



St. Michael's College: Alumni Board of Directors (ABOD) In Person Fall Meeting Minutes
Saturday, 9/20/25 - 9am - 12noon Klein Conference Room and Zoom

In person attendees: Jillian, Brian, Meredith, Michelle, Paul, Lauren, Rob, Jane, Brigid, Stephanie, President Plumb, Ellen Kane and Joel Wincowski

Online attendees: Trevor, Luis, Kylee, Erica

Did not attend: Vanessa

1. President Plumb presented on the state of the college.

Key points reviewed include:

- Higher Ed under attack, demographic cliff, student 60/70 mile college attendance radius - all challenges
- SMC is a destination school
- SMC remains mission centered and career relevant, evolving with current landscape
- SMC prepares students with skills, professionalism and empathy....transferable and underlying skills no matter your industry or position, allowing SMC grads to be flexible, adaptable and ready!
- Recent right sizing of staff, now reviewing the academic and athletic sides of the house.
 - ABOD question: For Athletics - what are the core team (s) we should leverage and prioritize? Coming soon...
- Strategic priorities; student experience, operational and employee wellbeing, financials stability.
- Lots of good news to share with recent EPIic, NSF and Freeman grants. Also, best EVER PK challenge this Fall (surpassed donor goal and raised \$125k MORE than last record year)
- IA set to raise \$10mm in scholarships in addition to usually FY goals



- ABOD question: Source of alumni donors - by major or affinity? IA to pull data and share soon.

2) Interim VP of Enrollment, Joel Wincowski, presented on updated Admissions messaging (fall media blitz!) and other enrollment initiatives.

Key initiatives reviewed include:

- The St. Mike's way messaging and media blitz this Fall
 - Flagship match
 - VT Community Commitment (aka free tuition)
- Bringing back standard Admissions best practices in prospective student and HS counselor outreach, as well as re-structure of department
- Working to re-establish SMC with key audiences (college fair circuit, HS counselor relationships)
- Rolling Admissions
 - ABOD question - acceptance rate goals? More to come from enrollment for Fall 2027 . Fall 2026 class is about getting higher numbers still,
 - ABOD question - transfer/ retention goals going forward? More to come as above.
- Alumni Admissions program coming back!
- HS counselor engagement plan (Pats and Broadway events this Fall)

3) Board business and housekeeping as follows:

- June 2025 meeting minutes approved. IA staff to post on website ASAP.
- Membership updates - Lincoln and Camden no longer a part of ABOD.



- Members agreed to wait until June voting cycle to consider replacement and additional members.
- IA will push out ABOD application in monthly newsletter, via LinkedIn and social this Fall/ Winter
 - Here is link to application, for ABOD members to share with potential candidates: <https://smcevents.wufoo.com/forms/s13k8j1w0hzyw2/>
- Stephanie to advise on student rep recommendations
 - POST MEETING UPDATE - Jillian/ Brian/ Stephanie connected with Cassie Lathrope '25 (current SGA president and involved in about 1000 other things on campus!), and she is thrilled to come on board as our student rep. Formal email intro with ABOD forthcoming
- Stephanie to advise on club rep recommendations ASAP
- Upcoming dates/ events:
 - Thurs 10/23 from 4-6pm Networking Night at On Logic.
 - **Week of November 17th ABOD Zoom/ check in.**
 - Fri. 3/6 Career Connections event on campus (Snow day Mon. 3/9), ABOD Spring meeting Sat. 3/7 - in person!

4) Committee structure/ expectations:

- All 6 committee charters approved with initial committee report outs as follows:
 - Admissions - new Alumni Admissions program just approved by Joel. Stephanie to work with team to kick it off.
 - Athletics - Follow up with Stephanie for targeted sports alumni lists as needed, especially sports alum donors vs non-donors (once the dust settles from the PK challenge), also get all social media handles for all sports teams from Stephanie/ Matt Akins or Josh Kessler. Get coaches connected to IA/ ABOD committee leads as they send e-blasts to their alumni



- Heads up to all that SMC needs a new strength and conditioning coach - spread the word. Job description found [HERE](#)
- Career Connections - to meet with Stephanie and Ingrid ASAP to kick off March 6 event planning - alumni topics and panelist engagement, keynote, etc. Potential for online networking database for students to access - through LinkedIn, alumni profile space on website, and/or new Campus ESP engagement tool coming later this Fall. Focus on young grad outreach.
- Student Success just getting started, to meet with Tim Mackin and Stephanie on focus areas.
- Reunion and awards ready to focus on Alumni of the Year nominations for Reunion 2026. To connect with Stephanie ASAP.
- Events and fundraising - help share out future giving day/ appeals (like PK Challenge). Start earlier with student philanthropic mindset - Sr gift and otherwise.

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5) Meeting adjourned at 12noon.

- In person folks got headshots and a group shot
 - Find headshots and an updated group photo on our website here: [Alumni Board of Directors | Saint Michael's College](#).
 - And on Oct 1 the letter from the ABOD president will be refreshed for a note from Jillian.
- All enjoyed a farm to table lunch at The Farm, celebrating 10 years