29, 2024 – *Moitri Chowdhury Savard*

2:10 p.m. Report from Vice President of Alumni Affairs and Development – *Brian Lee*

2:20 p.m. Executive Director's Report – *Sarah Karmon*

2:30 p.m. Plenary Speaker: [Bharat N. Anand AB '88](#), Vice Provost for Advances in Learning and Henry R. Byers Professor of Business Administration

3:00 p.m. Treasurer's Report – *Stephen Turban*

3:10 p.m. Chief Marshal Selection Committee Report – *Michael Lewis, Jennifer Karnakis*

3:20 p.m. Closing – *Moitri Chowdhury Savard*

HARVARD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Plenary Meeting Minutes May 29, 2024 1:30 – 3:15 p.m. ET

I. Welcome and Approval of Plenary Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2024

HAA President Ty Moore brought the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. ET and began with a land acknowledgement.

Ty welcomed members, both those in person and on Zoom, to the Board Meeting in Cambridge. He thanked volunteers and HAA staff for their partnership and purposeful work throughout the year. He acknowledged and called for a moment of silence for Jonathan L. S. Byrnes DBA '80, a dedicated volunteer and HAA president who recently passed.

Ty acknowledged the challenges the volunteer leaders faced during this past year and thanked them for their dedicated service.

Ty called for the approval of the Board Meeting minutes from April 11, 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 summarized the alumni feedback received regarding the encampment, disciplinary policies, the Harvard Corporation, the College Administrative Board, Commencement walkout and speeches, campus safety, and dialogue and discussions. She shared some of the work that has been taking place recently including: sharing feedback from alumni with university leaders, enhancements to communications within the HAA, development of more opportunities for two-way communications, creation of the Harvard Looks Forward website, new alumni programming, and avenues for alumni to share feedback with task forces and working groups.

Sarah also acknowledged concerns within the HAA Board community that arose this year. She reinforced the HAA's commitment to receiving feedback and adjusting when things need improvement. She underscored that the work being undertaken by the Culture and Community Initiative will support these efforts to ensure we continue to have a thriving community.

III. Treasurer's Report

HAA Treasurer Margaret Kane gave an update on the HAA budget. She reported that expenses are up 12% but the budget for the year is on track. Overall, the budget is in good shape.

Margaret reviewed the purpose of the scorecards and the Data and Metrics Working Group. She highlighted that the Working Group is using the data collected to build engagement and guide the work of the Board. Now with two years of data, Margaret compared the engagement metrics between FY23 and FY24 and highlighted some specific measures that are particular to each director cohort scorecard. Overall, the board is making progress as the results are showing upward trends.

Margaret thanked the team members for their hard work and dedicated board service to making the organization more data-driven, which will continue to strengthen performance. She encouraged everyone to review the scorecards and have conversations with fellow board members to understand their roles and consider new ideas that will support everyone in the work of building engagement in the alumni communities.

IV. Vice President for the Harvard Library and University Librarian Update

Martha Whitehead, Vice President for the Harvard Library and University Librarian, provided board members with a snapshot of the Harvard Library system. She highlighted that the library has more than 800 staff, 25 libraries, 20 million physical and digital items, and more than 460 languages in the collections. Martha discussed how the library collaborates with peer institutions and facilitates international open access to build a diverse global system. She shared that the library was established in 1638 and is the oldest library in the United States and world's largest academic library.

Martha's presentation focused on three key directional goals for the library: diversify and expand access to knowledge, enhance discovery and engagement, and preserve for the future. With these goals and vision in mind, they are working to have the physical library spaces reflect this vision.

V. Culture and Community Initiative Update

HAA Secretary David Battat shared that the Culture and Community Initiative is an effort to intentionally and collaboratively foster community and a welcoming and inclusive culture within the Board by examining the current culture and identifying ways to enhance the individual and shared Board experience and to align it with the HAA's strategy. He asked board members to take a few moments to complete a short online survey and asked that members share their honest assessment of the Board culture. He reminded the group that the Board has undergone some significant changes over the past 5 years including a focus on directors, the creation of cross-cohort workshops, launching of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), introduction of hybrid meetings, and strict three-year board term rotations.

David also thanked board members who participated in a 30-minute interview (approximately one-third of the board) and helped create the baseline for how the board culture is currently viewed. He concluded that the next step in the process is to gather the data from the survey and then the group will share what is learned with the Board next year.

VI. Recognition of Board members completing their terms

Ty celebrated board members with terms ending this year and recognized the importance of their perspectives, commitment, spirit and roles they have played in shaping the HAA Board. He thanked them for their continued service and connections to fellow alumni through their local and virtual communities and networks to strengthen and create "real community" among our global community of alumni.

VII. Wrap up

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.