

October 2025 Director Cohort Meeting Highlights

College Directors

- In addition to welcoming new members, College Appointed Directors participated in an open forum to share reflections and priorities from the meeting and their respective alumni communities. They discussed resources currently available, suggestions for additional support, and opportunities for future engagement.
- The group discussed the importance of Decades Sessions in fostering volunteer engagement and shared insights on best practices, peer advising, and building strong communities of practice. An update from Harvard College Fund volunteer leaders underscored the shared values, purpose, and needs of the broader volunteer community.
- The meeting featured the Radcliffe College Alumnae Oral History Project with a video and remarks from Alice Abarbanel AB '66. Attendees explored how storytelling initiatives can strengthen alumni communities and considered resources that would be helpful for implementing similar projects in their own networks.

Club & SIG Directors

- The group reviewed staff portfolios, project leads, and welcomed our seven new Appointed Directors: Nadia AlZeabot PLDA '15 (Middle East), Steve T. Brown AB '81 (North Central US), Beatriz Casado MPH '07 (Benelux, France & Iberia), Marcus DeFlorimonte PMD '95 (HC Boston), Matti Parpala MPP '15 (UK, Ireland & the Nordics), John Stafford AB '96 (Southeastern New England), and Stephen Younger AB '77 (HC New York City).
- As the new cohort VP, Tara Abrahams AB '99, MBA '04 outlined her vision and goals for the Clubs and SIGs cohort and explained the different FY26 nomination deadlines.
- The team reviewed Clubs and SIGs updates, including record-breaking 93% [FY25 Annual Report](#) completion; discussed how Clubs and SIGs fit into the HAA's overall mission and redefined success for all organizations; and highlighted the evolution of the [Speakers Bureau](#), announcing the new Speaker Spotlight Series launching January 26 with a virtual webinar featuring Professor David Malan AB '99, PhD '07.

Elected Directors

- The group welcomed our six new Elected Directors: Angela M. Ruggiero AB '02, MBA '14; Sanjay Seth MPA '19, MUP '19; Nicholas J. Melvoin AB '08; Theresa J. Chung AB '98, JD '02; Colin J. Kegler AB '97; and Victoria "Vicky" Wai Ka Leung AB '91.
- HAA President Will Makris EdM '00 joined the group and talked about goals for the HAA Board this year – the work and the fun!
- The majority of the meeting was spent discussing ideas for the 2025-26 ED subcommittees with an overarching approach to frame our work in a way that advances one or more pillars of the broader HAA Strategic Framework. Members

also considered new KPIs as the initiatives that will become the focus of this year's subcommittees as they become refined.

Graduate School Directors

- In addition to welcoming new members, the cohort engaged in a dynamic focus group discussion with Ty Moore AB '06, David Battat AB '91, and Jeff Ashford AB '76, MPP '82. The conversation centered on furthering the work of the Culture and Community Initiative, in particular on building inclusion efforts.
- The group reviewed and discussed both KPIs and the HAA Strategic Review in order to ensure clarity and alignment among all members.
- The meeting closed with a robust conversation about members' respective alumni communities, including shared resources, suggestions for collaboration, and opportunities for future engagement and growth.