

**HARVARD**  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



**HAA Board of Directors  
Plenary Meeting Agenda  
October 27, 2023  
2:00 – 3:30 p.m. (ET)**

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2:00 p.m. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, Approval of Plenary Minutes of May 31, 2023 – *Ty Moore*

2:15 p.m. Executive Director's Report – *Sarah Karmon*

2:25 p.m. Ritu Kalra, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President for Finance

2:55 p.m. Report from Vice President of Alumni Affairs and Development – *Brian Lee*

3:05 p.m. Treasurer's Report – *Margaret Kane*

3:15 p.m. Chief Marshal Selection Committee Report – *Michael Lewis*

3:25 p.m. Wrap up and Meeting Concludes – *Ty Moore*

# HARVARD

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



### Plenary Meeting Minutes May 31, 2023 1:30 – 3:15 p.m. ET

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#### I. Welcome and Approval of Plenary Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2023

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

Allyson welcomed members, both those in person and on Zoom, to the Board Meeting in Cambridge. She thanked volunteers and HAA staff for their partnership and purposeful work throughout the year. She acknowledged the pending SCOTUS decision on Harvard's Admissions case and thanked volunteers who have been working to ensure the alumni community is educated about the case and what it means to Harvard.

Allyson announced the 2023 scholars chosen by the Harvard Cambridge Scholarships Committee. The scholarships are awarded annually, and each provides for one year of study at Cambridge University the year after graduation. The 2023 Harvard Cambridge Scholars are:

- Meredith Johns, Winthrop House, Governor William Shirley Scholar (Pembroke College)
- Birukti Tsige, Leverett House, Lionel De Jersey Harvard Scholar (Emmanuel College)
- Janna Ramadan, Currier House, Lt. Charles H. Fiske III Scholar (Trinity College)
- Isaac Heller, Kirkland House, John Eliot Scholar (Jesus College)

Allyson called for the approval of the Board Meeting minutes from April 13, 2023. 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 spring meeting. She noted that she would be saving her formal report for Thursday when the HAA launches the first Board Member reunion program. The HAA, and the HAA Board, will welcome back close to 50 former board members from the past three years for lunch, programming, a volunteer reception, and Alumni Day.

Sarah thanked board members for their dedication and commitment to the HAA Board and alumni communities, and recognized Allyson Mendenhall for her thoughtful leadership and partnership throughout the past year. Sarah also highlighted the festivities of last week when the University welcomed 9,265 graduates to the alumni community. She also noted that the HAA will welcome back more than 10,000 alumni and guests over the next several days for the Board meetings, College reunions, Crimson Society, and Alumni Day.

#### III. Meredith Weenick, Executive Vice President

Executive Vice President Meredith Weenick shared an update on the Harvard enterprise that is in place to support the important and extensive community of faculty and students and their academic work. She updated the group on the expansion of the University's footprint in Allston including the Science and Engineering Complex and the building and creating of spaces focused on sustainability and flexibility. Meredith also shared that the University will be breaking ground on the Enterprise Research Campus. It will be commercially developed and meant to complement the University's academic enterprise in Allston including the David Rubenstein Treehouse Conference Center. She also mentioned that graduate housing and a new American Repertory Theatre will be part of the development taking place on the Allston campus.

#### IV. Vice President of Alumni Affairs and Development Update

Brian Lee, Vice President of Alumni Affairs and Development, thanked board members for being dedicated volunteers and critical partners to the University. He thanked volunteers with terms ending for the important work they will be continuing

in their alumni communities as well as a special thanks to Allyson Mendenhall and the Executive Committee for their time, energy and leadership this past year.

Brian highlighted the University's leadership transition taking place as Claudine Gay prepares to move into the role of Harvard president in just a few weeks and the changeover of four deanships across the University. He also shared the University's commitment to technology and the project being undertaken to modernize the Alumni Affairs and Development technology ecosystem and data structure. This project, expected to take five years, will replace or enhance more than 15 software systems and expand our data structure and business intelligence capabilities.

Brian talked about the importance of philanthropy and the impact of gifts on the University, and noted the important role the Harvard President and University leaders have in inspiring this work. He reported that more than 40,000 alumni contributed this past year and Harvard is on track to have a very successful year.

Brian concluded by expressing his appreciation to Sarah Karmon and the HAA team.

#### **V. Treasurer's Report**

HAA Treasurer Margaret Kane thanked board members for creating a culture of data informed volunteerism as the first set of Board scorecards are launched. She thanked everyone for their meaningful comments and looks forward to creating Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in the scorecards that will reflect our ongoing and further commitment to building alumni and volunteer engagement.

Margaret highlighted the KPI scorecard included in their pre-read packets and acknowledged that the Board KPIs do not encompass all the work that board members do throughout their Harvard volunteer service but specifically their work with the Board. She reminded the group that everyone is asked to report their progress and work from this year when the survey is shared later this month. Margaret talked about why metrics matter in supporting the overall work of the HAA and volunteers in creating an engaged alumni community.

Margaret also gave an update on the HAA budget and shared that the positive trends she called out in October and February continue. She reported that the budget is in great shape overall as more in person programs are coming online and we continue to emerge from the pandemic. She thanked the HAA staff for their work in managing the budget as they launch programs and plan for the future.

#### **VI. Alumni Survey Analysis Update**

Kellie Celia, Senior Director of Engagement Marketing and Communications at the HAA, presented a comprehensive analysis from the HAA's alumni engagement survey conducted in fall 2022 by Morning Consult. This included insights about recent graduates, Schools engagement, and Clubs and SIGs.

#### **VII. Recognition of Board members completing their terms**

Allyson celebrated board members with terms ending this year and recognized the importance of their perspectives, commitment, spirit and the important role they have played in shaping the HAA Board. She thanked them for their continued service in their local and virtual communities in the weeks and years ahead.

#### **VII. Wrap up**

Allyson noted the special contributions of members who participated in the CHAT programs throughout the year, sharing stories of places that are meaningful to them, or their favorite literary hero/villain. She also reminded everyone to try to meet at least one person they have not met before at this week's meeting.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

David Battat AB '91, HAA Secretary